

Abbas, T.

Centre for the Study of Multiculturalism, Birmingham

The new sociology of ethnic and cultural studies: the experience British south Asian Muslims

In the post-war era, race equality policy has largely sought to adapt ethnic minority groups to the norms and values of dominant society, with little attempt been made to internalise and accept the cultural and religious values of these groups. A period of assimilation, integration, and cultural pluralism led to a brief attempt at de-racialisation through anti-racism. Until New Labour came into power in 1997, we have witnessed a kind of antiracist-multiculturalism u-turn.

The Home Office has signalled its intent to incorporate citizens - 'educating citizenship' to new immigrant groups - discouraging further immigration of 'refugees and asylum seekers', for example. Using the example of the British South Asian Muslim community in Britain, this paper discusses the ways in which government rhetoric and public policy is revealing a shift to a harsher form of race relations thought relegated to the past.

The current demographic profile suggests that ethnic minorities form one in ten of all Britons. Cultural, religious as well as structural racism (e.g., the criminal justice system, police, prisons, employment, education, housing, health, etc.) all reveal severe inequalities. Negative perceptions of racism expose the wider experiences of ethnic minorities in society, especially for Muslims in Britain since 2001, the year of a General Election, 'race riots' and September 11. This paper explores how the current situation might be interpreted and what lies in the near future in terms of social research, public policy and race equality practice?

Abbott, P., Wallace, C.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Surviving the transition: Living conditions, lifestyle and health in post-soviet societies

Following the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union in 1991 there was a sharp increase in mortality rates especially amongst middle aged men. Most research to date has been epidemiological and based on an analysis of secondary statistical data or survey data. It has also focused on explaining the increase in mortality amongst men in mid life from heart disease and external causes and has focused mainly on the Russian Federation. This paper will be based on qualitative data from 350 agenda interviews carried out with men and women in midlife, as part of a larger study of living conditions, lifestyle and health, in the Commonwealth of Independent States. The paper will consider the accounts of men and women in mid life about how they have coped with the transition in 5 case study areas in Russia, Ukraine and Chernobyl. The paper will focus on individual accounts of living conditions, lifestyle and health during the transition. Differences between 'good' and 'poor' health regions will be examined as well as those between men and women.

Andrews, J.E.

Aston University

Volunteerism as a tool for combating social oppression: The experiences of wheelchair users who volunteer

This paper draws upon data attained whilst undertaking an empirical investigation into the experiences of wheelchair users who volunteer. The study reveals that whilst voluntarism (Van Til: 1988, Brudney: 1998, Cnaan et al: 1996) can be a major force promoting self-empowerment amongst individual wheelchair-users, there remains within many third and public sector organisations, a large amount of institutional discrimination (Barnes et al: 1999: 188) against disabled people in general, and wheelchair users in-particular.

The study reveals how the complex nature of institutional discrimination has become embodied deep within service-providing agencies. Such frequently 'direct' discrimination has motivated wheelchair users and other disabled people to fight for equality and equity of access, not only for their rights to receive such 'public' services but also for the opportunity to volunteer to become involved in the planning, provision and management of services.

Several barriers to voluntarism amongst wheelchair users are identified including; inaccessible buildings, physically preventing wheelchair users from entering; invisible social barriers and stereotypical attitudes of passiveness and dependency, (Barnes et al: 1999: 10); and, constant economic oppression and poverty. The paper contributes to academic knowledge relating to the sociology of disability and third sector management. It also draws attention to the important part played by organisations of disabled people (Oliver: 1990), in combating social oppression and disablism (Corker: 1998, Hughes: 2002); not only within the third and public sectors, but within the community as a whole.

Armstrong, J.E.

Lancaster University

Classed and gendered 'flexibilities': Women's work over the life-course

This paper is based upon work-in-progress and explores the different pathways into employment and motherhood within a small sample of working-class and middle-class women, aged between 28 and 43 years and living in the UK. Using material from in-depth interviews and developing a feminist Bourdieuan theoretical approach, the paper traces the classed and gendered trajectories of the women in their work. Firstly, it is argued that the meaning of flexibility varies by class. The background and habitus of women with greater economic and cultural capitals meant that they were more likely to perceive flexible working hours as an entitlement which they could demand from employers whereas for women with lower capital resources part-time positions were often the only means by which paid work could be combined with their childcare responsibilities. Secondly, the paper explores the way in which there was a convergence in occupational positioning between the women upon child-bearing as the majority of the women undertook primary responsibility for childcare and domestic work in their partnerships which led to downward mobility in their employment. In discussing this material the complex interactions between class and gender are examined by detailing the women's capital resources and the women's different and shifting investments in a 'feminine relational self' as opposed to a 'masculine individualistic self'. The paper concludes by proposing that the concepts of 'flexibility' and 'work-life balance' require interrogating since the use of such concepts in contemporary political discourse neglects the class and gender inequalities in women's paid and unpaid work.

Armstrong, N.

University of Nottingham

'I'd be absolutely amazed if I got it': How women discuss their risk of developing cervical cancer

In this paper I explore how individual women discuss the likelihood of them developing cervical cancer and engage in a process of self-positioning with regard to their own personal feelings of risk and/or vulnerability to the disease.

While current NHS policy guidelines suggest that all women between the ages of 20-64 years should have a cervical smear test at least every five years, I will use qualitative interview data to show how women negotiate and work out their own personal relationships to cervical screening based on perceptions of their individual risk. Within these interviews women discuss their personal feelings of risk and/or vulnerability drawing on such themes as genetics/family history, sexual activity, general health, and screening history. These considerations allow women to explore their relationship to cervical screening and to position themselves both in relation to the medical discourse and to other women.

Finally, I will consider what this self-positioning means for individual women's attendance for cervical screening and, therefore, whether a perception of risk is an adequate explanation for screening attendance.

Armstrong, P., Tomes, A.

Leicester University

The anxious interior: Design as a disabling profession

Drawing on the work of Bourdieu and Illich, this paper examines some of the rhetorical strategies involved in the project of professionalizing interior design. A number of studies have revealed that the meanings which people spontaneously attach to household objects tend to be personal and associative. An examination of style magazines and lifestyle television programmes reveals a pattern in which aesthetic meanings are substituted for these private associations. Artefacts are to be pleasing in themselves and are to be chosen and arranged to produce a harmonious whole. Objects accumulated for a variety of (private) motives are thus viewed through the lens of (public) taste.

That they are inevitably found wanting is important for the project of professionalizing design. As Bourdieu and Darbel say of the arts in general, taste is a cultural arbitrary - one which the communities of design have ambitions to legislate. Each demonstration of the untutored public's inability to achieve taste without professional assistance clears the field for that ambition.

For those who succumb, acquisition narrows down to a question of taste. Taste itself becomes detached from its supposed possessor. The result is a kind of material alienation in which people are inhibited from accumulating objects which might signify the events and relationships which have made them what they are.

Artaraz, K.

University of Derby

'The wrong person for the job?': Professional habitus and working cultures in the provision of advice and guidance

A paradigmatic shift has taken place in the underlying principles that have guided the provision of advice and guidance in the UK for a long time. The root cause has been a policy transition from traditional models of the service to new ones that emphasise the importance of advice and guidance in the government's social inclusion agenda. Despite the importance attached to this provision in its instrumental contribution to the economy and to societal cohesion through its presence in the curriculum, the currently suffered volte face has made little impact on research strategies. This paper takes on this challenge by reflecting on this policy transition and on the effects it is having on professional identities. The paper resorts to the concept of habitus as developed by Bourdieu, to the ideas of 'established professional identities' and to the effect that 'communities of practice' have on the evolution of new professional identities. The 'pull' and 'push' factors embodied in a new, externally imposed situated context in which the negotiation of professional identities takes place and the established identities of agents within it, constitute the bulk of this presentation which argues that a conflictual identity-formation process can take place, the outcome of which is yet to be decided.

Bagguley, P., Hussain, Y.

University of Leeds

The 2001 Bradford riot and generational difference

The year 2001 saw another wave of urban 'riots' in Britain. These occurred in cities and towns ranging in size from Bradford and Leeds to Oldham and Burnley. Widely regarded as the most serious on mainland Britain since the 1980s, the 'riots' of 2001 have involved South Asian men and White men, but in Bradford the principal focus was South Asian men attacking the police and selected White owned businesses. This paper focuses upon the different responses of first generation and second and subsequent generation British Pakistani's. We believe that this is of particular significance, as some of those arrested for their involvement in the 2001 Bradford 'riot' were taken to the police by older relatives. Furthermore, at least some of the public responses to the riots have attempted to pathologise the South Asian communities involved, trying to identify 'inter-generational conflict' as one aspect of a 'crisis' in British South Asian communities. We see this as part of a broader attempt to 'racialise' the 'riots' in a way which shifts blame onto South Asian communities, rather than seeing the issues politically in terms of a new of neo-fascist mobilisation by the British National Party. The paper presents empirical data from a series of qualitative interviews with British-Pakistanis in Bradford from teenagers to elderly men and women concerning their identities, citizenship, explanations of the 'riots' and views about the consequences of the 'riots'. This research was funded by the British Academy and the University of Leeds.

Becker, B., Charles, N.

University of Wales Swansea

Meanings of class and moral dilemmas: Class, gender and ethnic identities

There is considerable discussion about whether or not class is a salient feature of self-identity in contemporary society or whether it has been superseded by gender, ethnic, sexual and other identities. Drawing on 150 in-depth interviews with women and men in three contrasting areas of Swansea, this paper discusses the different meanings attached to social class and how it interacts with other aspects of self-identity such as gender and ethnicity. These interviews are part of a project exploring family and kinship networks and the question on class comes at the end of what were often lengthy interviews. Our interview material shows contrasting responses which highlight both the cultural specificity of class as an aspect of identity and the moral dimensions of claiming a class identity. The cultural specificity of class is revealed in the responses of ethnic minority interviewees, most of whom find it impossible to think of identity in terms of the British class system. They describe instead their ethnic identities and/or the stratification systems that operate in their countries of origin. The moral dimensions emerge both amongst white respondents in middle-class jobs and respondents from a deprived council estate, many of whom show a reluctance to define themselves in class terms. Identification as middle class seems to imply a justification of inequality, whereas identification as lower or working class can imply individual responsibility and thus failure. However, although having difficulties in identifying as one particular class, respondents develop complex understandings of social class as markers of their biographies.

Beer, D.

University of York

The scriptal spiral: Objectifying music in the digital age

The understanding of music as an object in the contemporary age is the primary concern of this paper. It has been constructed to begin to form a contextual mosaic of the reproduction and storage of music in the contemporary age of digital reproduction.

The paper focuses on specific technologies to examine the questions and problems that arise as a result of the transformation of music as an object. The application of Theodor Adorno and Walter Benjamin's writings represents the theoretical foundation of the piece. The paper uses technology – and these theorists – as a way into the dialectical analysis of the problematic, fluid, contradictory, and illusory relationship between music and the object. The increased understanding of the impact of technology on everyday life is a guiding theme of this work.

Bhopal, K.

University of Greenwich

Rurality, racism and good practice: Gypsy traveller pupils in schools

This paper will explore aspects of good practice in a mixed comprehensive school in a rural village. It will argue that the rural setting has an effect on antiracist strategies, issues of segregation and integration and curriculum content for Gypsy Traveller pupils. It will highlight the need for policy makers to consider the racism faced by many Gypsy Traveller pupils in developing innovative practice to meet the needs of pupils with nomadic lifestyles which present significant challenges to educators and Local Education Authorities. Schools need equal opportunities and race equality policies and practices that are explicitly inclusive of Gypsy Traveller pupils. The creative work and practice of the Traveller Education Service can and does contribute to the quality of learning for all pupils, but such work is seen as being isolated to the Gypsy Traveller community. The paper will also indicate that the contextual definition and spatial location in which racism occurs is a fundamental part of how racism is viewed and dealt with. The paper will draw upon empirical research. The main aim of the research was to identify key elements of successful schemes and to disseminate them in order to promote more effective teaching and learning. Interviews were conducted with parents and pupils, head teachers, class teachers, peripatetic specialist teachers, learning support assistants and representatives of the Traveller Education Service. New empirical data on Gypsy Traveller pupils in schools will be discussed.

Boden, S., Edwards, T., Pilcher, J., Pole, C.

University of Leicester

'Another day, another demand': How parents and children negotiate consumption matters

This paper will identify and develop some of the many sociological issues which arise from an examination of children's consumption. Our particular focus will be the ways in which consumption influences the character of generational relations between parents and children within family households. In doing so, key issues will be explored, such as: how consumption relates to power dynamics between adults (specifically parents) and children; to what extent children use 'pester power' or the 'nag factor' when negotiating consumption matters with adults, and; the everyday conflicts and challenges that confront both parents and children during the consumption process. Using data from focus groups with parents and ethnographic work with families, the above issues will be explored through an examination of the consumption of children's clothing, centered around the practices and experiences of children in the 6 to 11 age group and the corresponding tensions faced by their parents.

This paper is based on work done for an ESRC funded study entitled New Consumers? Children's Consumption of Fashion and conducted with colleagues Dr Tim Edwards, Dr Jane Pilcher and Dr Chris Pole at the Department of Sociology, University of Leicester.

Bott, E.

University of Nottingham

Sex, drugs and selling souls: The marginal labour of British lapdancers and timeshare touts in Tenerife

Young British people living and working on the Spanish Canary island of Tenerife typically fall into a narrow range of employment opportunities, mainly in the tourism and leisure industries. Two key areas of work are lapdancing and timeshare sales. Drawing on 34 interviews conducted during several months' fieldwork in Tenerife, this paper will highlight and discuss the nature of these two areas in terms of their relationships with theoretical understandings used to analyse work. Distinctions between formal/informal and legal/illegal sectors as well as what constitutes work are blurred, as the data suggests that the work performed by British 'migrants' to Tenerife often spans two or more of these sectors. Lapdancers and timeshare salespersons often romanticise their work and construct it as having extraordinary or maverick qualities, unlike and preferable to other types of labour available to them, and as such not really 'work'. This opens questions about the boundaries of work/leisure and work/play in this particular migrant labour setting as well as in wider sociological contexts.

Bowden, G.

University of New Brunswick, Canada

The failure of environmental sociology

In 1978 William Catton and Riley Dunlap, spurred on by concern about emerging environmental problems and the lack of attention that sociology gave them, decried the state of sociological theory and called for a paradigm shift. They argued that the discipline needed to eschew its roots in the dominant western worldview (which treated the social and natural as separate spheres) and leave behind theories rooted in the human exemptionalism paradigm (HEP) for ones based on the premises of the new ecological paradigm (NEP). Conventional wisdom holds that the discipline has responded to their clarion call: environmental matters are routinely included in sociological analyses; theories have been modified to take account of interactions between the social and the natural; environmental sociology has institutionalized itself as a recognized sub-discipline, complete with dedicated journals, associations and conferences; and many sociologists embrace the principals of the NEP. I will argue, without denying the merits of the developments of the past quarter century, that they fall well short of a paradigm shift. Reasons for the failure will be explored, the continuing need for such a shift will be explained, and the path to a truly revolutionary paradigm, ecological sociology, will be outlined.

Bowden, G.

University of New Brunswick, Canada

Constructing colonialism: Graphic layout and design in the service of imperialism

The connection between image and ideology is one of the most analyzed themes in visual sociology. Despite this fact, there exists a serious omission in our understanding of the visual processes used to create ideology. Most previous studies, following the lead of Goffman's pioneering analysis of gender advertisements, have focused on the analysis of repeated tropes (e.g., feminine touch) present within a collection of individual images. More recently, building upon the work of Foucault, researchers have examined the ideological purposes of specific types of images (e.g., mugshots of criminals). Neither of these forms of analysis emphasizes the role of either juxtaposition or sequence in the construction of meaning, despite the fact that these are standard considerations in the layout of photographic articles and books. This article, through the analysis of the role of visual juxtaposition and sequencing in the British government publication *The Colonies in Pictures*, aims to document a previously ignored process of ideology formation.

Bröer, C.

University of Amsterdam

Sound, meaning and politics: Turning aircraft sound into nuisance

In this paper I am going to present first results from a discourse analytical study of aircraft noise annoyance. This study furthers the understanding of nuisance in particular. In general it helps to understand the reflexive construction of conflicts in everyday life.

Aircraft noise annoyance vaguely correlates with the acoustic dose. Individual psychological traits have therefore been added to explain why some people are highly bothered while their neighbours hardly notice the aircrafts. This furthered the explanation of nuisance only slightly because the underlying assumption - that humans react to the sound - is problematic. Humans actively give meaning to the sound. To get at the construction of meaning, argumentative discourse analysis is put forward. My hypothesis is, that institutional political practices of defining and regulating aircraft sound influence the everyday perception of the sound. These practices singled aircrafts out of oursonic environment and furnish them with meaning.

If this is true, we should find that annoyance differs between political contexts. Therefore I compare two regions that are quite similar except for the political process: Amsterdam (Netherlands) and Zürich (Switzerland). In both cases, I traced institutional political practice. To unravel the discourse construction of nuisance, I did a close analysis of policy documents, public relation material, letters to the editor, written complaints and open interviews. The preliminary findings confirm the idea that the meaning of aircraft sound is politically induced in many ways. Noise annoyance is in part the result of noise policies.

Brooks, A.

Singapore Institute of Management

Intimacy, work and family life in Chinese diasporic communities

This paper addresses the intersecting nexus of intimacy, work and family life confronting professional women in Chinese diasporic communities in Hong Kong and Singapore. While Hong Kong and Singapore are cosmopolitan cities having international and diverse communities, they are also Chinese cities in terms of composition and history. Professional women in these communities face a number of personal and social issues confronting them in their intimate relationships and their work lives. While the Chinese populations in Hong Kong and Singapore are very different, and in Singapore are part of a much broader multi-ethnic population, there are a number of traditional elements of Chinese family and business life which give these populations a particular definition and which provide professional women with additional challenges. Hong Kong is a more "open" society than Singapore where attitudes to marriage and procreation is seen as a legitimate area of state intervention. Such policies are increasingly being challenged by a pragmatic and materialist population tired of such interventions into their private lives. However "singlehood", divorce and decisions not to procreate are still seen as deviant activities for both women and men. This paper explores the relationship of intimacy, work and family life for women in these global cities and is part of a larger work entitled "Global Cities, Gender Equity and Changing Work Cultures in Asia".

Brown, L.

The University of Birmingham

Sex work and changing family forms among the Kanjar of Heera Mandi, Lahore

The kanjar are a group of professional entertainers and sex workers in Pakistan who have handed their occupation and social stigma from mother to daughter for generations. Traditional kanjar families were female headed and women managed the careers of their daughters and granddaughters. This paper examines the impact of social and economic change upon the kanjar of Heera Mandi in Lahore - Pakistan's largest red light area. It draws upon a Marxist interpretation of the alienation of the kanjar's sexual labour in a rapidly 'industrialising' sex trade in which there is a growing divide between the management and the 'workers'.

The structure of the sex trade is altering rapidly: the kanjar are now a minority; the market has changed; prostitution is being suburbanised; and many women are involved in transnational prostitution to the Gulf. Most importantly, the management has moved into the hands of intermediaries, in the process reducing the degree of agency and independence customarily enjoyed by the kanjar. The paper examines the impact of new patterns of sex work and resource flows upon traditional kanjar family forms. Families are less tightly knit and mothers are increasingly becoming redundant as naika (managers) as they struggle to maintain control over the girls they have raised to support them in old age.

This paper is based upon ten months of ethnographic fieldwork in Heera Mandi, carried out over a four-year period from 2000-2004.

Brown, M.

University of Hull

Sociological theory and the question of God's existence: The challenge of Martin Buber to sociological theory

Martin Buber has never been regarded as one of the canonical sociologists, but his work lays down some important challenges for sociological theory. Can religious language be an appropriate idiom for sociological theory? Does sociological interactionism depend on the reification or Platonic idealisation of the Interhuman (das Zwischenmenschliche)? Does the Self only exist in the context of Gemeinschaft? Is Gemeinschaft limited to human community, or does it also extend to nature and even to God? Does the concept of Utopia still have sociological relevance, and is it too rooted in religious thought (specifically eschatology)? In response to Buber's challenge, it is argued in this paper that sociology is indeed rooted in religious thought, and, therefore, that sociological theory, the sociology of religion and sociology tout court should be positioned in relation to theology, not in contradistinction to theology. Then, it becomes possible to address the big theological questions through the medium of sociology, including the ultimate question of God's existence. The paper is concluded with the twin argument that this question can be addressed through a dialogue between sociological thought and theological models such as those in different religions which make the existence of God contingent on the self-revelation of God, or those which portray God in non-transcendent or existentialist terms, and that Buber's thought provides the basis for such a dialogue.

Buckingham, A., Matthews, J.

Bath Spa University College

An evaluation of the usefulness of online materials for teaching survey methods

Research (Rice 2001, 2002) has reported that HE teachers, in teaching survey methods confront a range of problems including: a general lack of knowledge about available datasets; problems with access and the use of datasets as well as having inadequate teaching material that accompanies datasets and support in teaching survey methods. This suggests that the 'new teaching datasets, online tools... and new modes of support... may be needed to prepare teachers for the challenge of teaching quantitative skills and critical numeracy ...' (Rice 2002:1). In examining these issues, the paper will report on a funded project to evaluate the experiences of teachers and students of using the available online materials (datasets/ information/ exercises) to communicate the process of designing and completing a quantitative research project.

Budgeon, S.

University of Birmingham

Conflict, anxiety, discontent and single lifestyles: Life after coupledom

Recent statistics confirm a trend in Britain towards smaller households and an increase in one person households (up from 18% of households in 1971 to 29% in 2002). There is also a trend towards increased marital breakdown, rising divorce and separation rates, and declining marriage rates. These trends are often interpreted as key indicators of changes to ways in which care and intimacy are practised, linked in particular to speculation that the nuclear family is declining in significance. Morgan (1996) describes the growth in single-person households as a key feature of late modernity and indeed this is often echoed in popular media proclaiming that we have entered the "singles century". Celebrated as a "lifestyle" choice no longer stigmatised speculation surrounding the implications of this demographic are rife. Drawing upon an empirical project concerned with how people living outside of conjugal/sexual relations give and receive care in everyday life this paper will consider the meaning and significance of single lifestyles.

Burnett, J.

University of East London

Remembering politics: The problem of politics past and present for a generation of 'Thirtysomethings'

I am exploring the problem of generation (Mannheim, 1952) by taking the 'thirtysomething' cohort as a case study. I carried out empirical research into a 'thirtysomething' population in 2001, using six focus groups, loosely following a grounded theory approach (Strauss 1987; Strauss & Corbin, 1990). The data revealed the continuing importance of politics to this generation, which came of age during the late Seventies and early Eighties. Participants had either grown up in Britain, or entered Britain through migration as young people during this period. Most of the participants had no direct experience of organised political protest, (although one group was constituted as a feminist book club), and yet questions of politics and power assumed some prominence in the focus group discussions.

In this paper, I want to reflect upon questions such as: What, if any, social understandings have the participants made of their experiences and memories of social conflict and politics? How and why, do they/don't they register their political interest today?

I am using the literature on generations and life courses, which in this paper I have contextualised with some work relating to political biographies and social movements.

Burridge, J.

University of Nottingham

Positioning and legitimacy in social conflict: The disclaiming of morally problematic identities

The paper will draw upon materials from my PhD research in order to explore some of the ways in which morally loaded identifications are mobilised and resisted in some recent social conflicts. It will draw upon examples from the recent debates revolving around the use of military force against Iraq, the possible ban on hunting with dogs, and the repeal of the legislation known as 'Section 28', addressing some of the ways in which contributors to the debates are involved in positioning themselves in the face of claims about their legitimacy (or its absence).

The general question orientating the discussion will be this: when an 'illegitimate' identity is put into circulation, or is applied to a specific individual or group in the context of a conflict, what significance does this have for the discursive work such individuals or groups are required to perform in order to remain a credible and legitimate party to the conflict?

Attention will be directed to the process through which a contributor to debate applies morally loaded categories to their opponents - for example, the assertion that they are exterior to the legitimate discursive space available in the debate because they are 'anti-American'. It will discuss the regularity of a particular mode of problematising such applications - the disclaimer (see Hewitt and Stokes, 1975) - and its role in claiming membership of that legitimate space.

Burrows, R.J., Ellison, N.R.

University of York

Rethinking the ecology of fear in the information age

This paper examines some of the consequences of the introduction of on-line Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the social politics of neighbourhoods and the public sphere more generally. Summarizing a number of recent sociological theorizations of neighbourhood informatization, the paper provides examples of on-line GIS in the UK and considers some of the possible implications of the use of such technologies for contemporary debates about 'splintering urbanism' and what Mike Davies has famously characterised as the new urban 'ecology of fear'. Arguing that social citizenship is best understood in terms of varying forms of 'proactive' or 'defensive' engagement, the paper explores the relationship between virtual decision making about neighbourhood choice and the impact of aggregated virtual decisions 'on the ground', before going on to consider how differentiated forms of engagement are producing new forms of social exclusion in changing urban spaces.

Butler, R.

University of Hull

'VO!CE': Creating disabled space with popular music

Music has been an important part of the culture of many marginalised groups, including Blacks, lesbians and gay men, and has been used on many occasions to carry political messages. This paper considers the relationship between popular music and the disability movement. The paper considers the negative images of disability that have dominated the depictions of impaired individuals in the Arts and media in the past, and considers how, in contrast, the music industry has at times offered a home to radical disabled voices. It draws on the case study of the Heather Mills 1999 single, VO!CE, in order to explore the interaction of music, and its messages about disability, with society. It considers how music can act as a political tool, creating spaces in which it can reach and educate diverse audiences of able-bodied and disabled people alike. The paper concludes by pointing to the need for further research in the area in order for the full potential of music to disabled people to be recognised.

Byrne, D.

University of Durham

Researching Causality - Taking Realism into Policy - Focusing on the Case

This paper will outline the logic behind the ESRC Methods Programme funded series - 'Focusing on the Case'. The purpose of the session is to develop a discussion of the way in which the realist programme can be integrated with existing methods of research inquiry which recognize the complex and figurational character of social causality. The object is to develop a set of tools which, in dialogical process, can inform the formation of policy in context. The overall frame of reference of the discussion can be set thus:

One of the major tasks of social science is establishing how things come to be as they are - establishing causal systems in the real world. It's a truism to say that the social world is complex. In other words you can't explain it in terms of single causes with single effects. However, the traditional quantitative approaches in social science based on variable analysis have tended towards such simple explanations. Sociology has a long tradition of another approach in the form of the comparative method based on detailed comparison across a range of cases. Recently, developments in computer based methods have facilitated an integration of quantitative and qualitative approaches in a way which focuses upon the cases and allows us to address the complexity of social causes. This project combines training in the use of such approaches with an exploration of the way in which social researchers, at all stages of their careers, have thought about these issues in the past and can develop new strategies in the future based on case centred methods.

Cambell-Barr, V.

Kent Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (Canterbury Christ Church University College)

The push to get Britain working and what this means for family life

What does New Labour's aim of "full employment" mean for family life in Britain?

Many women are feeling pressured to work and place their children with childcarers at a time when the British 'long hours' culture means that many fathers are already unable to properly participate in family life.

Although, as can be seen in published literature concerning work-life balance, the Government is aware of the importance of the issue it would appear that simple recognition is not enough and that working people are beginning to seek their own ways of resolving the relationship between work and family.

It has become evident that an increasing number of parents are resisting the pressure to "work, work, work" and are either adjusting their working hours or even changing their careers in order to balance work and family life in order to spend more time with their children. What is of particular importance is that the resulting additional parental involvement is something that is recognised, appreciated and enjoyed by children, reinforcing the need to ensure that work and family life fit together.

Canniford, R., Layne, N.

University of Exeter

Riding the storm: Social capital in surf culture

Following the Second World War a number of counter-hegemonic lifestyles were created as an expression of discontent with the status quo. Bikers, beatniks and surfers exemplified such expressions that Theodore Roszak (1968: 1) attributed to: "youth who are profoundly, even fanatically alienated from the parental generation". Some of these movements however, have survived in various forms through to the present day. Many of the original alienated youths are now themselves the parental generation, yet they remain active alongside a new wave of younger participants.

What has maintained the vitality of these expressions and encouraged the continued eschewal of the mainstream? Utilizing Norbert Elias's notion of Courtly Society and Erving Goffman's Dramaturgical metaphor we account for a form of social capital that has emerged within these movements. We demonstrate the value of this account by applying it to the historical development and present status of surf culture. We propose that this social capital operates at a personal, local and global level and transcends class, gender, age and ethnicity to encourage participants to maintain their alignment with alternative values.

Carter, A.

Rowan University, USA

"Contested masculinity: Elaborations of the hegemonic in contemporary heroes and antiheroes of popular culture"

This paper, "Contested masculinity: elaborations of the hegemonic in contemporary heroes and antiheroes of popular culture," attempts to describe the cultural climate of contemporary U.S. society with respect to social constructions of masculinity.

The paper emphasizes culture as a central locus for the construction, maintenance, modification, empowerment and disempowerment of gender notions. This approach sees society as engaged in a continuous conversation over its values and culture as a site for social change. Culture is understood as essentially multivocal with dominant or hegemonic messages understood as competing with alternative and subordinated versions. Masculinity is understood as contested, subject to multiple definitions and even multiple discourses.

This paper analyzes from the perspective of the pursuit of the potential pleasure of the text, both for the consumer and for the cultural critic. One implication of this analysis is that one aspect of what is needed for meaningful social change are specifically cultural expressions of alternative erotics, including, for example, an erotic of heterosexual equality.

The heart of the paper revolves around the notion of the hero as articulated by Robin Morgan in 'The Demon Lover' and relates it to depictions of hegemonic masculinity. The paper will report on the findings of a joint project investigating the hero mythos in action films. A schematic of gender articulations of masculinity for different genres of popular culture, such as "chick flicks," sitcoms, etc., is developed, illustrated by interpretive readings of exemplars.

Charles, N., Davies, C.A., Harris, C.C.

University of Wales Swansea

Social change and the family

This paper arises out of a restudy of research into the family and social change. The earlier research was conducted in the early 1960s in Swansea. It categorised the social changes experienced in the first part of the 20th century as a move from stability and homogeneity to mobility and differentiation along the dimensions of occupation, class, culture and residence. This led to heterogeneity along these dimensions among the members of the three-generational family networks which in earlier times would have been able to form family groups.

This paper attempts a specification of the social changes that have taken place between 1960 and 2003 and the ways in which they affect family formation and kin relationships. Regarding the family as a point of articulation between the housing and labour markets, the paper describes and discusses the transformation of the occupational and industrial structure and the increased participation of women in paid employment, especially in the service sector, which have taken place since the 1960s. It considers the consequences of women's increased participation in the labour market for the exchange of domestic services between households (which is central to extended family relationships) and its implications in terms of occupational differentiation within the household which now embraces not only parents and children but also the couple. The paper argues that, as a result, the household has become the site of a dialectic between reproductive and productive labour whose outcome in any particular case is uncertain and which has resulted in a de-institutionalisation of reproductive partnerships.

Charles, V., Crow, G., Heath, S., Wiles, R.

University of Southampton

Informed consent and the research process: Following rules or striking balances?

Gaining informed consent from people being researched is central to ethical research practice. There are, however, a number of factors that make the issue of informed consent problematic, especially in research involving members of vulnerable groups such as children and people with learning disabilities. This paper reports on an ESRC-funded project concerned to identify and disseminate best practice in relation to informed consent in research with six such groups. This project involves the analysis of researchers' views and experiences of the meaning of informed consent; of what is regarded as good and bad practice in obtaining and managing informed consent; of the impact that different methods of gaining informed consent have on the research process; and of the impact 'gatekeepers' or 'stakeholders' have on the research that is undertaken. The paper will argue that although guidelines on good practice are an increasingly important part of the framework of research governance, they cannot completely resolve the difficulties inherent in the processes of gaining and maintaining informed consent. It highlights two issues in particular: first, that there is no consensus amongst researchers concerning how to know when enough has been done to achieve informed consent, and when the point of doing too much has been reached; and secondly, that there is no consensus about whether the same sets of principles and procedures are equally applicable to research among different groups and to research conducted within different disciplinary frameworks.

Chattoe, E., Heath, A.H.

University of Oxford

Using simulation to understand ethnic labour market disadvantage

There is much research on the disadvantaged position of ethnic minorities in labour markets, considering such facts as the wage gap, more precarious employment, longer unemployment spells, greater self-employment and direct exclusion from certain sectors. There are also numerous theories about how disadvantage arises, ranging from individualistic accounts of differing human capital to explanations based on opportunity networks and overt racism. What is lacking is a technique for integrating these approaches and exploring how a variety of different factors may lead to emerging patterns of labour market opportunity in different groups. This paper presents preliminary results from a computer simulation designed to combine existing theories of ethnic disadvantage in labour markets to show how simulation can be used to integrate competing theories, cast new light on existing debates and suggest new questions for research and data collection. The technique used is behavioural microsimulation, which explicitly represents individuals as simulated actors with a range of attributes (age, gender, ethnicity, marital status, income, skills). The simulation then "unfolds" the dynamics of a variety of processes such as marriage, having children, getting sacked, getting promoted, gaining work experience, expanding ones business, going self-employed and so on, to explore how the dynamics of these processes are affected by different kinds of factors used to explain ethnic disadvantage (racism, lower human capital, different access to information).

Chen, H-J.

University of Cambridge

A new challenge to school-based management: Parental participation in school decision-making

In recent years in many countries, school-based management and lay participation in local school policy-making have been developed (Deem, 1994: 35). Caldwell (1990) identifies that current educational trends in the globe tends to develop a decentralised system of school governance, and in particular, more and more state governments require all public schools to institute school councils composed of teachers, parents and other members of the school community. Taiwan, as a member of the global village, is inevitable to be influenced by international education developments and trends. Thus, the Compulsory Education Amendment in 1999 legislatively empowered more parental involvement in the internal decision making processes of the school.

The introduction to parental participation in school-based management, ideally, tends to build partnerships with local parents involving in the mechanism of school-based decision-making. However, teachers may encounter professional crisis with external demands and pressures. As A. Hargreaves (2000) maintains, 'if teachers want to become professionally stronger, they must now open themselves up and become more publicly vulnerable and accessible' (p. 232). On the other hand, such top-down process of mandating educational change may be viewed as a learning opportunity whereby educational practitioners need to re-learn how to cope with external pressures and develop new professional techniques and communicational skills through in-service workshops and training (Bailey, 2000). Additionally, the school has to empower parents' right and provide sufficient information on school operation and management so that the parental delegates could feel a sense of 'authentic participation' in school-based management.

Cheng, S.

College of Art in Baltimore, USA

"Insurgent terrorism, political modernity and democracy"

Contrary to those who trace the origin of terrorism to hashshashin, I will argue that insurgent terrorism is an outgrowth of political modernity and a perverse by product of democracy. My theory will hopefully help illuminate why terrorism thrived in Western rather than Eastern Europe in the 1960s-80s, and why terrorists in the Middle-East and Latin America are predominantly Western-educated intellectuals or their protégés.

Terrorism and Modernity

Modernity is the age of ideology, and ideology is what drives terrorism, in contrast to assassination which may revolve around mere personal power struggles. Terrorism's tie to ideology also explains why terrorist activities are often accompanied by propagandistic wars through mass media.

Another distinction I will draw between terrorism and assassination is the non-coincidence between victims and "real enemies" in the former. This split is possible only with modern bureaucracy whose impersonal structure ends up turning people into symbolic rather than personal targets for terrorists.

Terrorism and Democracy

Terrorism is not only the opposite of democracy but also its child. Note how terrorists always claim too be acting on behalf of "the people"--specifically, a people's right to self-determination. Terrorism is also practised by those who feel deprived of their rights under a regime perceived to be hypocritically democratic. Terrorism's reliance on mass media originates from the value democracy attributes to public opinion.

Solutions?

To conclude, I will analyze certain blindspots in modern discourse of rights which gives rise to aberration such as terrorism. Tentative solutions will be proposed.

Chernilo, D.

University of Warwick

Sociology, society and the nation-states: The problem of sociology's 'methodological nationalism'

The term 'methodological nationalism' was coined in the 1970s to address the question that the concept of society was inextricable linked to the nation-state; the two were increasingly seen as one and the same thing. Nowadays, the question of sociology's methodological nationalism has been raised again: the current 'decline of the nation-state' would have definitively shattered that equation between society and the nation-state and, in so doing, it has put sociology itself on the verge of definitive obsolescence.

This paper discusses and criticises the early thesis that sociology is, necessarily, a methodologically nationalistic discipline as well as the current thesis of the 'crisis of sociology'. The paper addresses both propositions on three grounds. Firstly, it argues that sociology has never been only or even primarily the science of the nation-state: sociology's project is both national and global right from the start. Secondly, it contends that the concept of society has played many theoretical roles in sociology and that this equation between society and the nation-state does neglects other functions 'society' has actually played in the discipline: I shall raise the issue of society's regulative function in sociology. Thirdly, in relation to current sociology, the paper argues that it both overstates the novelty of the current social transformation and undermines sociology's capacity to deal with them whereas in fact the ideas of crisis and epochal change are the normal way in which sociologists have made sense of the society and age in which they live.

Chin, W.P.

Cambridge University

Identity politics in intercultural cinema: A comparative study of Chinese Americans and the British Chinese

This paper proposes a comparative study of Chinese American and British Chinese diasporic identities as these are articulated in intercultural cinema, a genre designated by formal experimentation that draws from multiple cultural traditions fused with contemporary Western cinematic techniques (Naficy, 1999; MacDougall, 1999; Marks, 2000). The analysis I propose will locate the production of this cultural form within the specific social contexts that influence their ultimate content. These include the diasporic social worlds from which the filmmakers themselves come, the distribution systems, funding opportunities, academic institutions and critical support available for this work. The comparisons between American and British cases will highlight the influence exerted by socio-historically specific contingencies on the cultural content of the materials I intend to analyse. However, my approach will be mindful of not entirely reducing the content of the films to the political and economic conditions of production.

The project will endeavour to deliver an empirical study of what theorists such as Said (1978, 1993), Bourdieu (1984, 1993), and Shusterman (2000) advocate so strongly for the analysis of cultural production: the situation of cultural products in their social contexts without disregarding their transcendental qualities. This notion attempts to pave a way between the subordination of the arts to simplistic reflectionist sociological theories, on the one hand, and the equally reductionist reification of the decontextualised aesthetic on the other. Likewise, this project endeavours to increase understanding not only of the world of cinema production, but also the complex labyrinth of diasporic identity politics.

Clark, D.

London Metropolitan University

Sites of memory or aids to multiculturalism? Conflicting uses of Jewish heritage sites.

The immediate postwar in Europe was characterised by collective amnesia concerning where Jews had lived prior to the Holocaust (Offe, 1997; Clark, 1999). By the 1970s and mid-1980s, there was a revival of interest in residential areas, synagogues and cemeteries connected with a Jewish past, right throughout Europe, including former communist countries in the 1990s. This resulted in much renovation and the attempt to provide new uses for such sites as museums and cultural centres.

My paper will focus on the shift in emphasis from the need to preserve such sites as places of memory to an increasing concern with other issues. Such issues range from tourism promotion to the promotion of multiculturalism. This emphasis on preparing the younger generation for a future in a new multicultural state provides much of the motivation for central and local government to lend support to such initiatives, whether in Sweden, Germany or Italy, for instance.

I will illustrate my argument by reference to a case study of the Jewish Museum in Bologna, where I conducted fieldwork between 1999 and 2002. This will illustrate the mix of policy objectives involved, such as heritage preservation, urban regeneration, cultural policy and educational objectives.

Cockerham, W., Hinote, B., Abbott, P., Haerpfer, C.

University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA

Stress, gender, and health lifestyles in the commonwealth of independent states

This paper examines the relationship between stress, health lifestyles, and gender in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Whereas there have been several studies of gender and health lifestyle differences associated with the mortality crisis in the former Soviet Union, the precise role of stress is unknown because of a paucity of information. We utilize data from eight CIS countries—Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, and the Ukraine—to assess the contribution of stress to the adverse pattern of life expectancy in the region. We find that adult women show significantly higher levels of stress than men do on virtually every measure, although it is the men whose longevity is decreasing. We suggest that rather than having a direct effect on male mortality, stress operates indirectly to influence the negative health lifestyles of middle-age, working-class men who are most responsible for the rise in death rates.

Corbett, K., Othieno, G., Moran, R.

St George's Hospital Medical School

Exploring the challenges and responsibilities of mutual engagement within participatory action research

This paper draws on a London-based action research study into the factors affecting the engagement of African patients, and the wider African communities, in clinical trials. The paper argues for the use of participatory qualitative methodologies that centralize the voices of those who are mostly easily marginalized by mainstream policies. The paper describes how the co-researchers in this study (professional/lay members from within the affected communities and academic researchers) shaped the study methodology. The paper goes on to further describe the key responsibilities of the co-researchers within this process of mutual engagement. The paper analyses the challenges and responsibilities in respect of identifying the perspectives of all co-researchers within a methodology that strives to mutually engage diverse communities of NHS clinicians and service users. Drawing upon the findings from the data analysis, the paper will discuss emergent issues that are of particular relevance for New Labour's policies on social exclusion, cultural competence and NHS service user involvement.

Crow, G., Holmwood, J., McLennan, G., Ray, L., Reed, R.

University of Southampton

Social Theory Round table: Sociologists and their audiences

This round table discussion will focus on issues associated with the ways in which sociologists relate to their various audiences. The session will commence with four short contributions, and then will be opened up for general discussion in which others present will be invited to participate. The issues that the session is designed to explore include questions of who in the contemporary world sociologists' audiences are, what styles of engagement are most effective with them, and the extent to which the same message needs to be tailored differently to meet the requirements and preferences of different audiences. Scrutiny will also be given to questions of whether sociologists are held back by allegedly outdated self-images (e.g. as 'scientific experts'), whether the focus on individual sociologists works against a coherent collective identity, how sociology relates to ideology, how sociology relates to policy matters, and what is the significance of being located outside of the sociological 'mainstream'. The introductory contributions will draw on a range of different experiences in engaging with these issues over the years, but these will be strictly time-limited to allow time for contributions from the audience.

The presenters are all working on some aspect of these issues. Graham Crow is currently writing a book for Palgrave, *For the Sake of Sociological Argument*, exploring the varying style of presenting their arguments that sociologists have employed. Participants: Dr Graham Crow (Southampton), Prof John Holmwood (Sussex), Prof Gregor McLennan (Bristol), Prof Larry Ray (Kent), Dr Kate Reed (Kent/Sheffield).

Crowhurst, I.

London School of Economics & Political Science

Between theory and practice: The risks of trafficking talk

This paper examines the motivations underlying the 'mainstream' responses to one particular form of violence against women: trafficking in women for sexual purposes. It presents and evaluates some of the different - and often discordant - discourses on trafficking in women and how they are reflected in the initiatives and practices formulated to support the women who are victims of trafficking. This analysis will also take into account the conflicting considerations, which are intrinsic in the debate over prostitution. This has been invariably connected to the issue of trafficking, affecting societal responses and having a profound impact on the lives of the target group.

The arguments outlined in the paper are based both on the analysis of the main theoretical discourses around the above mentioned issues, and the findings of my ongoing fieldwork in Italy. Italy represents a very interesting case for discussion, and although some considerations will reflect the historical, social and cultural components specific to the Italian system, and a particular typology, the analysis will have a more general outlook, so as to encourage further debate and reflection.

My main purpose is to point out the risks of a limited epistemological discursiveness surrounding trafficking issues which could be overcome, for example, through methodological improvements, including paying closer attention to those whose lives are actually subjected to violence, but whose voices are too often ignored by academic theory.

Cruickshank, J.

University of Birmingham

Critical realism and the search for a post-disciplinary canon

Sociological theory has come in for much criticism from those writing from a post-colonial and cultural studies perspective, who hold that sociological theory lacks the conceptual resources to understand contemporary societies. Sociological responses to this range from a neo-traditionalist defence of sociological theory to attempts to find underlying intellectual complementarities that run counter to the rhetoric of exclusivity. Another response to the challenge to sociological theory has been developed by critical realists who seek to construct a post-disciplinary canon. The rhetoric of critical realism presents an ontology that informs research and theorising in the social sciences, which is developed from an open and critical dialogue with existing theories and philosophies. If this were the case then the debate between the defenders and critics of sociology would be rendered redundant, as the critical realist canon would constitute the only condition for theorising and research. In this paper I argue that many of the arguments within critical realism run counter to the rhetoric of master-definition of reality, with an absolutist metaphysics. Rather seek a post-disciplinary canon to transcend debates about the intellectual legitimacy of sociology, it is argued that an on-going debate about the character of sociological theory is needed. This ought to be based upon close readings of arguments rather than rhetorical appeals to intellectual openness that are used to try and mask appeals to metaphysical dogmatism.

de Viggiani, N.

University of the West of England

(Un)healthy prison masculinities: Theorising men's health in prison

This presentation reports on PhD research that explored interconnections between masculinity, health and prison. Conducted in an adult male training prison in Southern England, a reflexive ethnographic approach was used, comprising participant observation, focus group interviewing and one-to-one interviewing with inmates and officers. The research revealed how prison masculinities were produced and performed by inmates and prison staff, and through the discourses and practices of the prison regime, manifesting at social and organisational levels as key determinants of health. Values of the institution and those of inmates and staff combined to create a pervasively 'masculine' atmosphere and culture, which adversely affected the physical and mental health of many prisoners. The masculine ideology that underpinned the organisational and social fabric of the prison was evident in attitudes and behaviours of inmates and staff and in the 'progressive regime' advocated by the Prison Service. This research thus recommends that a broad, holistic and 'gendered' view of prison health can provide alternative insight into men's health in prisons, and may offer a positive and productive way forward for future prison health policy, in line with the World Health Organisation's Healthy Prisons philosophy.

de Vries, K.

Princess Alice Hospice & University of Surrey

'Dealing with the unknown': A sociological perspective on variant Creutzfeldt Jakob disease

Grounded theory methodology was used to collect and analyse the data from four cases of variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (vCJD), with verification of findings from television documentaries of two cases and from newspapers headlines. Media hype, 'a huge press frenzy', was identified as a major thrust in creating the social reactions to the perceived threat of a mass disease epidemic of vCJD following the diagnosis of the first case in 1996. vCJD was symbolised as a 'dreaded disease'. It was a disease that was symbolised from the outset as one that led to a type of 'madness', where the symbol of 'mad cow' became the emblem of the disease. Two social categories of novelty and risk were identified. The biotechnology that caused the BSE crisis is an example of the manufactured risk identified in discussions on the political, technological, cultural and economic globalisation. The meaning of food, in relation to vCJD is symbolised as either 'bad food' or 'good food'. 'Bad food' was associated with MacDonald's, burger bars, junk food, beef-burgers, mass produced food, rubbish food, etc. 'Good food' as vegetarian, organic, wholesome, best quality meat, chicken, turkey, etc. Novelty was related to fascination of a new or novel event, with a type of 'ghoulish voyeurism' towards the unusual and strange. Bullying, teasing and gossip were also displayed as social responses to vCJD. A core category of 'dealing with the unknown' is offered as the foundation of a preliminary theoretical framework for understanding responses to the disease.

Deem, R., Ozga, J., Parker, A.

University of Bristol

Does sociology of education still belong to sociology? Challenges, dilemmas and conflicts

The sociology of education is a well-established sub-area of sociology and also a popular topic for AS and A2 level Sociology students. From the 1960s to the 1980s, many textbooks were published on sociology of education, reflecting the popularity of the area in both Sociology and Education departments. Since then, sociology has changed its disciplinary and theoretical focus, moving away from concerns around major social institutions such as education.

Relatively few sociology departments now teach sociology of education. In Education Departments, especially in England, radical changes have also occurred to initial teacher training, which have largely removed sociology of education from it, with surprisingly little opposition. Whilst Masters degrees and professional doctorates in education have provided new vehicles, sociology of education has also gone in other directions: for instance many researchers have taken the 'policy turn' or concentrated on social divisions other than social class. Simultaneously, some commentators have asked whether sociology of education's days are numbered and some have become disenchanted or discontented with the area. Meanwhile, education continues to be a major political priority as well as a key part of everyday life and just as much in need of sociological investigation as ever. The paper will explore the ways in which sociology of education is still relevant to sociology in general and to policy makers and students. It will illustrate the paper by reference to three areas: teaching and learning in higher education, gender and ethnicity, and the management of organizations.

Demir, I.

University of Sussex

Incommensurability in Thomas Kuhn and Alasdair MacIntyre's works

The focus of my conference paper will be intellectual conflict. Since the publication of Thomas Kuhn's 'The Structure of Scientific Revolutions', incommensurability has come to be a commonly used concept in social theory, usually employed to characterise fundamental disagreements between different traditions, cultures and viewpoints. Alasdair MacIntyre, a sociologist turned philosopher, also employs this concept in his later works to argue against the 'Enlightenment myth' that there exists an objective and universal rationality which one can use to adjudicate between the moral claims of rival traditions and communities.

MacIntyre's traditions of enquiry and Kuhn's paradigms emphasise, respectively, that progress in moral philosophy and science takes place against the background of a set of beliefs, practices and agreed standards. MacIntyre and Kuhn both hold a strong holist position and argue that the various commitments of a tradition form an inseparable whole. They defend the incommensurability thesis, arguing that different traditions of enquiry (or paradigms in the case of Kuhn) hold different positions in terms of rules, meaning and standards and that differences and disagreements between rival positions cannot be brought to closure through an appeal to neutral, universal standards of enquiry.

In my conference paper I will be looking at the differences and similarities between MacIntyre's and Kuhn's use of the incommensurability thesis and will discuss the epistemological commitments they hold which inevitably lead them to conclusions, some of which are relativistic, about intellectual conflict and change.

Dench, S., Hill, D.

Institute for Employment Studies, University of Sussex

Encouraging teenage parents to learn: Findings from an evaluation of childcare support funding

Teenage pregnancy rates in Britain are the highest in Europe and of major concern to policy makers. Policies aim to reduce conception rates and reduce the chances of teenage parents becoming, or remaining, socially excluded and disadvantaged. One aspect of policy is encouragement to young parents to continue learning: it is aimed to have 60 per cent of young parents in education or employment by 2010. The most recent policy intervention, Care to Learn, provides up to £5,000 a year to pay for childcare support while a young parent is studying. It also aims to establish and strengthen support structures which both encourage young parents to continue learning and prevent them from dropping out.

Young parents face considerable barriers when wanting to study or train: including lack of confidence, poor educational experiences, low attainment levels, poverty, poor living conditions. This paper will report findings from the national evaluation of Care to Learn. It will explore the position of a group of young parents and their experiences of studying while receiving support through Care to Learn?, including those who drop out of their course. The paper will also explore the perspectives of support workers and learning providers. While support for childcare is extremely important, it is not the only barrier to young parents continuing their education. Conclusions will be drawn about the extent to which support structures (financial and others) are sufficient to prevent many young parents and their children remaining in or returning to a cycle of disadvantage and deprivation.

Dermott, E.

University of Bristol

An exploration of the relationship between intimacy and time

By drawing on accounts of how fathers balance paid work and family life, this paper argues that the connection made between time and intimate relationships needs to be problematised.

Evidence that employment and family are likely to be experienced as conflicting relies on the assumption that both make considerable demands on time. This conclusion is grounded in empirical research with women, accounts of 'juggling' time and the problems of being labelled either an uncommitted worker (through part-time employment) or an inadequate mother (through limited time spent with children). However, the assumption of conflict can be contested if time is conceptualised differently in relation to various spheres of activity.

For the fathers interviewed in this research, time was viewed in a different way in fulfilling the roles of 'good employee' and 'good father'. In relation to paid work putting in long hours was accepted and regarded as necessary. Meanwhile, in contrast, involved fathering was largely disassociated from a time commitment and the carrying out of practical tasks.

While intimacy was prioritised, it had no explicit association with time and, significantly, time was not used as a proxy for measuring intimacy. The paper therefore emphasises the importance of incorporating time into theorisations of different forms of labour and highlights how similar verbal expressions of involvement can be translated into different behaviours depending on the form and location of labour. Further, it suggests that integrated considerations of 'work' need to proceed with caution.

Dewan, I.

University of Greenwich

"Race is not an issue"

In this paper I explore the apparent duplicity in some UK education policy and public discourse (specifically in London) on the proclivity of multiculturalism and the simultaneous refusal to 'name' race. The conjecture that 'we are basically all the same' and that any differences between people are superficial appears to be the *carte blanche* for embracing the idea of 'mixed' neighbourhoods, schools, university departments and friends. Drawing on data gathered from a selection of education policy texts and a sample of 40 mixed race women studying in Further Education colleges in London, I argue that the universalisation (and pluralisation) of personhood disregards fundamental identifications with specific racial and cultural experiences, seeks to minimise the racist legacy, and ignores contemporary forms of racism. The findings focus on self-identifications of mixed race and experiences of discrimination: some respondents referred to themselves as mixed race in the superficial sense mentioned above; most respondents however, whilst rejecting racial categories, identified as mixed race where this was talked about as being intrinsic to 'who they were', or their personalities. Discrimination from white people was usually referred to as implicit - again in keeping with the idea that race is superficial, whereas discrimination from black people and from family members was described as both explicit and rife. In view of these findings, I maintain that the popular assumption that "race is not an issue" is a fallacy, and a dangerous attempt by the government to wash over the real issue of race.

Dilks, H.M.

University of Nottingham (Business Sector)

Parallel worlds: The experience of anxiety and 'putting one over' in the shopfitting industry

This paper explores the interrelationship of societal agents situated within an environment of increasing bureaucratic intervention in the customary employment practices of small shopfitting firms. The degree of consent to authority as being 'legitimately' exercised depends upon the positioning of agents in relation to their social status and the potential for intersectional interaction between the groups. Questions are raised concerning the behaviour of groups of agents who interact in society on different levels, and the subsequent diverse (and often contested) versions of legitimacy arising from this interaction. Parallels can be drawn between the historical situation of agents during the rationalisation of the Church after the Reformation, and the contemporary application of rules and regulations by agentic groups towards 'others' who operate within certain types of employment. The notion of psychological anxiety as utilised by Weber in his discussion of the Protestant Ethic should not be underestimated as a legitimisation device for the exercise of power and authority by agents in a prestigious social relation to law and legislation through their employment as government officials or representatives. It is argued that agents can overcome anxiety caused through their inability to comply with legislation in material situations by legitimising their experience in the form of 'narrative versions'. The concept of narrativity thus emerges as a powerful conceptual tool in the establishment and maintenance of alternative, or parallel worlds, with unintended consequences for the official implementation of regulative procedures in industry.

Donovan, C.A.

Australian National University

'Social science in the service of science and technology': A case of mistaken identity within national research policy

What is meant by the phrase 'social science in the service of science and technology'? It is the notion that under certain conditions social science no longer exists for its own sake, or on its own terms, and has become (or is becoming) an optional supplementary tool for the natural, physical, environmental and medical sciences. This paper explores the idea that the public finding of social science research within a national science and technology framework creates 'social science in the service of science and technology.' Using the example of the UK Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) this paper illustrates how misguided epistemological assumptions and research funding combine to produce and institutionalise 'social science that makes sense to natural scientists.' This paper explains the context out of which this idea evolved and how it relates to epistemology, research funding and institutionalising misguided assumptions.

Donovan, C.A.

Australian National University

Making sociology count: Bibliometrics and the 'RAE-ification' of social science

This paper has three parts. It first discusses critical approaches to the use of citation studies or bibliometrics in auditing the product of social science research (publications). It examines Foucauldian ideas of surveillance and self regulation, the notion of 'RAE-ifying' academic research output and the implications of audit practices for the social sciences and humanities being based upon natural science publishing norms (journal papers sourced by the Institute of Scientific Information).

The second part of this paper considers developments in the study of bibliometrics applied to social science and the humanities at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies (CWTS) at the University of Leiden and the Research Evaluation and Policy Project at the Australian National University. These studies employ a suite of indicators including non-source items, particularly books and book chapters, and consider alternative novel measures of academic esteem. This paper concludes by asking what these developments may imply for the various critiques of bibliometrics previously discussed.

Donovan, C.A., Halsey A.H.

Australian National University

The history of British sociology: Deconstructing the Americanisation thesis

This paper examines the roots of a sociological myth, the 'Americanisation thesis'. In 1970 a journal citation study posited the argument that the past and future internationalisation (or in today's language 'globalisation') of sociology equated to the Americanisation of British sociology. Using evidence from a new citation analysis of British sociology between 1900 and 2000, this paper disputes this claim on two main grounds. First, the predicted post-1970 American domination of British sociology did not come to fruition. Second, scrutiny of the definition of who counts as an American sociologist or what constitutes American influence reveals that the pre-1970 shape of British sociology was greatly inspired by non-British individuals, but not Americans. This paper concludes that the methods and ideas of Continental sociology have been the largest international influence upon the shape of British sociology indirectly via the USA pre-1970 and directly post-1970.

Edwards, T.

University of Leicester

Producing consumers? Children's fashion

Children's fashion now constitutes a growing retail market estimated to be worth over £5 billion (Mintel, 2001) whilst childhood itself can be seen as an increasing area of concern to sociologists (see, for example, Prout, 2000) and policy makers alike as the British Government continues to consider introducing formal legislation relating to children's rights. My remit within the project has been to investigate the retail and, as it were, "produced", dimensions of children's consumption of fashion including marketing, factors of supply and demand, and processes of decision making. This has involved both the use of market research information and a series of interviews conducted with retailers, buyers, designers and decision makers within the fashion industry for children in the UK. Within more theoretical and sociological terms this also constitutes an unpacking of the relationship between production and consumption more widely, and the "push" and "pull" factors involved in children's consumption of fashion more specifically. The paper will report on the main outcomes of this research, present its findings and provide an outline of some of its implications for policy and practice.

This paper is based on work done for an ESRC funded study entitled New Consumers? Children's Consumption of Fashion and conducted with colleagues Dr Sharon Boden, Dr Jane Pilcher and Dr Chris Pole at the Department of Sociology, University of Leicester.

El Zalee, S.

Manchester University

The politics of neglect: The case of Nuba people of Sudan [1900-1956]

The paper argues that British colonial policies led to the marginalization of the Nuba people within Sudanese society. The paper starts from colonial attempts to commercialise land and labour and to impose cotton growing [needed by British capitalism] upon the Nuba peasantry. Processes that strengthen market relations and contributed to the destruction of Nuba pre-capitalist economy as well as the creation of new social forces of wage labourers and traders.

These processes that had shaped Nuba economy and society will be discussed within the overall political economy of colonial Sudan. An era where colonial political priorities and economic need led to the creation of a powerful landed class from the tribal leaders of the Nile Valley of central Sudan. The Nile valley was vital to the colonial project because the bulk of cotton was produced there and for its advanced rail links with the only Sudanese port. The other face of the same colonial project was the neglect of all areas outside the Nile Valley. People of these neglected areas were forced, through imposition of taxes, to be part of the seasonal army of wage labour that was the backbone of commercial agriculture of the Nile Valley.

The conclusion of the paper will be drawn from the assessment of the socio-economic conditions of the Nuba people in 1900 with their position in 1956.

Eulriet, I.

University of Bristol

Re-theorizing political culture: Boltanski and Thévenot's 'orders of worth'

Studies of political culture carried out within the problematique of American political science from the late 1950s have been extensively criticised, in a variety of ways. One problem with this theoretical genre was its articulation of culture as a function of the total social system; a second deficiency was that public discourse and politics were overwhelmingly anchored in the private economic sphere. One major alternative tradition of socio-political theory, namely Marxism, has meanwhile suffered its own fall from favour in understanding - and researching - the nature of the political. In this context, the work of Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot represents a significant recent contribution. These theorists avoid the problems of conventional approaches by reconceiving disputes under a regime of justice as key social situations where different 'orders of worth' underpinning the public sphere are perceptible. Conceptually innovative, this approach also implies a locally orientated research strategy that allows for a more precise account of how the common good and the public sphere are constructed and operated in different national contexts.

Fenton, S., Devadason, R., Bradley, H., West, J., Guy, W.

University of Bristol

Careers at arms length: Job changing, life changing and young adult identities

It has been argued that labour market and employment changes mean that people's engagement with work is becoming more like a series of encounters than an enduring relationship. This, it is suggested, weakens the routine and predictability based on engagement in work and engenders a climate of uncertainty and risk. From a study of young adults in Bristol, we examine aspects of their work and non-work in order to put these arguments to the test. In particular we explore: a. whether the work careers of young adults are discontinuous and disjointed and b. whether they regard work as problematic, as a series of insecurities and instabilities. We conclude that there is a core of young adults who are employed in a relatively stable pattern, and a minority, mostly of low paid workers, whose work lives are discontinuous and fragmented. The idea of a work career has by no means disappeared, but young adults are highly adaptable; whether career-oriented or not, they have a wide range of priorities, with many of them showing a distinctly arms-length attitude to career commitment. The end of the 'job for life' has been seen as a characteristic of employment for the whole labour force; in this paper we are solely concerned with young adults, and the presence or absence of a career pattern.

Fernandez, J.

Camden and Islington Social Care Trust

Patterns of use - an illustration of polarisation

A study by the Thames regional database suggests that the Asian community is an emerging subgroup for drug services. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the assessment process demonstrated marked differences when comparing data of Asian drug users to those of white users. This is in relation to length of drug history and route of administration.

The Margerete Centre was audited and it found for British Asian clients, that they used the route of administration that the Thames study outlined. The aim of this study is to try and explain the differences in patterns of use.

The research was conducted through a sociological perspective to examine these patterns of use and what they could illustrate sociologically with the hypothesis that this could illustrate secularisation of Muslim groups. A semi-structured qualitative interview was designed with twenty British Muslim clients and twenty white/European attending the Margerete Centre in Camden. The ethos of the interview was to look at the degree of secularisation and questions were asked around shared cultural spaces. The results showed that there existed a degree of mono-culture in drug use with little shared cultural spaces. This arguably shows isolated Muslim communities in the poorest housing and areas with a lack of employment opportunities. Therefore illustrating a polarised ethnic group.

The implications for drug service provision, is to try and understand the social dimensions that they are working in. This could maximise the potential for effective health education.

Fewtrell, F.A.

Dealing with conflict, anxiety and discontent within enduring relationships

Conflict, anxiety and discontent are not new phenomena. However their potentially negative effects on society, and enduring relationships within that society, need to be considered in the light of present rapid social and technological changes.

This paper will draw on emergent themes from ongoing empirical research for a PhD thesis. The research is focused on heterosexual, cohabiting couples that have sustained their relationship for over thirty years. During the in depth, semi-structured interviews couples, separately and together, are encouraged to articulate their impressions and perspectives about the enduring nature of their coupledness. They are encouraged to share any adaptations, accommodations or negotiations that they feel may have contributed to their continuing relationship. In particular the aim is to discover their personal methods of dealing with actual or potential areas of conflict, anxiety or discontent as they have arisen during their long association.

With couples splitting up and high rates of divorce, the future of long term, cohabiting relationships could be regarded as uncertain. If we accept the assumption that stable, lasting relationships are ethically and morally desirable and intrinsically 'good' for the individuals involved, for the social structure of community life and for the economy of society it becomes important to find out how and why they are maintained.

Firmstone, J.

'Britain in Europe': A comparative analysis of the British media agenda on Europe

The UK's involvement in the European Union and the question of its membership of the European single currency is a matter of contentious political debate. As key opinion leaders and agenda setters, the media play a powerful role in constructing the political debate over Europe in the public sphere. By using empirical research into editorial processes, this paper aims to explain and account for the differences in the way that national newspapers present and frame the issue of European Integration in editorial articles. The paper focuses primarily on using data collected in interviews conducted with twenty-two key opinion formers from eight British national newspapers to explain how internal organisational factors in the editorial production process influence newspapers' production and framing of editorial comment on European issues. The paper gives an evaluation of the ways in which characteristics of the editorial production process can account for the variations in the framing of Europe found in a previous content analysis of editorial coverage of the launch of the Euro. The empirical data discussed in the paper addresses a gap in research in the field of sociology of the media by adding to our understanding of the impact of factors internal to news organisations on the production of opinion in editorial columns.

Fletcher, G., Greenhill, A., Campbell, J.

University of Salford

Fight club: Culture, conflict and everyday life amongst an online community

This paper examines the significance of conflict for the participants of an online community. We claim that the conflict observed in this community is an important aspect of the everyday life of its participants. Conflict is, within the community, a unifying social force that shapes individual participants' relationships with one another.

Conflict is an important social force among online communities as it assists in the construction of hierarchies and social orders without the need for prior knowledge of individual participants or other forms of verification or trust in relation to the claimed identity of others. In the absence of any certainty in this environment, conflict is the mechanism that preserves and orders the community.

The paper, then, positions its argument in contrast to the heavily trust-oriented perspectives that have shaped much of the previous sociological literature regarding online communities and their daily experience.

Through the examination of the gathered transcripts of conversations, the paper considers the various individual roles that the community supports - without any formal or technical requirements - and examines these roles in the light of a conflict-oriented perspective. The paper observes that there is a continuous existence of specific roles within the community, however, the individual holders of these roles are continually shifting and realigning. The paper concludes with a critical evaluation of this understanding of online communities and argues for a more subtle 'everyday life' approach to their interpretation.

Foster, L.

University of Sheffield

Gender, pensions and the life course

The 'life course' approach provides a framework for analysing individual's experiences, at particular stages of their lives. Unlike the term 'life cycle' which implies fixed categories in the individual and assumes a stable system it emphasises the inter-linkage between phases of the life course rather than seeing each phase in isolation (Katz & Monk, 1993; Hockey & James, 1993). It permits a more dynamic approach to relations between the individual, the family, work and others (Featherstone & Hepworth, 1989). As people age they are influenced by the societal, cultural, political and economic context prevailing at different times in an individual's life course. This article examines the different life course patterns associated with men and women and how they may impact on pensions creating a gendered notion of retirement income. It considers changes in retirement transitions and women's involvement in paid employment where the 'life course' approach is used to analyse the dynamic structure of societal change. Finally, the article provides a possible policy agenda, which may incorporate the 'life course' approach, to decrease the gendered nature of retirement income.

Frost, L.

University of the West of England

Fragile identities? Parent's anxieties and children's lifestyles in consumer societies

Arguments, evidence, beliefs and fears that children are sustaining various kinds of 'capitalist damage' may reflect elements of both a current moral panic and 'legitimate' concerns about proliferating western consumerist values. Anxieties about the impact of the seemingly greater pressure on pre-teenage children to shop, to spend, to 'stare at screens' and to substantially engage with the visual production of identity have been the subject of some considerable media foregrounding recently, and notions that this is all happening younger have become 'common-sense' orthodoxies. This paper attempts to extrapolate the various strands of this emotive debate, and to clarify how and from where this version of childhood is being generated.

Briefly the paper will review the body of literature on children's life-styles, for example their spending capacity and their leisure activities including shopping and watching television. Where such information is available discussion of children's involvement in consumer activities and whether there is any discernable increase over recent will be discussed. Two aspects which do seem to have increased: buying clothes and watching T.V., will be examined and the issue of how and by whom these are interpreted as worrying and/or damaging will be considered.

Finally the paper will briefly suggest that the anxieties being expressed about 10-12 year olds in consumer societies are more to do with the (adult) mindsets of, for example, ambivalence at their own position in consumer societies, ontological insecurity and fears of loss of control, than children's behaviours.

Gabb, J.

University of Huddersfield

Behind closed doors: Intimacy and sexuality in 'non-abusive' families

There is widespread popular concern over child sexual abuse. Fatal incidences of child abuse and molestation grab the media headlines. The conduct of celebrity figures, such as Michael Jackson and Julie Somerville, is held up for public scrutiny when they are caught and/or admit to adult-child intimacy that is deemed improper or 'risky'. But is there consensus on what constitutes impropriety and what separates intimate/sexual gestures? How do parents judge what is 'normal' parent-child intimacy? And perhaps more importantly, how can social workers, who are charged with assessing individual cases of 'child in need', make informed judgements when so little is known about the 'intimate practices' of non-abusive families? The British Agencies for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) recommendations on 'safer caring' suggest that to protect and respect the foster child, and to avoid putting foster carers and the local authority at risk of sexual abuse allegations, children must be the first to initiate physical contact of any kind. Foster carers should neither enter the child's bedroom unless asked nor assist the child in the bathroom. The child should not witness any nudity. There are no recommendations on 'safer caring' that apply to 'natural' families.

In this paper I want to consider three key questions, two conceptual and one methodological: What constitutes abusive/non-abusive 'family intimacy'? How are 'normative' assumptions and families' everyday 'intimate practices' negotiated - who decides what is 'normal'? How can we, as sociologists, research families' affective communication, the verbal and non-verbal intimate exchanges between parents, parents and children, and siblings?

Gane, N.

University of York

Towards a new sociology of power: Placing digital technologies in question

Sociological approaches to the question of power have tended to place human or social relations at the forefront of analysis. However, with the widespread emergence of digital media it is becoming increasingly difficult to theorize 'the human' or 'the social' as realms that exist outside of technology. Given this, the connection between power and technology is now a key point of sociological interest. This paper will reconsider this connection by looking at the work of Germany's leading media theorist: Friedrich Kittler. Kittler's main idea is that the focus of sociological analysis needs to shift to encompass the study of humans and machines. He declares, for example, that 'we should slowly let go of that old dream of sociologists, the one that says that society is by nature made up only of human beings. Today - and tomorrow - the term 'society' should include people and programs'. The aim of this paper is to assess the value of this claim through reference to the question of power. Kittler's position reverses the traditional approach to power by understanding societal relations in terms of the micro-circuits of power invested in computer technology (rather than vice versa). Central to this proposal is his idea of the protected mode: a built-in way of protecting operating systems from user intervention by preventing access to system codes. This materialist or technological reading of the question of power will be used, in turn, to call into question a range of humanist assumptions that still underpin sociological theory and practice today.

Gill, A.

University of Surrey, Roehampton

Culture and rights: Violence in the private domain - the hidden abuse of Asian women and children

Domestic violence against women has created a wealth of academic literature. However, the experiences Asian women of domestic violence has seen very limited research. This paper provides a review of the literature on DV demonstrating the lack of work on Asian women's experiences. The paper then puts forward a preliminary analysis to begin to bridge this gap in the literature based on primary research of Asian women's experience of domestic violence in the UK. It addresses the causes and consequences of DV on Asian women and their coping strategies. In doing so it is argued that the meanings and experiences of domestic violence are different when seen from the perspective of Asian women. The paper identifies how Asian women perceive, make sense of, domestic violence and respond to support from family, friends and external agencies and what social, cultural and historical contexts shape their experiences. Additionally the paper raises a number of ethical and methodological issues that are influential in framing research on Asian women's experience of domestic violence. Future research avenues are proposed.

Gilloch, G.

University of Salford

White collar worries: From morally pink complexions to corroded characters

This paper forms part of a wider project examining the life, work and contemporary relevance of the German-Jewish social and cultural theorist Siegfried Kracauer (1889-1966). It explores some of the theoretical, methodological and thematic parallels between Kracauer's famous 1930 'ethnographic' study of the newly dominant class of urban white-collar workers (*Die Angestellten*) and Richard Sennett's 1998 analysis of the fate of employees within today's 'flexible' labour markets (*The Corrosion of Character*). My concern is with how these writers address three key questions: how do new work patterns and practices lead to the diminution of human experience and interpersonal relations thereby prompting particular existential anxieties (Kracauer's vision of 'spiritual homelessness' and Sennett's notion of the 'corrosion of character')?; how do such individual crises find expression in, or connect with, specific cultural forms?; and, what are the consequences for our understanding of the position and (im)possibilities for critical intellectual engagement? Attention focuses on the key distinction between the concepts of 'personality' and 'character'.

Glasner, P., McNally, R.

Cardiff University School of Social Sciences

Beyond genomics: Post-genomics, proteomics and the other 'omics'

The Human Genome Initiative, completed in 2001, gained international support on the basis of claims that it would utterly transform biology, biotechnology and medicine. However, we are now informed that the genome was just the beginning. Whilst genes carry the instructions for making proteins, it is proteins that make things happen in cells. Enter the 'proteome'. Coined in 1994, the proteome is the protein equivalent of the genome, and proteomics the protein equivalent of genomics. Beyond the proteome, the BBSRC is already looking towards the 'transcriptome' and the 'metabolome'.

This paper reports on research on the 'human proteome project' undertaken using methods and concepts from science and technology studies (STS). We trace the origins of proteomics, reporting how, through a 'reflexive dialectic', the emergent proteomics is both being configured by and simultaneously reconfiguring genomics. We identify how, amidst interpretative flexibility of what the proteome and proteomics are, do-able proteomic research programmes and projects are being crafted. In place of the laboratory, the site of proteomics and other 'omics' research is the (often virtual) 'collaboratory'. In a reflexive turn, we consider the methodological implications of this for STS 'laboratory studies'. Finally, we predict that, whether or not it delivers the promised social goods, one legacy of proteomics will be the further industrialisation, commercialisation and globalisation of biotechnoscientific production and the constitution of new bio-research objects, resulting in the further expansion of the 'bio-industrial complex'.

Goode, J., Scott, R.

University of Nottingham

What are you doing doing a PhD?

Work on 'the PhD' has primarily been of the 'how to' variety, producing handbooks aimed at both students and their supervisors. This trend may be accounted for by concerns about low completion rates, the subsequent introduction by the ESRC of a sanctions policy against HEIs with supposedly low rates, and the introduction of taught methodology components to more structured PhD 'programmes'. Despite such attempts to introduce a measure of standardisation and control, there has been a marked lack of analysis of what a PhD actually is, for example, how it might be conceptualised and located within a broader framework of, say, apprenticeship, intellectual 'work', academic career, creative endeavour, credentialisation etc., or of what might be termed the social organisation of the PhD. At present, there is a kind of wilful mystique about 'the PhD', which may function as a device to accommodate diversity, creativity, originality etc., or to conceal variability of supervision, lack of accountability, even exploitation. This paper, exploring 'the PhD' from students' perspectives, is based on preliminary findings of a qualitative study using in-depth interviews. It reveals huge variety in motivations, routes in, conceptualisations and experiences of doing a PhD, as well as in formal and informal support from inside and outside the academy. It raises questions of what the implications are of different models, for students, supervisors, academic and non-academic careers.

Goode, S.

King Alfred's College

Models of economic coercion in the lives of drug-dependent women

This paper focuses on an area mentioned but not examined in the published literature. It looks at the economic, physical and psychological coercion experienced by drug-dependent women, examining how those dependent on illegal substances such as heroin, crack-cocaine, and amphetamines are recruited and retained in schemes to make money specifically to pay off drug-debts.

This paper presents three models of coercion: a 'freelance' model, a 'pimping' model, and a 'slave' model. These models are derived from grounded-theory analysis of a series of interviews with fifty substance-using women, conducted in the West Midlands area between 1994 and 1997, and are illustrated by case-studies.

The implications at a micro-level on the women's own wellbeing and psychological health will be discussed, as well as macro-level social policy implications aimed at assisting such extraordinarily disempowered individuals to escape and begin to re-build some functional capacity for autonomy.

Gorringe, H., Rafanell, I.

University of Edinburgh

The embodiment of protest: Caste oppression and change

The 1950 Indian Constitution prohibited the practice of untouchability and instituted positive discrimination to uplift the community. Ex-Untouchables - calling themselves Dalits - are still struggling to achieve equality. Dalit movements have sought to invert the stigma attached to those at the foot of the caste hierarchy and invest the community with pride. Self-esteem and belief, however, are not disembodied attributes. The social institution of untouchability is evident not only in the self-internalized cognitive rationalisation of their situation but also in the more insidious sphere of the corporeal. This is apparent in the exaggerated body language of subservient Dalits who walk with a stoop, spring to their feet on the approach of a landlord, and whip their towels off their shoulders to stand with arms folded and hands clasped. Such submissiveness is the very antithesis of the democratic endeavour and renders it virtually impossible for people to express their political preferences in a free or critical manner. Since the 1980's in Tamilnadu, however, Dalits have mobilized against caste oppression. In doing so, activists have in(corporated) assertive characteristics and demeanours. This paper looks at the corporeal mechanisms through which this transformation from submissive to assertive bodies is accomplished, and engages with two contrasting theoretical frameworks. Drawing on the insights of 'internalist structuralism' into social sanctioning we will contest Bourdieu's tendency to essentialise and stabilise habitus. We will, therefore, argue that habitus is better conceived as an ongoing process of constitution. The body is in permanent creation rather than being a structural given.

Green, E., Singleton, C.

University of Teesside

The impact of ethnicity and cultural beliefs upon black and minority ethnic women's use of leisure time and space

Recent research (Henderson & Ainsworth, 2001; Scraton & Watson, 1998) calls for greater insights into the leisure lives of Black and Minority Ethnic women. There is, however, a dearth of empirical data about BME women's leisure in local contexts. While some authors have focused on structural barriers to women's leisure there is little research that explores the meanings and significance of leisure for BME groups. Drawing upon new qualitative data from an action research project into BME women's health, well being and leisure, in a town in the north east of England, this paper will report on the meanings and place of leisure in women's lives. Key questions explored in the paper include how women's perceptions of space, place and community impacts upon their opportunities for leisure and the role of faith beliefs and culture in women's use of leisure time and space.

Grochowski, J., Karraker, M.W.

University of St. Thomas, Minnesota USA

Creating compelling conversation: Promising tool for working through family conflict and discontent

According to Theodore Zeldin, "Conversation puts you face to face with individuals, and all their human complexity." Creating compelling conversations is vital to effective conflict negotiation and resolution. This poster proposal describes an effective tool in generating powerful conversations through storytelling. [Stories] "comfort, they nurture, they capture our imaginations, they ignite our creativity, they take us away to a place where time stands still. They invest our lives with meaning, and render our lives more meaningful."

Creating effective stories within conversation allows individuals to expand the current position of stories-as-ways-to-reflect to a more proactive stance of stories-as-ways-to-project. Creating preferred images of future (projections) emerges as vital to enhancing resilience and conflict negotiation. The process of listening to and creating one's own future stories through meaningful conversation better prepares individuals for complex decision making. Engaging people in compelling conversation in which they create preferred futures, therefore, serves as a foundation in resilience and effective decision-making.

This poster presentation proposal promises an effective and attractive display of examples of preferred projections couched within compelling conversation in an environment of family conflict and discontent.

Grundy, S.

University of Edinburgh

Young adults' place identities - 'Home is where my friends and family are'

This paper will examine young adults' discussions of their place identities. It will draw upon qualitative data, supplemented by quantitative data, which were collected as part of the European Commission Fifth Framework Funded project into 'Orientations of Young Men and Women to Citizenship and European Identity.' This project explores the views and experiences of young men and women, aged 18-24, concerning their identity and attachment to locality, nation and Europe. Studies are going on in cities with contrasting histories of connection to the rest of Europe and the European Union: Vienna and Vorarlberg in Austria, Chemnitz and Bielefeld in (the former East and West) Germany, Madrid and Bilbao in Spain, Prague and Bratislava, the capitals of the relatively new Czech Republic and Slovakia, and in the UK in Manchester, England and in Edinburgh, Scotland (for more information see www.ed.ac.uk/social/youth).

Bauman (1992, 1996, 1998) suggests that it is surprising that people have any attachment to place given our contemporary lifestyles and mobility. However, as McCrone and Kiely (2000) have shown, empirically, orientations to place are complex and can vary because of socio-political-historical variations which foreground or background place identities, making for instance British identity "fuzzy" (Cohen, 1994). It is important to understand young adults' orientations to the places in which they dwell, so that we can appreciate the potential influence of super states such as the European Union.

Guinea, D

Office for National Statistics

Conflict and mutuality in face-to-face negotiations of status: The case of 'mixed contact' encounters between volunteers and the urban poor in food pantries

Goffman affirmed that 'our experience of the world has a confrontational character.' This is particularly the case in 'mixed contacts' between a 'normal' and a 'stigmatised,' because the risks of losing face on either side are heightened. For this reason, I have been a participant observer during 18 months in three civic associations that organise food pantries for the needy in a middle-sized city of Northwestern Italy.

Two of these groups are lay associations where volunteers share the aim of relating with the homeless - to whom they give food and clothes in the streets of the city - as if they were equals. However, the condition of the homeless as devoid of 'maná' often drifts this ideal of egalitarianism towards a) volunteers treating the assisted as one-down or b) the homeless becoming 'communication terrorist' that attack volunteers' face and show an 'attitude,' instead of gratitude.

To the contrary, the volunteers of the third group belong to a Catholic parish. They start off with the idea that the needy are economically and morally one-down. Also, their assisted are not literally homeless, but extremely poor women from the neighbourhood. The resulting interaction order is tighter than in the street: the assisted women have to tell 'sad tales' as the pre-condition upon which volunteers judge their deservingness and distribute food, cash or pay part of their utility bills. The comparison among these three groups highlights the interplay between conflict and mutuality in face-to-face encounters between benevolent 'normals' and the stigmatised urban poor.

Haddow, G.

University of Edinburgh

Organ transplantation: The dis/embodiment of identity

The presentation is based around findings from semi-structured interviews with nineteen Scottish donor relatives. The focus is on their beliefs about what the newly dead body is and how it related to the previous living person. Utilising the donor family respondents' quotes, I show two narratives about dis/embodiment were apparent. One is a holistic narrative that stresses a continuing tie between the once living person and the newly dead body. This is in contrast to a medical, dualistic embodiment, which emphasises the corporeality of the newly dead body and a disassociation of the living person. I discuss how these two views affect the initial reaction to an organ donation request and why organs, such as the eyes, were restricted. In addition, concerns about organ transplantation removal procedures are compared to other post-mortem events, including the "retention of children's organs" public scandal at various UK hospitals such as Alder Hey and Bristol, which arose during fieldwork. Finally, it emerges that despite these two very different views of corporeal and personal identity, respondents maintain a social bond with the deceased, even post bodily destruction. In sum therefore, inherent to organ donation and transplantation is a tension that cannot be easily resolved because the conditions under which it takes place are intrinsic to it.

Haggett, C., Smith, J.L.

University of Newcastle

'Tilting at windmills? Using discourse analysis to understand the attitude-behaviour gap in renewable energy conflicts'

The UK government is committed to a target of 10% of energy requirements from renewable sources by 2010, yet it is unlikely that this will be met on current progress. While surveys indicate wide support for renewable energy, attempts to site wind farms in specific locations are frequently fiercely resisted. An ESRC project has been established to examine this phenomenon within the Environment and Human Behaviour Programme ('Tilting at Windmills? The Attitude-Behaviour Gap in Renewable Energy Conflicts'). This paper reports on research-in-progress from two members of that group, and presents a sociological contribution to addressing this apparent gap.

Data collected from a variety of sources are subjected to discourse analysis. Focussing on a number of specific conflicts, the discursive repertoires of government, industry and opposition groups will be illustrated from a social constructionist perspective, with examples taken from the data. In particular, the management of opposition against something that has popular support will be considered, along with the strategies deployed to avoid the charge of 'nimbyism'. The effect that opposition has on the constructions of particular siting conflicts, the state of wind energy developments, and the renewable debate at large will be reflected upon. The importance of sociological inquiry into these issues will be emphasised.

Hall, E.

Queen Margaret University College

Reimagining social inclusion: Building spaces of refuge and resistance amongst people with learning disabilities

People with learning disabilities (PWLD) are one of the most marginalised groups in Western society. Social policies to address this concern their 'reinclusion' into mainstream socio-spaces, through engagement in 'normal' activities, primarily paid employment and independent living. For many PWLD, however, such strategies produce further exclusion as people experience abjection and discrimination; a common response is to withdraw into 'safe' spaces and networks. The paper argues that such 'self-exclusion' can be read positively: as refuge and methods of 'coping', as an opportunity to develop a learning disability identity through everyday resistance, and as the beginnings of political activity amongst PWLD to challenge dominant imaginings of learning disability, independence and social inclusion.

Hall, E.

Queen Margaret University College

Geneticising coronary heart disease: Making new knowledges of causation and treatment

Genetic science and biotechnology are making ever-expanding claims about the (mal)functioning of the body. Orthodox explanations of the causes and treatments of disease are being increasingly challenged by gene-centred conceptualisations. This 'geneticising' of the body, and health and illness, raises significant material, metaphorical and ethical questions for medical practice and individual embodied experience of disease: Where will the 'source' of disease be located? How will disease be identified? Where will blame and responsibility lie? Will genetic diagnosis produce a sense of fatalism or hope for individuals and medical clinicians? How will genetic explanations of disease 'fold into' dominant social and biological understandings?

The paper explores these questions in the context of the genetic reimagining and remaking of coronary heart disease, one of the major causes of mortality and morbidity in the West. Reporting on an ESRC-funded research project, the paper focuses on three spaces in the network where coronary heart disease is being remade as a genetic disease: the genetics laboratory, where genes and aspects of heart disease are causally connected and treatments developed; the hospital, where genetic explanations are becoming embedded alongside orthodox understandings; and the individual and their diseased body, where cause is shifting from behavioural choice to biological 'fate'.

Hardey, M.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

The possibility of romance in a time of anxiety, discontent and insecurity

The instability of relationships and the anxiety of those who are seeking intimacy is a significant theme in both sociological and fictional accounts of contemporary social life. Information and communication technologies have provided new ways for people to make connections with others and represent themselves. The paper draws on an analysis of users experiences of heterosexual Internet dating sites that are designed for those who wish meet others in the hope of forming a secure and intimate relationship. The marketing of the self to others through descriptions and photographs displayed on Internet sites will be examined. Anxieties about the veracity of the on-line identities of others and the interplay of mediated exchanges with potential partners will be explored. A particular focus will be on the negotiation of off-line meetings and the consequent trajectories of relationships. It is argued that the disembodied anonymity that characterises the Internet may provide the basis for reducing perceived risks associated with meeting 'strangers' and promote the building of trust. The paper concludes with a discussion of the wider significance of new forms of meeting others.

Harley, K.S.J.

University of Sydney, Australia

Use of theory in sociology: The textbook version(s)

A cursory glance at the institutions and products of sociology - research projects, course outlines, journal articles, conferences, academic departments, bibliographies, professional associations, etc - is enough to show that theory has a prominent role. However, 'theory use' - rather than 'theory' per se - in sociology has received relatively little attention. Theory may be used, for instance, to formulate research questions, import moral or political agenda, make assumptions explicit, authorise knowledge, undertake disciplinary 'boundary work', produce work that is fashionable, impressive or distinctive, identify positions, sustain careers, achieve status, minimise effort, facilitate collaboration and provide intellectual enjoyment.

Introductory sociology textbooks provide what could be considered a textbook site for exploring many of these uses of theory. On one hand, introductory texts do host explicit, if limited, discussions of the usefulness of theory for sociology. On the other, as a particular kind of sociological product, they exhibit many uses of theory. This paper examines a selection of introductory texts from Britain, the United States of America and Australia, comparing explicit advice about, and implicit practice in, the use of theory.

Haynes, J.

University of Bristol

On safari: World music and the search for difference

By utilising interviews with key members involved in the organisation and definition of world music, this paper will highlight the substantive problems manifested by the ways in which cultural difference is perceived and acted upon within the British world music scene. It will argue that cosmopolitanism is an ambiguous position to adopt as a world-view given that it appears to rest upon the same logic that conceptualises people as culturally distinct.

The significance of world music is often thought to reflect contradictory political impulses for its western audience. On the one hand, it represents the cosmopolitan political ideals of an elite who want to erase nation, culture and race as categories of belonging, whilst also reifying difference, by reinforcing (and celebrating) the myth that cultures are separate and embodied by particular, historically and experientially constituted groups. Moreover, it is often perceived as a vicarious substitute for individual's who desire ontological meaning and authenticity. Such perspectives are often countered by the fact that world music has, along with 'ethnic' foods, clothing and styles, acquired a commercial values, and is therefore commodified sameness dressed up as difference.

The paper therefore problematises the operation of difference within the world music scene by reflecting on both the individual and political registers within which it can be located.

Hazleden, R.

University of Durham

Aliens and bubble-wrap: Relationship manuals and gender roles

Self-help books and relationship manuals have received comparatively little academic attention. Where they have received attention they have tended to be dismissed as 'psychobabble' (Rosen), part of a backlash against women (Faludi) or an instrument of political oppression (Cloud). Simonds argues that self-help books provide temporary respite from an ailing culture, but Hochschild believes they represent the worst of capitalist culture: other observers have argued that therapeutic culture is depoliticising and asocial (Rieff, Sennett). This paper, in contrast, argues that relationship manuals aim to produce certain types of socially 'responsible' women by teaching them what is the ethically 'correct' way to engage with one's self, one's partner and society. It examines a selection of relationship manuals from 1973-2001, for their proscriptions and prescriptions concerning 'healthy' gender roles within relationships. 'Traditional' books emphasise differences between the sexes and propose various (sociobiological, religious) explanations for these, which tend to imply a notion of the 'naturalness' of men and women being (and staying) together in monogamous relationships. The 'non-traditional' books emphasise the importance of financial independence for women, and contain warnings about the detrimental effects on women of relationships with men. Both types of book advocate emotional detachment from one's partner and a concentration on taking care of the self. The paper concludes that relationship manuals attempt to reshape and reform the social, by providing a transformed understanding of female subjectivity.

Higgins, V., Wathan, J., Dale, A., Corti, L.

University of Manchester

The new UK economic and social data service: Using social science data in research and teaching

The UK Economic and Social Data Service (ESDS), run jointly between the Universities of Essex and Manchester, came into operation in January 2003. A key feature of the new Service is to provide more seamless and easier access to a range of disparate social science data resources, and user support activities relating to these data:

- The UK Data Archive is responsible for the acquisition, preservation, dissemination and promotion of social science data; hosts a unit to support qualitative data (ESDS Qualidata) which will place an emphasis on the creation of enhanced, on-line qualitative data resources; and works with the UK Longitudinal Studies Centre to develop longitudinal data enhancements (ESDS Longitudinal).
- The Centre for Census and Survey Research provides data enhancements to the heavily used government surveys (ESDS Government)
- MIMAS provides a specialist service giving web access to a collection of international and UK-national macro time-series data (ESDS International).

This poster will illustrate:

- The new products and services to be offered by the ESDS, and how it improves and augments the previous social science data services
- how the range of datasets can be used to address a range of social science research questions
- how to access data and documentation over the web, and how to get help with data analysis

Hines, S.

University of Leeds

Intimate transitions: Friendship, partnering and gender transition

Although sociological interest in transgender has increased over recent years, the dominant frameworks of discussion remain focused upon the construction of transgender as a theoretical category and on the embodied practices of gender transition. The broader social constituents of gender transitioning consequently remain under explored. Conversely, whilst there has been an expansion of research into shifting familial and partnering structures within sociology and social policy, experiences of intimacy are largely analysed through congruent expressions of gender and/or sexual identity. The paper aims to overcome these blind spots by exploring the significance of intimacy within the context of gender transition. Drawing on current empirical research the paper will examine the changing nature of intimate relationships within the lives of people who are transitioning genders. The roles of partners and friends will be addressed to articulate the fluidity of intimacy both as a theoretical proposition and as a social experience. Shifting patterns of intimacy will be explored within the contexts of fractured familial relationships and the reconfiguration of existing partnerships. Friendship will be situated as a particularly significant site through which to address altered dynamics of intimacy in terms of disjunction within pre-transition friendship networks and the construction of new personal bonds. In utilising the theme of intimacy to contextualise transgender experiences, the paper aims to contribute further to analyses of non-normative patterns of sociality.

Hingwan, K.

University College London

'All'o we is one': Carnival, freedom and national identity in Trinidad

This paper examines the tensions and dialogues between the various ethnic identities that co-exist in Trinidad and their role in the formation of the national identity as mediated through Carnival, and its embodiment of the national myth - 'all o' we is one'. Durkheim's concept of 'collective effervescence' and Bakhtin's 'dialogism' provide the two analytical poles of the argument. The first focuses attention on the representation of the social collective, whilst the second provides a way to think through the eruption of experiential heterogeneity. The central argument is that despite the high degree of ethnic diversity there is something that can be called a 'Trinidadian way' or 'experience', which is shared across all social identities. Thus the 'everyday' is connected with Carnival - its discursive other - as the occasion when the high encounter the low, the polite meet the vulgar, pretty mas meets dirty mas, and the different ethnicities coalesce. Carnival, then, is marked by ambivalence in that it both reinforces and subverts the existing order.

Hinton, D.A.

The rise of the meretricracy

The prevalence of workplace bullying in the public sector - hospitals, education and social services especially - suggests that postwar optimism about progress and social reform was founded, not only on the sandy soil of political serendipity but also on the mirage of the competent manager.

Developments envisaged by Michael Young in "The Rise of the Meritocracy", a seminal influence on budding sociologists in the 1960's and 70's, have, this paper argues, been replaced by a reality dependent on the advancement of the meretricious. Corruption, expediency and deception are key tools of meretricious manipulative managers in 'developed' countries, as much as in 'third world' countries where they might be expected.

Empirical research increasingly shows 'losers' in workplace bullying scenarios as more popular and/or better qualified than their persecutors, and that they achieve greater success on leaving the institution in which they experienced the bullying scenario. These are often Maslowian 'self-actualisers' and the very people needed to ensure professional standards and quality provision in the institution in which they were being bullied. Ostensible 'winners' - bullying managers - on the other hand, are increasingly recognised as incompetent, dishonest or criminal. The result for service industries in particular is declining standards and the collapse of quality provision. This paper examines the nature and causes of the transformation from meritocracy to meretricracy, using tools from Simmel and communication theory. It follows themes from papers delivered at the SRHE conference (2001) and recently published articles in *Critical Quarterly* and *New Era in Education* (2002).

Hockey, J., Robinson, V., Meah, A.

University of Sheffield

From disordered bodies to unruly emotions? Heterosexual practices across the twentieth century

Across the last thirty years, the institution of heterosexuality has been a consistent focus for conflict amongst feminist theorists. This can be identified as a source of both theoretical and ideological anxiety. Is the feminist project to expose oppression, in which case, do we incur the risk of both disempowering women as well as neglecting the complexities of their pleasures, resistances and renegotiations? One important contribution of our major UK empirical study of relationships between women and men within extended families is an account of parallel uncertainties at the empirical level. Hegemonic heterosexuality emerges as the residue of the mess of the everyday practice. Interviews with respondents aged between 15 and 90 bring a unique historical perspective to bear on longstanding theoretical dilemmas. Our cross-generational data reveal a shift of emphasis from the regulation of disordered bodies to the management of unruly emotions. By investigating the fine-grain of mundane experience, we challenge structural accounts of heterosexuality as simply a monolithic form of patriarchal oppression. In its place, we move towards a feminist revisioning of the concept of agency, raising more subtle questions about the resources available to women * and men * as they seek to suture a critical lack of fit between hegemonic heterosexuality and an everyday world of stigmatised sex and illegitimate unhappiness.

Hogan, J.

Bradley University, USA

Saving private Lynch: Gender, race and national identity in cross-national perspective

Nations are more than geo-political bodies, more than collections of people and institutions within defined sovereign territories: nations are discursive constructs. Recent scholarship has recognized that discourses of national identity are gendered and racialized in ways that both mirror and mould power relations. This paper examines constructions of gendered and racialized national identity in international media coverage of events during the 2003 invasion of Iraq. The analysis focuses on press accounts of the detention, rescue and deaths of members of the U.S. Army 507th Maintenance Company, including Private Jessica Lynch. This paper analyzes coverage of Lynch and other members of the 507th in the leading broad-sheets of the U.S., the U.K. and Australia. Central to the analysis are the ways the soldiers' (gendered and racialized) bodies serve as markers of national identity, and the ways discourses of national identity both sustain and challenge relations of dominance and oppression.

Holland, S., Scourfield, J., O'Neill, S., Pithouse, A.

Cardiff University School of Social Sciences

Family group conferences in child welfare: Democratisation, control and morality

This paper discusses the potential of family group conferences to act as a liberating intervention for families traditionally controlled by the state welfare system. Family group conferences are interventions designed to remove control of decision-making from professionals and allow family groups to make decisions about the welfare of one or more of their members. Using data from a qualitative evaluation of family group conferences in Wales, this paper examines 'imposed empowerment' and social control, and the feasibility of treating 'the family' as a unit for state intervention. The author takes a primarily optimistic view that the family group conference approach not only has the potential to shift the balance of power between the state and client-families, but also to partially democratise decision-making within families. However, it is also noted that such interventions can be seen to be maintaining social control through subtle and possibly unintentional means. The findings are related to sociological research and theory on democracy and morality in the family.

Hollinshead, A.M.

Media representations of religion in fictional broadcasting and its impact on social inclusion/exclusion

The role of the media in representing different groups within society is well researched, by both academics and media organisations such as the Broadcasting Standards Commission and the Independent Television Commission (soon to be disbanded). Nevertheless, one area that is consistently under-researched is religion, particularly in relation to fictional broadcasting. This paper presents the findings of a research project that examined the production and reception of discourses of religion in fictional broadcasting. It argues that for audiences, where there is no direct experience of a/any religion, media representations play an important and informative role; and that there are negative consequences for non-Christian religions in particular. It also argues that from a production perspective there is an elision of ethnicity with religion, which is facilitated by a secular ethos within broadcasting. This, unwittingly, promotes negative perceptions of those who are religious. In order to extend thinking about media influence beyond a traditional and limited, effects model it has drawn on the work of Bourdieu, most notably doxa, field, habitus and symbolic power, in order to provide a more comprehensive explanation of the current situation. The paper concludes that media representations do have an impact on individuals' feelings of exclusion and contribute to misunderstandings about the religious/ethnic "other".

Holz, E.

Federal Statistical Office of Germany

Poverty in everyday life, results of the German time use surveys (ZBE, TUS, HETUS)

Fighting poverty and social exclusion is a very important political topic in the EU. The "National Action Plans against Poverty and Social Exclusion" (NAPs/inclusion) are continued in 2003/05. Time Use Surveys (TUS) allow analysing the consequences of poverty (and of wealth) for everyday life and social participation beyond the sole monetary aggregates which define poverty (or wealth). Research topics dealing with the time use of people living in poor households are:

- inequality between men and women in everyday life: is it more evident in poor households?
- temporary obligations of poor families (e.g. do children have to spend more time working to contribute to family income?),
- working time patterns, reconciliation of family and job (parents with several jobs),
- time for child care, use of child care facilities,
- exchange between paid and unpaid work,
- exchange of help between households,
- education ("lifelong learning"),
- voluntary work,
- mobility by means of transport, easy / non easy reach of infrastructure (e.g. for shopping),- time stress,
- social life inside / outside the household,
- time spend for selected leisure activities (e.g. mass media, sports, culture),
- use of new communication technologies (computer, internet).

My central issue is the extent, to which poor households suffer from "double poverty", that means how much they lack both income and time.

Analysis data is provided by our 1991/92 and 2001/02 German Time Use Surveys. The design of the latter follows EUROSTAT's Guidelines on Harmonised European Time Use Surveys (HETUS).

Hope, A.

Sunderland University

Risk, the internet and education: Case studies of the dangers arising from 'net' use in UK schools

Internet access has recently been introduced into over 30,000 schools in the United Kingdom. While web provision has been heralded by some as an educational panacea, it is also recognised that there are potential dangers inherent in school Internet use. These concerns have resulted in educational institutions increasingly being perceived as risk environments.

Drawing upon extensive non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews undertaken in eight educational institutions over a three year period this paper explores risks arising from school Internet use. Having identified potential risks such as those arising from on-line pornography, web-based chat rooms, hate engendering sites, websites encouraging experimentation, copyright infringement and threats to network security the paper discusses the various experiences of the institutions involved in the research. In considering these school Internet risks a distinction is made between concern that the students are "at risk" and that they are "dangerous", posing a threat to the institution. Certain key issues are then discussed. relating to the actuality of certain dangers, the question of whom is at risk and the difficulty of making an assessment based on a future possibility.

Engaging with the writings of Beck (1992) and Giddens (1991) this research has implications for the manner in which risk is considered with reference to both Internet use and educational practice.

Hopkins, D., McKie, L., Hughes, W., Watson, N.

University of Glasgow

Care wars. Social movements in conflict

Sennett (2003: 150) comments 'most people cannot accept the provision of care as a neutral function' and yet many strategies of, and debates on, welfare reform seek to frame the provision of care as 'divorced from sentiments of compassion'. This paper will explore these assertions through a comparative analysis of the different ways in which the Disability Movement and the Women's Movement have contributed to debates and strategies on care. Broadly, both movements have similar goals. Both movements are concerned with the elimination of the exploitation and oppression of their respective constituencies. The organisation, delivery of, and access to, care and health services have been a focus of debate and activity for both movements although the approach to these matters has been very different. While both argue for greater access to care provision, the women's movement focus more on the 'respite' that such care provides for the person providing care or on the demands placed on that person whilst the disabled people's movement focuses more on the advantages to the user of care services. Direct payments as the current policy solution involves privatisation of care services. Conflict between these movements remains and in this paper we will examine how these conflicts are being played out. Additionally we argue that philosophical arguments around compassion, responsibility, respect and neglect have their place in political discourse and welfare reform, arguably with an urgency that is unprecedented.

Horton, D.

Lancaster University

The bicycle's place in contemporary environmentalism

This paper explores the role of the bicycle in oppositional political movements, and particularly environmentalism. The bicycle has been important to the everyday cultures of social movements such as the suffragettes and anarchism, and it has become a significant object of the contemporary environmental movement. Using the author's ethnographic research, the paper describes the central role played by the bicycle in the everyday lives of environmental activists. The bicycle, it is argued, is not only a highly symbolic object of green culture, demonstrating refusal of and resistance to both the more conventional mobilities of the car and the dominant materialities of affluent lifestyles; the bicycle also importantly organises and helps sustain a distinctive 'counter-cultural', 'green lifestyle'. In keeping everyday life relatively 'local', relatively 'public', and hence relatively interconnected, and in producing and communicating difference, the bicycle shapes activists' everyday lives, contributes to the construction of their antagonistic political identities, and, more broadly, reproduces a distinctive green cultural sphere. In general, the paper argues, everyday materialities are significant in the development and performance of antagonistic political identities.

Hourigan, C., Birrell, B., Rapson, V.

Monash University, Australia

Out of work and out of love: It's getting lonely at the bottom

For many years, research into the reduction in partnering and fertility rates among women has centred around discussions on the impact of feminism. Increasing levels of marital dissolution and the delaying or forgoing of partnering and child rearing is often put down to the increasing ability of women to pursue careers and gain financial independence. This theory has gained wide acceptance from both feminist and conservative researchers but for differing reasons. Feminists see these changes as an example of the gains of feminism allowing women to shun what is seen as the patriarchal institution of marriage. Conservatives on the other hand are able to use the theory to blame liberal and feminist activists for what they see as negative changes in society.

Recently obtained data from Australia's 2001 census suggests that the picture may be changing as in recent years partnering rates among highly educated women and those with little or no qualifications have converged. A factor that has been largely ignored in the literature is the impact of male employment levels. While it is still true that women with limited education and employment opportunities are likely to aspire to the life role as a partner and mother, this appears to be highly dependent on the ability of the men within their marriage market to take on the financial responsibility of a family. When these circumstances do not prevail, partnering rates among these women tend to be as low or lower than highly educated career women.

How, A.

University College Worcester

'The Author The Text and The Canon: Hermeneutics and the Classic Text in Sociology'

The role of the classic text in the social sciences has come under fire in recent years. The authority of classics has been challenged on the grounds that they conceal a variety of ideological assumptions, tensions and discontinuities as well as being far removed from our experience of contemporary life. Drawing on Gadamer's account of the 'classical' in Truth and Method, the paper contests these views, arguing that classic texts are a source of intellectual vitality and should not be jettisoned. Following the introduction the paper divides into two main sections. The first deals with the issue of authorship, arguing that while 'names' remain intrinsic to sociology attention should remain with the text. The second employs Gadamer's ideas to show why classic texts persist. The claim that subsequent historical horizons elicit from the text truths that continue to resonate is illustrated with Weber's Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.

Hudson, A.

University of Oxford

The rise and rise of Middle England

On entering office in 1997 Tony Blair both echoed and deconstructed the famous words of Hartley Shawcross, 'we are the masters now'. Blair declared that his government would be the servant of the people. In so doing Blair suggested that the role of government was not to lead and win the support of the citizen but to reflect and feed the needs of the consumer.

The mechanisms through which the government has sought to empower the people: focus groups, consultation, policy advisers are now seen as the sources of the government's problems. It is, however, insufficient to understand the disenchantment with politics and government merely as a reaction to the precedence of style over substance. We should, instead, investigate the breakdown of relations between the elite and the people.

The First Way, or Welfare Compromise, was able to sustain a sense of both national identity and social collectivities well into 1960s. The Thatcherite Second Way appeared to win the temporary approval of many working class people whose aspirations popular capitalism seemed to capture. The Third Way merely seeks to embody Middle England and finds instead that it is alienating its own source of support. This derives from the mistaken assumption that in a post political or post ideological age politics is all about technical competence, joined up thinking and consensus or the search for the lowest common denominator. Old ideologies may be discredited but there are still social divisions and inequalities and if this has no expression in the political sphere the result will not be the satisfaction of Middle England but the disenchantment of the British people.

Hurdley, R.

Cardiff University

Is any body home? The interpretation of photographic data in an ethnographic study of mantelpiece display

This is about the photographs taken during interviews in which I talked to people about what they displayed on their mantelpieces, and the many processes of selection that went into their evolution and current reproduction. The initial quality of the photographs was contingent upon the quality of the camera and the photographer; there were no masterpieces in the original productions. Also, crucially, many of the photographs had to be taken at an angle to the fireplace, since the size of the rooms and positioning of furniture often did not allow head on shots. This oblique perspective affects interpretation, as does the decision of how much context should surround the mantelpiece in the finished product. Nevertheless, the photographs have become productions in their own right, and invite speculative editing.

Complicating this technological game, however, are the meanings attached by participants to certain possessions, which compete with aesthetic considerations and my interpretations for centre ground. The participants are omitted from the photographs, yet their presence is felt, as is mine, by chance reflections in the mirror or television screen.

Both the editing process and eventual appearance in print raise questions about framing. Judicious editing and a good frame can conjure masterpieces from dross, and meanings can be lost if a picture is edited and framed carelessly. The final product can be seen as an album; like the mantelpiece itself, it is questionable whether it is truly as representative or symbolic as this neat collection pretends.

Ibrahim, Y.

Trinity and All Saints College, University of Leeds

Conflict and discontent with neo-liberalism: The rise of the anti-globalisation movement

This paper aims to locate the anti-globalisation movement in the context of a crisis of neo-liberal hegemony. It is the case that the anti-globalisation movement and the crisis of neo-liberal hegemony are processes that have interacted overtime and are implicated in each others development. Drawing on the work of Antonio Gramsci to provide a new theoretical explanation and understanding of this dialectic, it is evident that the conflict between the anti-globalisation movement and the neo-liberal order has created on the one hand a solid and progressive World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, while the neo-liberal order has further propelled itself into crisis through its actions such as the violence inflicted on protestors at Genoa and the USA's 'war on terrorism'. It is my contention that the World Social Forum has started the process of building a counter hegemony, with continued participation and a commitment to this process I argue that 'Another World Is Possible'

Ilean, S., O'Connor, D.

University of Windsor, Canada

"The new contractualism, advanced liberalism, and the Canadian public sector"

This paper examines the restructuring of public services in the context of advanced liberalism and the new contractualism. It analyzes the governance of working relations involved in the provision of public services in the United States and Europe, generally, and in Canada, specifically. We suggest that central to public service sector restructuring is the increasing use of contracts as a technology of governance. The emphasis on contractual relations reflects tendencies within advanced liberalism to govern through various technologies of agency (Rose 1999). We contend that such contractual relations reflect the folding back of liberal governmental objectives upon themselves, where the objects of liberal rule have been transformed into a means of advanced liberal governance. This process of folding not only illustrates tendencies within advanced liberalism to blur formerly held liberal distinctions between public and private spheres and between the state and civil society (Dean 1999), but has resulted in the instrumentalization of market contrivances and the transformation of working relations within a broad range of public service sectors. We argue that new forms of contractual relations have led to increased competitiveness and productivity, and to the further development of new social divisions and responsibilities which are only likely to intensify in the face of ongoing shifts in public sector restructuring and the politics of the new contractualism under advanced liberalism.

Inckle, K.

Trinity College Dublin

Skin deep? women, body-marking, femininity and theory

In my paper I will outline the theoretical framework I have constructed in order to conceptualise women's negotiation of embodied self-identity within the construction of femininity and through engagement with the bodily interventions known as "self-injury" and "body-modification" and for which I use the generic term "body-marking". In justifying my operationalization of the term body marking I consider a number of issues in relation to the construction of knowledge. These issues include: a critique of dualistic and separated knowledge forms which privilege distance and separation as a means of understanding and create objectifying and hierarchical knowledge, and produce linear and binary analysis which cannot incorporate any of the contradictions, ambiguities or emotionality of lived corporeal subjectivities. This theoretical framework is made up of three sections: The first section highlights the way in which the social construction of femininity creates a specific separated subjectivity, and requires women to actively intervene in and express their 'femaleness' through the body. Secondly, I analyse the ways in which women's bodily interventions including "self-injury" and "eating disorders", have been separated and pathologised along a hierarchical binary in which femaleness per se is essentially problematized. Finally, I suggest some of the necessary components for an alternative knowledge framework, which underlies my conceptualisation of 'body marking', and present extracts from my research in this context.

Innes, S., McKie, L.

Glasgow Caledonian University

"Doing what is right": Disciplining intimacy, work and family life, Glasgow, 1945-1960

The paper will explore constructions of the working-class family in the West of Scotland, 1945-1960, based on an analysis of case records of the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (RSSPCC), held in Glasgow Caledonian University research collections. The records will be considered as a case study in the social conflict over family privacy and state intervention. It will explore differing definitions of intimacy, work and family life, including how gendered roles in care and providing were understood, and the disciplinary role of the RSSPCC inspectors and resistance to that. Differing interpretations of, and strategies in relation to, the social and economic context of poverty, unemployment and very poor housing will be considered.

The post-war period was one of rapid social and technological change. It is commonly seen as a period of segregated gender roles, with a predominant male-breadwinner family model. The RSSPCC case records suggest that family lives and forms, particularly for those on low incomes, were more diverse throughout the period. The RSSPCC undertook the primary role in child protection in Scotland until 1970. Although prosecutions for cruelty and neglect are dominant in perceptions of the society, most of its work was in material assistance, advice and surveillance, the aspect that will be concentrated on. 'Work in progress', it will discuss approaches to historical sociology stimulated by the methodological problems raised by the RSSPCC archive, arguing that understanding discursive shifts over the twentieth century in relation to family roles, paid work and care is essential to contemporary family theory.

Kaneko, M.

National Defense Medical College, Japan

Policy impact on physician's geographical distribution in Japan

The equality of health resource distribution is one of important issues which welfare states responsibly address. This research examines the circumstance of physician's geographical distribution in Japan where physicians can practice medicine at their favourite place in principle and people can visit hospitals from the first. The number of physicians per 100,000 people in all cities, towns and villages was calculated. The observed Gini coefficient reduced from 0.340 in 1990 to 0.302 in 2000. Why the inequality of physician's geographical distribution reduced? One reason is the spreading out effect in which physicians diffuse to rural areas when urban areas reach saturation point in terms of competition. In the 1970s, the government started the policy to increase physicians by establishing medical schools in the prefectures without them in order to ease the difficulties caused by shortage of physicians and their maldistribution. As the result, the number of physicians per 100,000 people increased from 164.9 in 1990 to 191.6 in 2000. Another reason is the introduction of medical-care program by the government in 1990. This program mainly regulates the number of hospital beds by restricting the new construction of hospitals in areas where are sufficient hospital beds. It indirectly controls the number of physicians in areas because the majority of physicians work at hospital (61% in 2000). Thus, the two policies, the project to zero the prefecture without medical school and the medical-care program, influenced the reduction of physician's geographical maldistribution in the 1990s.

Karraker, M.W., Grochowski, J.R.

University of St. Thomas, USA

Postmodernism, globalization and resiliency: Risk, policy and futures for families

In the last decade of the twentieth century, Hillary Clinton (now junior Senator from New York serving in the United States Congress and wife of then President of the United States Bill Clinton) popularized the phrase "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child." This phrase, drawn from traditional African oral tradition (and the title of her book by the same name [1996]), has become short-hand for community effects on and state responsibility for not only children, but for families and their members. In fact, Booth and Crouter (2001) pose the question "Does It Take a Village?" as the title of their book about children, adolescents, and families.

In this presentation, we make three arguments. (1) Contemporary families face here to fore unknown levels of conflict, anxiety, and discontent in rapidly changing, post-modern society. (2) The village of which we speak is increasingly complex and an explicitly global one. (3) Yet all families and their members have a deep potential for resiliency. We provide empirical illustrations in support of these three arguments. Then, we extend Furlong & Carmel's concept of a risk society from youth to families. We also propose that social policies to address the quality of life for diverse families and their members must consider not only local (neighbourhood and nation-state) solutions but also international and transnational responses. Finally, we conclude that presumption of resiliency makes for a sense of hopefulness and creates an environment of respect for the inherent diversity of families as they face their futures.

Kawashima, M.

University of Essex

The making of the imagined whale: How whales have become a symbol of nature in the west

The resumption of whaling by Iceland in the summer 2003 aroused anger in the West. Environmental organisations accused Iceland of its 'inhumane and unnecessary' hunting, and the general public apparently showed displeasure at Iceland's decision in spite of the fact that the whales Icelanders hunted were not threatened species. Why does whaling stimulate such a strong feeling in the contemporary Western society? What makes people think that whales are different from other animals, and therefore deserve special consideration?

In this presentation, I inquire the reason why and the process by which whales have become a symbol of nature in the West, primarily focusing on the role of the mass media as image-makers. As an analytical tool, I employ Baudrillard's developmental model of simulacra and hyper reality: the idea that through successive media representations, the image is transformed from a reflection of a basic reality to a pure simulacrum in its own right. As examples, I analyse some of the famous media products (e.g. films and television documentaries) that featured whales and whaling. Flipper, Star Trek *: The voyage Home, and Greenpeace's confrontation with Russian whalers are among them.

I also briefly discuss the propriety of the favouritism of whales from the viewpoint of speciesism, the concept of which has become popular by philosopher Peter Singer, the guru of animal rights movement.

Kemp, S.

University of Sussex

Critiquing the structure/agency divide: A post-positivist approach

This paper considers the relevance of post-positivist accounts of natural science for sociological investigation. One of the most important aspects of such analysis is a focus on the dynamic character of scientific inquiry. Post-positivist writers argue that natural scientific inquiry is a transformative process in which theories are reconstructed to deal with problems and inconsistencies in their accounts of the natural world. Writers such as Laudan and Shapere have argued that any element of a theoretical structure may be reconstructed in order to resolve such problems, including factual claims, substantive theories, methodological arguments and scientific standards. Having outlined these post-positivist arguments, the paper then considers their bearing on theoretical debates in sociology, focusing particularly on the structure/agency debate. It draws on the work of Holmwood and Stewart in *Explanation and Social Theory* to argue that the conceptual division between structure and agency is unhelpful when applied to empirical research. This is because this division can be called on by sociological researchers to deny that there are problems or inconsistencies in their accounts, allowing them to suggest instead that any lack of fit between their accounts and the social world can be attributed to the agency of the social actors being analysed. The paper concludes that a mode of sociological inquiry informed by post-positivist arguments would avoid invoking the structure/agency division in its empirical research.

Kemple, T., Vrecko, S.

University of York

Social Theory Round table: The Future of the Social

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Kerr, A., Tutton, R., Cunningham-Burley, S.

University of York

Conference-talk: Constructing identities in public meetings about genetics

The fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of DNA has involved a range of public meetings and conferences to celebrate and criticise the achievements of genetics. Similar events have also been staged to promote public dialogue on important policy matters, such as the use of genetic information by insurance companies. These meetings are often framed as a space where experts and lay people come together to appreciate each other's views and work together to find solutions to the 'abuse' of genetics. In this paper, we analyse six such events, treating them as sites of contemporary identity politics. We consider the effect of different conference formats on participants' expressions of identity, and ways in which participants reshaped these formats through their talk. We are especially interested in how the 'public' was constructed at these meetings, and the ways people who had been invited to attend because they did not have expertise in genetics mobilised other kinds of expertise as a way of distancing themselves from an amorphous 'public'. We also explore the form and function of expressions of patients' or families' identities on the one hand, and physicians' or scientists' identities on the other. We conclude by suggesting that these events are an important feature of contemporary governance in so far as they create a space for participants to present themselves as 'ethical beings' and to build shared identities which support them in their work or home-life, but that they can also reinforce a lay-expert divide in the process.

Kettley, N.C.

University of Cambridge

Patterns of GCE A/AS level attainment in further education

This paper establishes and explores patterns of GCE A/AS level public examination attainment in three Further Education (FE) sector Sixth Form Centres in England. The central concern of this analysis is to consider the relevance of gender, social background and college attended to A/AS level performance. The present government has promoted an egalitarian "vision" of FE, through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), which attempts to encourage participation and attainment in post-compulsory education irrespective of students' social characteristics. However, this paper shows that participation in FE did not substantially ameliorate or eliminate differences in students' public examination attainment that existed at GCSE. It is demonstrated that gender was of only modest relevance to A/AS level attainment in FE, whilst social background and college attended had a more substantial impact upon examination performance. Furthermore, the experience of FE produced a slight decline in gender differences in attainment compared to GCSE but tended to preserve and, perhaps, promote attainment differences related to social background and college attended. Therefore, although patterns of attainment varied somewhat between the three Sixth Form Centres, it is argued that the egalitarian vision of FE promoted by the government, the LSC and the colleges themselves is largely illusory.

Khater, L.K.

University of Bristol

'The exclusion of Palestinian youth from a normal education process'

The educational process in the Palestinian Occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip started experiencing the first drawbacks during the first intifada (political uprising) sixteen years ago, conditions since have greatly deteriorated. There are major difficulties on several levels. The first level is accessing sites of learning: closures, curfews and invasions have closed down all public life, for sometimes prolonged periods of time. Reaching sites of learning has become more expensive, exhausting, hazardous, or even fatal. Shutting down, demolishing schools and learning materials is common practice. The second level is the deterioration of the quality and the irregularity of education. Curricula have to be compressed in short available periods between curfews. The loss of qualified teaching staff due to curfews, closures, arrests, or emigration, besides decreased public and international funding, have taken their toll. The third level is the exclusion of many of those who must be getting an education because of decreased motivation, emotional disturbances and/or physical injuries. Students are faced with an additional financial burden of having to take up lodgings in university towns as daily travel becomes impossible. Female students, especially in rural areas are married off at an early age as travelling is expensive and unsafe. On an overall level: over 60% in the OPT live below the poverty line. Social disruption is favoured by high percentages of unemployed, imprisoned, handicapped or dead heads of family; demolition of private property. Many young people see a hopeless future ahead.

Khattab, N.

University of Bristol

Economic activity and unemployment amongst Pakistani and Bangladeshi women in Great Britain and Muslim women in Israel

This paper concerns the labour market prospects for Pakistani and Bangladeshi women in Britain and for Muslim women in Israel. It focuses on the labour market participation (economic activity) and unemployment levels among each group, and seeks to examine to what extent these ethnic minority groups may have similar economic profiles regardless of residing in different countries (societies). Using data from the 1991 UK census and the 1995 Israeli census it was found that relative to the standard level of economic activity and unemployment in their societies, both groups have very low levels of economic activity and high levels of unemployment. A comparison between these groups has also shown that Pakistani and Bangladeshi women in Britain have higher levels of economic activity, but also much higher levels of unemployment than Muslim women in Israel. The results from the logistic regression models have revealed inconsistent patterns, perhaps resulting from the different employment opportunities, socio-geographical and historical factors operating on these groups. These factors, including the other results of the regression models are discussed in the paper.

Kirkhope, J., David, M.

University of Plymouth

New digital technologies, Music and intellectual property

This paper addresses attempts to locate and dislocate music audiences. The 2001 legal decision, which found Napster guilty of copyright infringement, set a precedent that appeared to support the attempts by the recording industry to clamp down on the sharing of copyrighted musical materials. However, the decision led to the creation of new file sharing systems. These allowed users to swap files directly between themselves, rather than routing transactions through central servers. Companies such as KaZaa and Morpheus sought to avoid the legal accusation of direct involvement in individual acts of copyright infringement. The decision of a Los Angeles court in April 2003, found in favour of these two companies. The judge drew the parallel with the sale of a video recorder, where the manufacturer cannot be held liable for any copyright infringement carried out by the user. Since April 2003 the recording industry has shifted attention in their war on 'internet piracy' from Peer to Peer software providers to P2P users. Efforts to 'locate' responsibility have led to new forms of surveillance, legal frames to allow their application, and media campaigns to instil anxiety in users. Such campaigns have, however, encouraged the development of new 'softwares of dislocation' at three levels, those that seek to dislocate music from ownership, those that dislocate software providers from responsibility, and those that dislocate users from identification. This paper seeks to explore the dynamics of technology, law and social relations in this fast changing arena.

Kiwan, N.

University of Southampton

"Young French people of North-African origin and neighbourhood associations in stigmatised (sub)urban settings: Socio-cultural conflict or socio-cultural pragmatism?"

The aim of this paper is to explore issues arising out of twelve months of fieldwork as part of a recently completed Sociology PhD. The empirical research upon which this paper is based, was undertaken as part of a wider study into the discourses and experiences of young North-African origin people, with regards to questions of identity construction. Whilst conducting fieldwork, it became increasingly apparent that a large proportion of the young men and women were involved in local neighbourhood associations of an educational, social or cultural nature. Whilst drawing on the theoretical framework of French currents of the sociology of action and subjectivity as developed in particular by Alain Touraine, the paper will look more closely at this associational involvement and ask three main questions: What does the level and nature of this youth involvement in associations say about the local socio-economic and political context in the socially-disadvantaged suburbs to the north-east of Paris, France?

It is possible to regard young people's involvement in associations as a redefinition of citizenship in some way?

To what extent does the young people's associational involvement amount to a consequential conflictualisation of social and cultural relations between themselves and the local political authorities?

Whilst accepting that youth involvement in associations reflects a certain engagement in the 'civic or public sphere', this paper will also point to the difficulties this 'group' faces in constituting a socio-cultural movement defined by a self-affirming sense of conflict.

Klein, R.A.

Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada

The politics of environmental activism: A case study of the cruise industry and the environmental movement

Based on a case study of environmental organizations' confrontation of the cruise industry over environmental practices, this paper looks critically at several campaigns and actions by the environmental movement as represented by several key organizations that focus specifically on the cruise industry, and at political and social processes used by the cruise industry to deal with these organizations. Included in the case study is five environmental groups (e.g., Oceana, The Ocean Conservancy, Oceans Blue Foundation, Campaign to Safeguard America's Waters, Bluewater Network); the cruise industry is represented by the three major cruise companies (comprising close to 90% of the world market), their marketing agents and their lobbyists. The paper identifies strategies used by environmental organizations and by the cruise industry, and the analysis seeks to explain factors associated with the effectiveness or non-effectiveness of these strategies. The findings contribute to the literature in the areas of social action and social change, and also contribute significant insights into political and organizational behaviour.

Klimova, S.

University of Strathclyde

Meaningful conflict: A problem for understanding and explanation

The paper examines an unresolved and overlooked problem in sociological theory. According to the sociological wisdom that goes back to Weber, the object of understanding for both analysts of and participants in social life is meaningful action. The meaning of action is subjective in its ascription but collective (i.e. cultural normative) in its source. Presumably, action does not lose this quality of being meaningful even when it makes part of a conflict. However, in conflict we have two meaningful actions experiencing difficulties understanding the other. While linguistic understanding presents no problem, the social understanding seems difficult to achieve: 'I understand what you are saying, but I don't grant you that you are right'. Conflicts are about lack of understanding regarding the meaning of the actions of those engaged in conflict. My contention is that sociological theory at present offers us little in terms of resources to explain how conflict can be meaningful yet understanding problematic. While in real conflicts disagreement is formulated in normative terms, i.e. refers to collective systems of meaning, in sociological scholarship it is theorized in disregard of its normative appearances as a symbolic struggle concealing a conflict of interests. The meaning claimed for action is dismissed as misrepresentation of interests having a strategic significance: the acceptance of misrepresentation for collectively held meaning is considered a condition of strategic success. The paper exposes the flaws of this argument and offers a more useful solution to this explanatory problem.

Knight, D.E.

Cardiff University

Housing tenure as a source of anxiety: Why it requires an effort of resistance for private tenants to regard their consumption of housing as 'normal'

The consumption of housing is a powerful communicator of personal success or failure, and social distinction, in a strongly individualized and marketized society. House price inflation and the scarcity of desirable social housing are sources of anxiety for householders priced out of the owner-occupier market. Exclusion from and dissatisfaction with the two more prevalent tenures lead many individuals and households to choose to rent from a private landlord.

Academic writing on housing tenure tends to reify a narrow categorisation of private tenants as students, benefit claimants and mobile professionals making short-term use of a marginal tenure, with no long term interest in the quality of accommodation or the regulatory or contractual arrangements pertaining to the sector. Government is able to neglect policy-making for the private rented sector for as long it is regarded as a short-term stepping stone for mainstream housing consumers.

Structuration theory provides an orienting framework for understanding the social control pressures experienced by private tenants in the homeowner society. Bauman's concept of the flawed consumer, and Foucault's work on discipline, are also drawn upon in an examination of the conflicts over identity experienced by many private tenants in their efforts to maintain an image of themselves as 'normal' in the face of attempts by others to fault them on the basis of their housing decisions.

The poster introduces arguments and findings from a completed PhD. thesis.

Knops, A.

University of Birmingham

Difference, dialogue and dissent: Outline of a critical model of political exchange

Neglect of minorities has been a consistent problem for Western democracies. Much liberal democratic thinking is devoted to mechanisms that ensure the voice of smaller or disadvantaged groups. Initially, Habermas' theory of communicative action was held to offer such a mechanism. However, his application of the theory has been criticised, particularly by feminist theorists of difference (Fraser, Young). They argue that Habermas' privileging of reason, and his 'bracketing' of difference, continues to exclude marginal groups. They suggest modifications to his theory which they claim would improve the scope for representing neglected identities in political decision making. This paper contributes to that debate by focusing on the role of questioning in communication. A model of political exchange based on questioning, it argues, preserves the critical promise motivating Habermas' earlier efforts. Recognising this is an important step in designing practical procedures and institutions that allow hitherto neglected groups to be heard.

Koch, M.

University of Ulster

Social cohesion in post-fordist growth strategies

The paper discusses the changing conditions for social cohesion and labour market inclusion from a regulation theoretical perspective. Regulation theory has been designed to understand the dynamics of institutional and social change within capitalist accumulation. It raises the issue whether and to which extent advanced capitalist countries are still feeling the effects of the crisis of Fordism or whether new modes of regulation have already emerged or are emerging. On the one hand, it theoretically addresses possible post-Fordist scenarios, each of which are characterised by a larger role of 'flexibility' and labour market adjustment than in Fordism. On the other hand, it presents results from a research project on 'Labour Markets and Social Structures in Europe'.

In detail, the paper refers to some of the basic assumptions of the regulation approach and discusses the modus vivendi of social inclusion in Fordism. Secondly, it looks at Fordism as a Realtyp in comparative research. Thirdly, it touches on the debate on the crisis of Fordism, outlines possible post-Fordist growth paths, thereby differentiating between the two scenarios 'capital-oriented flexibility' and 'negotiated flexibility'. Finally, against this theoretical background, the paper raises the issue of social inclusion in the context of these different models of development and interprets some of the results from a comparative research project on de-regulation and re-regulation of labour markets and welfare systems in the Netherlands, Spain, the UK, Sweden and Germany.

Kyriakides, C.

University of Glasgow

Third-way anti-racism in a devolved Scotland

Recent debate surrounding the relationship between racism and immigration reveals that racism is being constructed within a 'Third-way' political agenda such that the definition of 'racism' comes to signify a phenomenon which is considered detrimental to the 'building of community'. Given the accepted role of the British State in perpetuating the 'immigration/race-relations problematic', this paper argues that New Labour's approach to racism and immigration aims to separate both issues, such that social policy toward the latter is not tainted by the former. In so doing, the State's definition of 'racism' comes to embody a set of contradictory assumptions fostered in previous political administrations. Consequently, State anti-racism is not adequate to the task.

This process is most evident in the politics of post-devolution Scotland, where 'racism debate' has moved historically from the idea of 'No problem here' to one in which the phenomenon is considered very much a 'Scottish problem'. In the light of the above mentioned contradictory policy approach, this paper aims to explore the relationship between 'dispersal' and the Scottish Executive's 'One Scotland, Many Cultures' campaign in order to demonstrate how British social policy towards racism and immigration is refracted in a 'Scottish' context.

Lamb, J.C.

University of Surrey

Relating secondary data to sociological challenges

As our sociological world becomes ever more researched, new challenges rise up and important new questions demand answers. How can the analysis of secondary data help researchers trying to look into areas that are new and challenging, such as rapid technological changes.

This short presentation aims to show that secondary data sources and resources can be adapted to aid research into these new areas and that there are far more secondary data sets available to researchers, for free, than is often thought. Looking at sources such as the General Household Survey and the Labour Force Survey, social researchers can quickly find snapshot answers to important questions online, for free as this session will demonstrate. Data is more accessible than ever before and technical survey documentation such as questionnaires, code books and detailed methodological information is also readily available.

Using the example of the Office for National Statistics website and the new NESSTAR service offered by the UK Data Archive this presentation will show how easy it is to get hold of data online. Other resources such as the Question bank website will be explained.

Although this presentation will mainly refer to UK sources, some international resources will also be discussed.

Land, V.

University of York

Managing a lesbian identity: A conversation-analysis of lesbian talk-in-interaction

Using as a starting point Goffman's (1963) theorising of the management of discreditable or spoiled identities, this paper examines issues of identity management, passing and disclosure of a lesbian identity as they arise spontaneously in ordinary talk-in-interaction. The datum upon which this analysis is based is taken from a corpus of 80 tape-recorded naturally occurring telephone conversations between non-heterosexuals collected as part of a broader project on LGBT naturalistic interactions. In contrast with previous research on coming out, outing, passing etc., virtually all of which relies on self-report data on identity management (but see Kitzinger 2000), the datum analysed here is spontaneous negotiation between the members of a lesbian couple. Conversation analysis is used to explore how the women's interaction unfolds and their different approaches to managing the possibility of inadvertent disclosure of their lesbian identity in their daily lives. This management is treated as routine and the oppression that necessitates it is not oriented to, thereby normalising heteronormative oppression as the taken for granted backdrop of their lives. This analysis contributes to the sociological (specifically ethnomethodological) understanding of identity management through the explication of the mundane interactional work involved in negotiating non-heterosexuality in a heterosexist world.

Lang, I., Vogel, A.

University of Cambridge

Ceremony and citation - scholarly networks of the new institutionalism 1977-2002

Robert Merton identified a normative view of scholarly citing, which was that writers cite previous works in order to acknowledge influence and repay intellectual debts. However, Merton also identified a type of scientific behaviour apparently at odds with this normative view, in which citations tend to be made to authors and to papers that have been already been cited. Merton called this the Matthew Effect: to whoever has, more will be given.

Recent work in sociology and bibliometrics has provided support for the normative view, but has been criticised for ignoring the work of Latour and other students of the sociology of scientific knowledge. We take a recently developed scholarly literature - that associated with the New Institutionalism in sociology and the school around John W. Meyer - and examine the patterns of citations made within it, re-examining Stephane Baldi's model (Baldi 1998). Adopting a network approach and using measures that take into account the social as well as intellectual connections between scholars, in this paper we advance more robust sociological measures and thus a more broadly sociological understanding of why, and to whom, citations are made.

Lee, M.Y.

University of Warwick

Citizenship in the E-Government

Globalisation and technological revolution have produced a series of implications in all aspects of society. With the widespread access to advanced communication technologies, a shift to so-called 'electronic democracy' has occurred between citizens and the government. The e-democracy debate is about whether such communication technologies can increase participation and involvement in public life. Moreover, more and more countries are developing the e-government as an interface bridging the public and the government. Can the use of e-government embody the citizenship? Can the public actively participate in public affairs through the e-government? This paper bases on the Taiwanese experience in developing 'one-stop-service' of the e-government. Such a virtual government aims to provide 24-hours, 7-days-a-week services which can be delivered electronically. This paper is going to analyse how people are empowered and how they participate in social and political life through the use of e-government in Taiwan. The Taiwanese people do not show as much enthusiastic as the government does. There is a gap between the government and people about what they thought of citizenship. I thus argue that the citizenship in the e-government in Taiwan based on social consensus. This requires more helps from other media.

Lee, T.

London School of Economics & Political Science

The conspillover effects of restoration projects on its surrounding area, viewing from its commodification process and communication structure

Habermas' communicative theory of and Giddens' structuration theory are deployed to explain the institutional interactions in collaborative planning for fragmented societies. This approach focuses on the planning process and social justice for current interested parties, but lacks of economic consideration of allocation and time efficiency in the decision-making process and measurement of space quality in substantive content. In growing bottom-up participation of planning, the public opinions are shaped, intentionally or unintentionally, for community-base interests against rational planning and scientific evidence for whole economic structure. Current debate of third runway in Heathrow airport is an example of community-based opinion intervening in the national level decision. Current conflicts among environmentalists, economists, planners, lawyers and residents provide empirical study of communication theory and indicate the need of further study of the relation between institutional interaction and spatial/ environmental quality.

In order to approach above question, my starting point is London Sympathy Orchestra (LSO) in pre-ruined St. Luke's church and its surrounding area with lower quality of public space and residence vacancy. The spill over effects of a restored church is analysed to understand the communicative interaction among the local community groups, voluntary groups, residents, developers and commercial sponsors and the impact of physical environment. It is suggested that the management framework in shaping place, at least through conservation, has to face the conflicts between rational planning approach (e.g. cultural commodification for monopoly rent (c.f. David Harvey)) and postmodernism aesthetic approach (c.f. Jane Jacobs). Economics analysis of physical environment and social costs and benefits, with various period of consideration, provides the reifying perspective of the relationship between institutional interaction and spatial quality.

Leighton, R.

Canterbury Christ Church University College

What you give is what you get: The influence of teacher perceptions of the role of citizenship education on its delivery, status and effectiveness in schools

Crick (2001) wrote of reasons being more important than opinions; can these be separated and are they value-free? Following a previous BSA paper (Leighton 2002) which identified and discussed the disparate approaches to provision of Citizenship Education in schools, interviews have been conducted with some of those who teach Citizenship. From the data thus generated, this paper outlines similarities and differences in outlook and emphasis between those responsible for Citizenship provision but trained in other subjects and those responsible for and trained in Citizenship. The place of Citizenship Education in the school is considered from the perspectives of those who deliver it, demonstrating diverse views on the nature and significance of education in political and cultural socialisation. From this, it is argued that those who perceive Citizenship Education as a subject and those who perceive it as an ethos have fundamentally different views on the nature, role and purpose of education and the part it can play in social development and inclusion. Whether such perceptions are shaped by educational environments or the environments are shaped by the perceptions is discussed, as are the ramifications for the development of Citizenship Education and for the political literacy and awareness of Key Stage 3 and 4 school students in England.

Letherby, G., Bywaters, P.

Coventry University

Extending Social Research: Politics and responsibility with the research process

Traditional and even contemporary approaches to the research process commonly adopt a model of the research process which ends when findings are reported. For example, Hood et al (1999:3) describe the stages of the process as: 'design, funding, access, fieldwork, analysis and output'. Some writers do clearly identify the issue of the impact of social research as increasingly a matter for discussion and concern but frequently, even where the issue of how research can influence 'practice, programs and politics' (Darlington and Scott 2002: 177) is discussed, it is done so briefly, apologetically or as an afterthought: in an Epilogue (ibid) or 'The Aftermath' (Silverman 1999), reinforcing the sense that this is not part of the core research process. Furthermore, the complexity of meeting the expectations of a variety of stakeholders simultaneously remains under-explored.

It is the aim of this paper to argue for issues of application and implementation of research, as well as reporting findings, firmly within the research process. We argue that social researchers have ethical as well as contractual obligations to funders and to researched populations not only to make research findings public but to do so in ways which take account of their impact.

Lewis, L.

University of Aberdeen

User involvement in mental health services: A reflexive account of a research study

Reflexivity or "an awareness of what you're doing and why" (Reinharz, 1992) remains an important, yet often neglected, concept in relation to social research. This paper provides a reflexive account of ethical and epistemological issues encountered whilst undertaking a qualitative research study about user involvement in mental health services. It addresses issues associated with attempts to employ feminist methodology and a participatory approach to the research, and the implications of a social constructionist approach to knowledge production for fieldwork and interviewing practices.

Specifically, it considers how emotion and 'distance' became key concerns as the researcher endeavoured to position herself both in relation to the topic under investigation and to those who were participating in the research. The difficulties of researching sensitive topics are also explored in terms of the researcher's experiences of carrying out qualitative interviews, including her efforts towards employing an egalitarian and reciprocal approach and the unexpected outcome of research interviews becoming therapeutic encounters for some participants. Lastly, ethical issues relating to representing 'others' and the role of research in relation to the subjectification of the individual are engaged with, along with the key consideration of how research can (and should) contribute towards processes of social change. The paper thus demonstrates the utility of reflexive accounts of research for furthering our understandings both of research practices and of the phenomena we investigate.

Li, S.

Kingston & St. George's Hospital Medical School

'Doing criticism in symbiotic niceness'

This paper examines how palliative care nurses co-produce moral identities in doing symbiotic niceness in talk. 'Symbiotic niceness' is achieved by maintaining a neutral stance through re-activating and co-opting the 'voices' of the patient and his relative into the nurses' talk. The main strategy for the co-production of competent identities is through the construction and re-construction of atrocity stories within which subtle strategies are used. These include what I have called 'inverted comma compliments', 'direct criticism', 'indirect criticism' and 'inverted comma criticism' of 'other' professionals who either work outside or within their clinical settings. The concept of 'atrocity story' is examined in the context of palliative care for the dying. It revealed that 'atrocity stories' serve as a medium for nurses to express their opinions and feelings about certain doctors who might have behaved insensitively, at the same time, 'allowed' doctors to 'redeem' themselves. Atrocities stories thus serve to produce an image of nurses themselves as caring, morally responsible and loyal characters to their medical colleagues.

Li, Y.

Birmingham University

Class, status and resources: a comparison between the Goldthorpe Class and the Cambridge Scale

Two highly influential measures of social stratification have been in debate in British sociology over the past two decades: the Goldthorpe class schema and the Cambridge Scale. The two approaches have some commonalities but differ in the way they conceptualise social relations. The former is based on the employment relations theory and views social divisions as being rooted in the different locations within the class structure. People in different classes possess different resources but the classes are not necessarily of a hierarchical order. The latter approach is based on the principle of status equality in the realm of social interactions and holds that social differences do form a hierarchical order. The proponents of the theories have conducted much analysis of social life and make competing claims over the merits of their respective measures. There has, however, been no direct comparison of the two approaches. This paper aims to fill in the gap. It investigates just how socio-cultural-economic resources are differentially distributed among social groups, how people's life chances and life choices (health status and socio-political identities) are shaped by their social positions and whether class differences are still meaningful after controlling for status differences within classes. Using the British Household Panel Survey (Waves 7-8), the paper shows that in the range of factors considered, the class differences are highly intelligible even after the hierarchical and demographic factors are taken into account. Some suggestions are then made as regards how social differences can be best interpreted from class or status perspectives.

Liddiard, M.

University of Kent

'More sex please, we're British...': Museums and making histories of sexuality

Sexuality is a topic fundamental to human existence in every culture and through every epoch. It certainly pervades - even suffocates - almost all contemporary culture. Yet, simultaneously, it is striking that sexuality has been almost uniformly neglected by museums. Why?

In addressing this apparent conundrum, this paper draws upon original research to explore the processes of negotiation by which museums construct exhibitions and accounts of the past, and seeks to explain the traditional neglect of sexuality by museums in a number of ways. It also considers the nature of visitor reception in museums and notes that a combination of public interest in histories of sexuality; a broadening of social attitudes and a profusion of television programmes and books on the topic all suggest that museum engagement with the history of sexuality is long overdue. The paper concludes by predicting a transformation in the treatment of themes such as sexuality, as museums experience greater pressure for more inclusion of such perspectives from a variety of sources and for a variety of reasons. Ultimately, museum accounts of the past may never be the same again.

Lindley, J.K., Dale, A., Dex, S.

CCSR, University of Manchester

Ethnic differences in patterns of employment and unemployment: Gender and generational change

Research has shown successive cohorts of British white women have increased their levels of employment since the 1950's. The reasons for this include increased opportunities in the labour market; changes in attitudes towards the female role in the family and an increase in women's participation in further and higher education. However, for women from minority ethnic groups one might expect a strong relationship between cohort and qualification, with younger cohorts much more likely to have been born and educated in the UK than older cohorts. This would be particularly apparent for more recent migrants such as Pakistanis and Bangladeshis. For ethnic groups of longer standing in the UK, for example, Indians, we may find cohort changes more similar to white women. Women who came to the UK as economic migrants (such as Black Caribbean's) may, in fact, have higher levels of employment participation than the second, UK-born generation of women with the same ethnic origin. This paper uses the Quarterly Labour Force Survey for 1992-1995 and 2000-2002 to analyse employment differences between first and second-generation ethnic minority women, as well as to identify changes over time. Employment differentials are partly explained by demographic differences such as changing age profiles and family composition, as well as differing qualification levels. Partner's characteristics, particularly country of birth and educational level, are also significant influences.

Liu, H.Y.

University of Bristol

Compliance, obedience, and resistance: Understanding the relationships between adolescents, parents and professionals in

This paper is presenting part of my PhD thesis that explores the relations between compliance structures/ideologies, interventions, sex, age, and adolescents' deviant behaviours in Taiwan. Seventy-three semi-structural interviews with key stakeholders, non-deviant adolescents, deviant adolescents, parents, and professionals were conducted and completed in 2003.

Three of initial findings are discussed in this paper. Firstly, professionals and parents regard adolescents as immature. Psychologically, adolescence is a stage of 'becoming'; stereotyped impressions have deprived of adolescents' rights to be social beings and to take part in decision making in many respects. 'Joining in' is an inner desire of adolescents. However, they do not think they are heard, adolescents turn to accept present circumstances passively or to offend as a form of resistance. Secondly, traditional authority of parents and professionals is losing gradually in current Taiwan society, although most adolescents still show their respects to them. In response to this, parents and professionals have been adjusting their disciplinary methods, but many of them are still using corporal punishment. They take communication and punishment to 'persuade' and 'alert' adolescents instead of involving adolescents in decision-making process. The forms of discipline move, but the subtle intention to control does not change much. Finally, adults think that adolescents' desire for 'having fun' would hinder their study, risk healthy life, and influence their bright future. Strong anxiety among adults results in different restrictions such as curfew and entertainment policy. These restrictions become conflict battlefields between parents, professionals, and adolescents to display power and autonomy.

Liu, J.

University of York

Gender differences within the danwei system: Intimacy, women's work and family life in urban China

The danwei is a place where the majority of urban people in the people's Republic of China are employed, but it is more than a collection of shops and factories: it encroaches on the framework of society. It represents workers to the state, interferes in family planning, organises political studies, illustrates and carries out state policies, and provides welfare via a wide range of commodities and services. Much is known about its economic and political structures, and its relationship to the patriarchal clan system has been pointed out, but there is little information about the gender differences of life within the system. Drawing upon my research on Chinese women who spent most of their life in the danwei but who have now been laid off or recently retired, I show that women are affected much more than men by the conjunction of work setting and family life. By analysing the spatial and functional structures I identify the familial structure of the danwei system, showing the blurring of the distinction between work and family life. By examining my interviewees' experiences I demonstrate that women are subjected to more burdens and greater surveillance in this 'socialist family' and that the close association between paid work and family life reinforces the traditional role of Chinese women as carer and supporter. Finally, I argue that, paradoxically, the danwei also offers women a space within which to negotiate and employ the closeness of work and family life for their own ends.

Loxley, A.

University of Dublin

Crossing borders and mapping undiscovered Countries: Exploring disadvantaged mature students' experience of Irish university life through their voices and images

Drawing on data from a longitudinal mixed methods project situated in a large Irish university, this paper will explore how two small cohorts of mature students from what the university designate as 'disadvantaged communities', perceive and make sense of life and work both in and out of higher education. The first cohort of students are enrolled on the University's access program and the second group are first year undergraduates.

More specifically the study is concerned with exploring what Henry Giroux (1992) characterises as 'border crossings'. Borders in Giroux's context are divisions (spatial, temporal, economic, political, social, cultural and in the context of Ireland, religious and geopolitical), between communities. Criss-crossing the borders between cultures and communities is highly relevant in the case of both groups, as the students are engaged in a continuous process of (re)negotiation, (re)orientation and consolidation of their entry (and in some cases exit) into and around a new community and culture. In turn this has a reciprocal and powerful impact upon their lifeworlds outside of the University, generating the need to reconcile conflict between a multitude of new and old demands, relationships, responsibilities and identities. Given the richness and diversity of data, the paper will primarily focus on the students' production of still images and subsequent group and individual photo elicitation sessions as way of developing a shared understanding of their experiences both inside and outside academia.

Lucey, H., Edwards, R.

London South Bank University

Identity tensions: Culture, conflict and anxiety in the everyday lives of siblings

This paper will explore the place of culture, conflict and anxiety in the everyday lives of children and young people as siblings in different kinds of families. Contemporary sociological writing is concerned with the contingencies of late modern society and the anxieties that these provoke in individuals and groups. Research on siblings, much of which is conducted from within a psychological perspective or from within the field of social work, focuses on 'problems' between siblings, particularly those arising from sibling rivalry, birth order and age gaps. This leaves us with significant absences. From within such normative frameworks, conflict between siblings is divorced from its' social context and is generally understood as negative, sometimes leading to pathology. Drawing on an in-depth, qualitative study of groups of siblings whose ages range from 5 years to late teens, the paper will explore culture, conflict and everyday life through the lens of 'sibship'. The study includes groups of siblings who share both biological parents, and those that include step siblings, half-siblings and adopted siblings. Bringing together concepts from sociology and psychoanalysis in a psychosocial approach, the paper will place conflict and anxiety as an unavoidable and necessary aspect of human experience, and one that is integral to the struggle involved in the project of 'identity'. Through the narratives of children and young people it will explore the interweavement of internal and external worlds and the dynamic relationship between individuals, groups, localities, the wider culture and institutions.

Lysaght, K.

Dublin Institute of Technology

Public space, public knowledge: Young men's spatial practice in the divided city

This paper extends work on the relationship between emotion and human consciousness, providing a nuanced reading of the way fear is experienced by individuals. Utilising material from research carried out in segregated and conflict-ridden districts of Belfast's inner-city, the paper examines local resident's experience of fear of sectarian violence. The paper demonstrates that the experience of fear, and by extension human consciousness, operates in circular fashion, whereby bodily manifestations of fear feed into mentalistic formulations, which are in turn shaped by wider social processes, which feed the physical body's recognition of those objects which should be regarded with fear. Individualised adaptation of social information accounts for the varying levels of fear-sensitivity, and attendant avoidance strategies, to be found within a range of supposedly similar individuals operating within the same environment. The paper, thus, demonstrates that emphases which act to dissect body from mind, and the individual from the social are flawed as they permit only a partial perspective, which merely masks the intrinsic connectedness of these spheres within human consciousness.

Macvarish, J.

University of Kent at Canterbury

The new single woman: Contextualising individual choice

Over the past 20 years there has been a remarkable increase in the number of people living alone. In the UK, the proportion of one-person households almost doubled between 1971 and 2000 (rising from 17% to 31% of households). The increase in women living alone during what would have been 'the family years' has been discussed by academics and commentators and has been reflected in cultural representations of the phenomenon in fiction, film, television and the news media.

It is widely acknowledged that today's single woman is a very different creature to the stereotyped 'spinsters' and 'old maids' of the past. Since the 1960s, the 'problem' of the single woman has primarily been understood as one of identity and recognition rather than of material constraints: single women have been understood as being caught in-between recognised roles and identities both as adults and as women. More recently, significant changes in family relationships and structural changes in women's position make it necessary to revisit the way in which we understand the single woman.

This paper will compare evidence gained from in-depth interviews with single women, with cultural representations of the new singles. It will be argued that while media representations fail to capture the life-paths and circumstances of individual women, the icon of the 'singleton' has provided an opportunity for the expression of anxieties about the meaning and conduct of contemporary relationships and the position of the individual in relation to others, concerns which also emerged during interviewing.

Marinetto, M.

Cardiff University

Explaining another child protection disaster: The Laming inquiry, street level (in)action and the denial of suffering

This paper attempts to address the conference sub-theme of politics, responsibility and neglect. It attempts to do this by exploring the tragic case of Victoria Climbié, an eight-year-old émigré from the Ivory Coast who was brutally murdered by her carers. Victoria Climbié was slowly tortured to death despite the involvement of four social service departments, three police child protection teams, NHS agencies and the NSPCC. The only 'professional' worker who noticed Victoria's perilous state, and who took decisive action, was a taxi driver. The seeming inability of the child protection system to prevent Victoria's death resulted in a public inquiry under the chairmanship of Lord Laming. The inquiry team conducted a thorough and forensic analysis of the circumstances surrounding Victoria's death. Despite all these efforts, the publication of the Laming report in 2003 did not provide a satisfactory answer to the key question of why a series of professionals failed to acknowledge Victoria's plight and to make proper interventions. It is this issue that my paper will attempt to address by employing the insights from policy research on street-level bureaucrats and from sociological work on the social dynamics of denial. By employing such analysis, my attempt to understand who or what was responsible for Victoria's neglect does not focus so much on structural faults or gross professional incompetence - although these should not be overlooked. Rather the central focus is on the normal, everyday and mundane work practices of professionals on the ground.

Marshall, B.L.

Trent University, Canada

Climacteric redux? Medicalizing the 'male menopause'

The notion of a male 'climacteric' or menopause has had a long history, falling in and out of vogue as a way of describing both physical and psychological changes associated with aging and masculinity. Recently, the aging male body has been reconfigured as site of intensified medical intervention, especially in terms of its sexual functionality. This now extends beyond the use of function-specific pharmaceuticals such as Viagra, however. Renewed attention is now being given in the medical literature to the idea of a system complex, variously described as ADAM (androgen deficiency in the aging male) or PADAM (partial androgen deficiency in the aging male), for which hormone replacement therapy might be the appropriate treatment. This paper explores the newly medicalized male menopause as a new bodily configuration in the making; arising, on the one hand, from the pharmacological and scientific technologization of male sexuality, and, on the other hand, from a contemporary politics of life that fosters an ageless aging while creating, paradoxically, an anxiety-ridden and somatized middle age.

Marshall, B.L., Witz, A.

Trent University, Canada

Whose modernity? Masculinity, modernity and the social

It has been argued that one of the reasons sociological theory has been particularly resistant to the transformations demanded by feminist theory is that to take gender seriously would 'displace' sociology's founding problematic - that of modernity (Always, 1995). Certainly 'modernity' remains central to sociological theory's self-understanding in a way that 'gender' does not. However, in this paper, we argue that it is not so much a displacement of that problematic that a serious consideration of gender prompts, but a radical re-thinking of the way 'modernity' has been constructed as a sociological problematic. We suggest that it is useful to think of 'modernity', as it has functioned as a leit motif of mainstream sociological theory, as an 'ideal type'.

As Weber reminded us, an ideal type is a 'one-sided accentuation' of sometimes present, sometimes absent, concrete phenomena. We demonstrate, via textual analysis of some key renderings of 'modernity', just how one-sided these are from a feminist perspective, and what is absent in them. In doing so, we make explicit the masculinity of sociological conceptions of modernity - including its 'late' and 'post' variants - and the skewed conceptions of the social on which these rest.

Marshall, H.

Cambridge University

Researching the field of global education: Issues of power and control

Accompanying contemporary debate about the meaning of citizenship education and the impact of globalization upon education there has been renewed interest in global education in schools. This poster provides an overview of my current research in the field of global education. Working within a critical theoretical framework, particularly inspired by the work of Basil Bernstein, I illustrate the ways in which I am researching a field rarely studied sociologically. The conceptual tools chosen to analyse global education at the macro level will be highlighted, and some insights will then be offered about how these tools and themes have influenced research at the pedagogic level. Although this poster will focus upon researching and analysing the power relations within an educational field at the macro level, the referenced research ultimately aims to answer questions about whether global education represents a significant shift in curriculum structure and pedagogy.

As a social movement, global education is a heterogeneous and complicated, but highly relevant, field of study. Using the framework explored in this poster, this research has drawn upon the perspectives of global educators across the country. It will thus be of interest to anyone researching issues such as the role of NGOs working in the education sector, global citizenship education, the impact of globalization upon education curricula and/or curricula boundaries in schools.

Martell, L.

University of Sussex

Globalisation and Britain

This paper examines debates on globalisation in relation to their specific applicability to Britain. The paper argues that there has been a trend away from general and abstract discussions of globalisation to an approach, which differentiates the impact of globalisation more by sphere and locality. This is a progressive step, it is argued, but one that may underestimate the power of neo-liberal economic globalisation across different spheres and localities. It argues that globalisation can only be understood historically, as a product of the modern era rather than a new rupture of the recent age of information technology, and as something that has to be located in terms of historical processes and institutions such as the expansion of capitalism and the nation-state. It must also be seen critically, meaning an approach, which differentiates the impact of globalisation and sees it in terms of power and inequality. The paper will examine these themes in relation to the impact of globalisation in Britain. It will be argued that the British experience has to be understood in relation to Britain's imperial past, its links with the USA and Europe, its role in international organisations and global interventions and its role in Anglo-American capitalism. Britain, it will be argued, is a globalising and globalised country.

Marten, L., Scott, S., Watson, M.

University of Durham

Getting under the kitchen sink. Anxiety, trust and routine in the consumption of cleaning products

Under most European kitchen sinks sits a small armoury of cleaning products. Whatever the collection of products and how they are deployed, the contents of the under-sink cupboard is testament to the web of fear, trust and routine that underlies the mundane habitual practices and decisions that lead to the consumption of cleaning products. This paper develops from a focus on cleaning products to revisit and develop theoretical ideas about routine in everyday practices, and how objects are implicated in this. Focusing on the role of cleaning products in kitchen practices enables investigation of the way that everyday risks and uncertainties - whether from dirt, germs or the products themselves - are negotiated into routine practices.

We draw upon empirical research that investigates the cultural constitution of domestic kitchen activities. In this study, we have been particularly interested in 'ancillary practices', like cleaning and ordering, that facilitate feeding work (DeVault, 1991). These have been studied through six kitchen ethnographies supported by video recordings. In our discussion, we reflect on different models of the role of routine in everyday life, including ideas that such routine is:

- (1) about easing a path through a series of cooking and cleaning activities;
- (2) about the social construction of adequate certainty - of household space and practices - in the context of a changing and contradictory social world (Sellerberg, 1991);
- (3) associated with a lag in changing practices - the 'holding onto tradition' - in view of changes in the information with which the lay public is presented.

Mauthner, M., Hadfield, L., Edwards, R.

The Open University

Status and ambivalence in children's sibling relationships

Siblings are commonly overlooked in studies about family ties and relationships. When researchers do address siblings, they tend to focus on status position and regard this as fixed. In this paper we explore sibling position from a perspective that highlights diversity and ambivalence.

Drawing on a study of children's sibling relationships (age 8-12 years), we highlight difficulties in categorising sibling positions on a 'technical' level in the context of family diversity. We show that children's lived experiences are also fluid and ambivalent. Children draw on and use discourses about status, as being the 'oldest' or 'youngest' sister or brother, with a 'middle' position drawing on aspects of both of these discourses. Such positionings, however, are often ambivalent, with children recognising strengths and drawbacks to their status in the sibling structure.

Challenges and disruptions also exist. These occur in cases where status position in the family structure is straightforward, as well as where changes occur over time, for example half or step-siblings entering the family, or younger or older siblings moving into or out of the household. Moreover, some children espouse a discourse of equality rather than status.

The case studies presented here stem from an in-depth project about 58 children's views of their sibling relationships. The project addresses children as socially competent informants on their lives, focusing on what they identify as strengths and drawbacks in their relationships, and the strategies that they adopt for managing them.

McDonald, K.

University of Melbourne, Australia

Oneself as another: From social movement to experience movement

The 20th century was dominated by national societies, modernizing states and social movements that possessed identities that both reflected and represented social groups and categories. The grammar of action of these social movements was constituted by the themes of representation, solidarity and collective identity, framed within a conception of civic engagement.

This model of social movement is less and less able to engage with contemporary conflicts and movements that are increasingly shaped by cultures of fluidity, direct action, and embodied rather than discursive communication. The grammar of action we increasingly encounter is less and less understandable in terms of producing and representing a collective identity, but rather increasingly takes the form of constituting an experience of otherness.

This paper draws on emerging global movements (the anti-globalization movement, new Islamic movements, and Falun Gong) and explores critical dimensions of these emerging grammars of action in the light of Paul Ricoeur's *Oneself as another*. The first is the tension between the virtual and the embodied; the second is the tension between movement and place, the third involves experiences of temporality. These grammars of action point to an emerging paradigm of 'experience movement' which seeks to name and contest the forms of power at work in a network society, while constructing an ethic of the subject, one grounded in an experience of 'oneself as another'. This, as opposed to representing collective identities, is at the centre of constructing public experience in the network society.

McKie, L.

Glasgow Caledonian University/Centre for Research on Families and Relationship

Theories, violence, and families: The 'myths' of sociological analysis

The effects of violence can be long term and life shattering. The suffering caused by violence in families is senseless, persistent and demoralizing (Card, 2002). For perpetrators there is the hollowness of holding power over others, a power that illustrates the fragility of their situation (Mason, 2002). Yet despite the obvious relevance to sociology, violence in families has not been a central concern to sociological theory (Hearn, 1998; Ray, 2002). This may reflect the 'taken for grantedness of families', the hierarchical and gendered nature of sociological work, especially on theory, combined with an earlier marginalization of gender, ethnicity and age. In this paper I draw upon the work of Midgley (2003) and her definition of 'myths' to offer an over-arching analysis of the images and ideas that surround and imbue family life and sociological theory. Highlighting the barriers posed or created in the sociological analysis of this violence I explore the challenges to theoretical work. The critique of atomistic approaches to analysis and explanation reaffirms the need for theoretical pluralism (Eagleton, 2003) on the topic of violence in families.

McLennan, G.

University of Bristol

Sociologists in/on 'Knowledge Society'

In spite of much discussion of the Knowledge Society (KS) theme, both in academia and in the wider public sphere, the relationship between sociological understanding and contemporary KS discourse is still in need of considered synopsis and assessment. Towards that end, three areas of debate are explored in this paper: first, the importance of sociology for KS discourse is emphasised; then, secondly, the core elements of a sociological critique of KS themes are outlined. In the third dimension of discussion a typology of analytical and normative stances is developed, following which I go on to explore some of the reflexive dilemmas that confront the idea of contemporary critique around 'knowledge society'.

McNally, R.

Cardiff University School of Social Sciences

Rhetorics of hope, fear and risk in the parliamentary debate over the handicap ground for abortion

The data analysed in this research are Parliamentary Debates on the handicap ground which took place in the 1960s when the ground was first proposed as a separate ground for abortion, and in 1990 when the upper time limit was removed from this ground. It uses the method of discourse analysis used by Michael Mulkay when researching the embryo experimentation debate. In this method, the 'interpretative repertoire' is the unit of analysis.

Mulkay identified and characterised two interpretative repertoires which featured in the embryo research debate in both Parliament and the media. These he called the 'rhetoric of hope' and the 'rhetoric of fear'. He claimed that these rhetorics were unlikely to be specific to the embryo debate, but would be drawn on in debates over developments in science and technology, more generally, particularly in medical science.

The surprising finding of the research undertaken was the presence of three, rather than two, interpretative repertoires in the handicap ground debate. Whilst two of these mapped onto Mulkay's rhetorics of hope and fear, the third mapped onto neither, with the implication that a third generalised rhetoric that Mulkay had not characterised was being mobilised. This third rhetoric was called the 'rhetoric of risk.' Like the rhetoric of fear, the rhetoric of risk opposes the proposed development in medical science, but does so through a rhetoric of unintended side-effects rather than principled, moral opposition. The implications of this finding are explored.

Mekelberg, D.

Global media and environmental expressions: A comparative research

The communication revolution allows cross border messages to reach every corner of the globe. These messages enable the development of common global culture and identity which in return create the emotion of individual of belonging to the same society. In a three step process, global media contribute to homogenisation of principles, norms, rules and decision-making procedures around the globe, and therefore encourage the process of global belonging and participation.

This suggested paper probes the development of global environmental messages by analysing 911 newspaper articles from the New York Times (US), the Times (UK) and Ma'ariv and Yediot (Israel), during the first main UN environmental conferences of 1972 and 1992.

The question that this paper raises is in what ways global messages influence the American, British and Israeli societies in environmental issues. The main argument is that although major differences can be found between these societies' structures, the media influence them by creating a sense of environmental consciousness that leads to citizens' social and political participation.

Merryweather, D.

Liverpool Hope University College

Youth in the 'risk society': Discursive strategies in conflict-resolution and identity (re)construction in the context of

Late-modernity is increasingly posited as a society dominated by the prevalence of 'risk' - anxiety-inducing hazards and dangers that threaten society and severely impact upon the lives of individuals. As such, life in the 'risk-society' is often regarded as one characterised by considerable levels of anxiety and in which individuals are personally responsible for the construction of their own identity. However, conventional accounts of the risk-society not only tend to assume both what constitutes 'risk' and that individuals are indeed preoccupied with such phenomena, but also that in being faced with such risks identity is consciously and reflexively constructed and maintained.

In seeking to broaden the focus of discussions of the risk-society this paper aims at critically exploring such concepts via a consideration of the experiences of a small youth group as they make the transition from school to higher education, from youth to adulthood. In particular, the paper examines those aspects of everyday life that the youth group themselves define as 'risk' and moreover, the respective discursive strategies that are cited and reproduced in seeking to resolve the ensuing conflicts that emerge. In this respect, and drawing here upon the insights of post-structuralism, I will argue that it is in and through such discursive practices that individuals construct and reconstruct their identities. That is to say, by way of contesting the overly-cognitive approaches to identity-construction that typify much of the 'risk-society' literature, I contend that 'talk' about risk and risk avoidance may be viewed as performative of particular identity positions.

Moon, L.

Newcastle University

The heterosexualisation of emotion: Sexual scripts and feeling frames

Lesbians and gay men are rarely given the same attention in literature concerning the sociology of emotions as heterosexuals. Sociologists such as Duncombe and Marsden (1993; 1995; 1998) discuss heterosexual gender categories in relation to heterosexual concepts of love, while Bendelow and Williams (1998) Emotions and Social Life and Williams (2001) Emotion and Social Theory make only passing reference to 'homosexuality' in their texts. Within this paper, I aim to show how narratives of emotion are invested with heterosexual meanings and how emotion words and their narratives are constructed differently for heterosexuals, lesbians and gay men. Extending the works of Simon and Gagnon (1986) on scripts and Goffman (1969) on frames I suggest we shape emotion through scripts at three levels: the cultural, the encounter and the personal. I show how emotion is socially organised to reflect cultural meanings through emotion words and narratives while feeling shapes these meanings at the level of encounter where it is taken as a 'system of meaning' vital to socially organising an identity of emotion in relation to our sexual and social self. Therefore, this paper is written to capture what emotion at a cultural level and "our multiplicity of feelings" (Plummer 1995) at the level of encounter, mean for us in this new century. The central tenet of this paper argues that emotion needs to be reconsidered in light of all sexualities not only the heterosexual so that all narratives of sexuality are used to shape meanings of emotion.

Morgan, C.A.

University of Durham

The challenge of disorder: What can sociologists learn from International Relations?

The theoretical traditions in the discipline of International Relations (IR) have been largely shaped by the problem of order and the structuring principle of anarchy. Thus IR theorists are accustomed to reflection on conditions of sustained conflict, contingency, anxiety and turbulence. At the same time, many IR scholars have in the last decade been looking more to sociology for approaches with which to expand the IR agenda. This has comprised an extensive debate on how sociological theories and methods can strengthen existing theoretical tools, as well as extending the rubric of what counts substantively as 'international relations'. Such engagement is largely one way - with some exceptions in the fields of comparative sociology and the study of globalisation - few sociologists encounter theories and ideas (and the controversies and debates behind them) from traditions in IR. This paper considers the implications of dealing with disorder when attempting to formulate systematic theoretical propositions and takes a critical look at cross-disciplinary engagement, asking whether and how sociologists might adapt the styles of thinking in IR when dealing with a global society presently marked by conflict, disorder and uncertainty.

Morgan, G.

University of Western Sydney, Australia

Migration narratives, tradition and domestic creativity

Those who migrate to Western cities are generally reluctant to discard their cultural baggage. However, most find that in their new homes local racist opposition limits the opportunities for public expression, recognition and celebration of their collective traditions. This leads many to express their ethnic cultural affiliations in symbolic terms in the only space over which they have sovereignty - house and garden. This paper is based on an ethnographic study being conducted in Sydney into the way suburban backyards are used to as a site of creative endeavour. It will draw on qualitative data from interviews and observation to explore debates around modernity, tradition and hybridity.

Morgan, K.

University of Bristol

'She asked for it': Narratives of interpersonal violence

Some conceptualisations of violence such as those provided by Galtung, Kleinman and Goffman are useful in suggesting that aspects of violence have become so ingrained in our society, so much an integral part of the social rules governing the way we live, that we barely notice them. As a manifestation of this, in blaming women for their own victimization, society is able to absolve itself of any collective responsibility for tackling interpersonal violence. Consequently, women who transgress 'acceptable' boundaries of dress, behaviour or femininity are often seen as complicit in what has happened to them - as individually responsible for their fate. How far can this ethos of blame/responsibility be seen as leading to situations in which women may be seen as deserving or undeserving of violence? Drawing on interviews conducted with individuals who have a specific interest in violence - whether as victims of interpersonal violence or as those working with victims, this paper will analyse narratives of blame/responsibility in order to show how attitudes to violence are normalised and sustained by certain discourses which in turn contribute to an acceptance of some incidents of violence against women. The paper will seek to show how the dichotomies of blame/responsibility and deserving/undeserving together with that of the virgin/whore noted by many feminists, lead to a 'culture of contempt' which enables society to tolerate violence against some women (or against all women in certain circumstances).

Mukadam, A., Mawani, S.

A fine balance: Cultural negotiation amongst second-generation Indians in London and Toronto

The notion of self that arises from a post-structuralist perspective is one that is pluralist, emergent, dialogic, fluid, shifting and culturally determined. However, cultural difference has dominated the discourse relating to those whose heritage is from minority ethnic communities and the mobilisation of persons around a particular expression of identity is seen by some as a threat to the desire for a broad framework of common belonging. Terms such as 'immigrant' and 'diaspora' continue to be used when referring to second-generation individuals. There is an urgent need to focus on commonality, equality, respect, and inclusion in today's multi-ethnic nations that celebrate and cherish cultural diversity without using these cultural differences as an excuse for exclusion and discrimination. For many second-generation Indians of Gujarati descent, the combined pursuit of exclusion and assimilation resulted in discrimination, cultural displacement, marginalisation as well as a loss of identity and self-esteem. They were commonly referred to in essentialist terms as being 'between two cultures' or 'the half-way generation'.

This paper will examine the ways in which this generation are confronting issues and finding their place, their rightful place in the multicultural societies in which they live. From the results of these studies it appears that second-generation Gujaratis are asserting a positive ethnic identity. In addition, they are selecting an acculturative strategy with regard to cultural adaptation, which reflects essential commonalities in terms of cultural preferences to food, dress, music, etc., while maintaining integral aspects of their Indian culture, such as religion and language.

Muñoz, B.

University of Extremadura, Spain

The social meaning of children. Motherhood and emotional ambivalence

Contemporary couples have a small number of children and they come into family because they are wished for and to fulfil emotional expectations. We can say that this is one of the main changes in family life, because in the past, children were not only inevitable but also essential to respond to the instrumental needs of family functioning.

This paper explores the emotional nature of the roles that children play in Spain where the decline of fertility rate has taken place later than in other European countries and where some cultural and social contexts sustain certain traditional perceptions of family life. Based on a qualitative research carried out in a rural community this paper points out the role and meaning of children in the family and their contradictory and emotional ambivalence in it. In this sense, some functions and metaphors are established: children as strategic aim; children as company (welfare work); children as source of mothers' emotional capital, perception of risk and danger and source of work and, finally, motherhood as a voracious institution.

Neal, S., Walters, S.

Open University

Research narratives, field notes and researchers' biographies: An early account of researching English ethnicities in rural

This paper is drawn from the work we are currently engaged with on our Leverhulme funded research project. This project is localised, qualitative examination of the spatialised configurations and inflections of Englishness, ethnicity and rural landscapes. At a time in which the pastoral English world features in an increasingly high profile position on public and political agendas and at a time of significant rural repopulation the paper will tell some of our fieldwork narratives by detailing the experiences of researching the borders and boundaries of contemporary English rural identities. It will focus in particular on methodological issues around researching certain everyday, civilian voices in rural areas. It is a reflexive 'mid-term' account of setting up the research project, gaining access and conducting focus group interviewing with members of rural social organisations in three diverse pastoral case study areas and the difficulties, dilemmas, failures and successes that we have encountered so far in our fieldwork. As well as presenting some of the early data from our focus group conversations the paper will attempt to articulate and think about the place that we as researchers have taken up in the fieldwork and the ways in which our biographical experiences of, and encounters with, the countryside have played their part in the research process.

Nishimuta, Y.

University of Kent

Japanese students' experiences of racism in Britain

The aim of this study is to identify and describe the Japanese student's experiences of university in Britain through an interview process, looking at their experiences of racial discrimination, racial awareness and their responses, coping strategies that evolve during their years of study for the Japanese students. The overall questions are: what experiences and understandings of race and racism do Japanese students encounter in Britain, and how do they cope with these experiences? And helping to understand these main questions: How may this experience in Britain differ according to 'Gender', 'Pre-departure Expectation'?

There are several issues that researcher must address in order to elaborate these questions. There is very little sociological literature on Japanese who come to study in Britain or other Western societies. Japanese students in Britain are not typical immigrants, since they came for a few years to study. Nor are they 'native' ethnic minorities who have historically experienced colonialism and racial subordination.

Oerton, S.

University of Glamorgan

Illicit not illegal: Sex in professional and trust relationships

Across a range of occupational contexts, this paper considers the various professional policies and protocols that permit or disallow sex in a wide range of trust relationships. The concern is with what is officially specified with regard to consensual sex between adults in settings where professional codes of practice act to constrain and delimit such sexual encounters. Clearly many occupations can involve degrees of trust, intimacy and/or forms of embodied contact that would be deemed sexual if practiced or delivered in other contexts. The paper thus considers the regulations surrounding sex in doctoring, nursing and allied health occupations; teaching, social work and the church; sports coaching and youth work; marital and sex counselling services as well as a range of other therapeutic modalities including psychotherapy, hypnotherapy and massage. This paper unpacks the 'drivers' or generative mechanisms that lie beneath such regulations; in particular, the ethical and moral assumptions that underpin such professional policies. For example, embedded in many of these professional 'rules of engagement' are concepts of accountability and responsibility. The paper subjects these to scrutiny and argues that they are both constitutive and reflexive of wider public concerns relating to forbidden or outlawed sex between variously powerful and vulnerable groups of adults.

Okolie, A.C

Trent University, Canada

Knowledge production for international development: Sociological challenges

Since the emergence of the "Third World" countries sociologists and other social scientists have been playing a role in the production and dissemination of development knowledges exported to these countries. These knowledges have been influenced by and have promoted particular lived experiences, ways of knowing, of seeing the world and of 'developing' societies. They reflect power differentials and economic inequities in the international system. They have largely structured/shaped the way that Africans, including African scholars, see and implement development to the extent that they have virtually become hegemonic with deleterious consequences. Among the consequences is that these knowledges often do not reflect the lived experiences and worldviews of the vast majority of the people in the societies targeted by development. Indeed the record of development in African societies have by all accounts, been abysmal. This paper critically examines how social scientists have contributed to erection of this development hegemony and the challenges of critical sociology in helping to reverse the situation and promote development knowledges that take indigenous African knowledges, lived experiences and worldviews seriously. That reversal will have to include the critical integration of indigenous knowledges in Africa's local communities with appropriate elements of western science and technology for development policies and programs that the people can relate to and which they can control.

Olsen, W.K., Morgan, J.

University of Manchester

A critical epistemology of analytical statistics: Addressing the sceptical realist

Statistics have been rejected as a method by some sociologists. In this paper a rationale for social statistics is developed. Ontological criticisms have struck at the heart of statistical practice. The critics of social statistics argue in favour of more reflexive, engaged practices that generate narratives within the social world. The critics often hint that statisticians make a false claim to objectivity.

We argue that the first ontological problem facing statistics is whether regularities can be assumed to occur within a world which is an open system. Instead of assuming a closed system, it is possible to make an alternative assumption that at the level of events and characteristics we might expect some regularities to be observable. Statistical practice (such as logistic regression modelling) creates a mathematical closure within the data set and in the equations used. However this practice of using closed models does not necessarily imply a simplistic or closed-system ontology.

Details of our argument are illustrated using the example of labour-force participation in Great Britain (BHPS 2002). Gender and labour-force non-participation have a strong demi-regularities. However, using multiple regression, gender is shown to be just a small part of the complex causal nexus that leads to labour-force non-participation. The notion of 'getting surprising results' is added to other arguments in favour of looking for demi-regularities. We favour a methodologically pluralist practice in general. The paper thus offers a refinement of the realist approach to social science aiming at a realist statistical practice.

Olsen, W.K., Southerton, D., Warde, A., Cheng, S.

University of Manchester

Convergence and divergence in UK practices of consumption: Analysis of the diffusion of consumer culture using time-use data 1975-2001

Many claim that there has been a momentous shift from a production-led to a consumption-driven society. Among the postulated effects are greater individualisation and fragmentation of behaviour, and less segmentation along socio-demographic lines like class and region. Partly in contrast, a dominant presumption is that global culture is consumer culture, and that a tendency towards homogenisation of consumer behaviour is emerging on the axis of cosmopolitanism or Americanisation. Our project takes quantitative data regarding personal time use and examines changes in consumer culture in the UK over time across classes, genders and socio-demographic groups. The paper focuses on four sets of practices - eating, reading, transportation, and spectating at cultural and sporting events. We examine the degree of convergence and divergence between different social groups in their practices of consumption. This involves adjusting the data for socio-demographic change and then examining the trends in adjusted time-use. Our analysis is grounded upon a more detailed conception of practices that inherently requires a combination of qualitative and survey data. (Qualitative results on the changing conception of consumption practices, as evidenced by the survey-data questionnaires, are being published separately). The paper concludes by outlining the implications of this analysis for accounts of social change and the diffusion of consumer culture. We highlight some of the theoretical and empirical challenges of examining time use panel data.

O'Neill, M., Holdaway, S.

University of Sheffield

Examining Window Dressing: The views of Black Police Associations on recruitment and training

Since the findings of the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry were released (Macpherson 1999), police forces have been under increasing pressure to increase ethnic minority recruitment and improve the diversity training of all officers. These issues received a new impetus after the BBC documentary, 'The Secret Policeman', was aired in October 2003. In it, an undercover journalist trained to be a police officer and recorded evidence of racist attitudes among some of his fellow recruits. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) was quick to condemn the documented behaviour and quickly put into place a seven-point plan to address it in all forces.

Previous research (Cashmore 2002) has investigated the attitudes of existing black and Asian officers on these issues of recruitment and training. It found that they often feel these measures are mere 'window dressing', which do not achieve any real change. This paper examines findings from our own research project into Black Police Associations (BPAs). In contrast to the work of Cashmore, our respondents are very much in favour of these endeavours, and are often heavily involved in either their execution or their evaluation. We argue that any assessment of ethnic minority recruitment and diversity training needs to take into account the local BPA, as these ethnic minority officers are the ones in most contact with senior management and have the most scope for influencing policy and practice. In addition, BPAs can help ensure that gains made in ethnic minority recruitment are not lost by providing a vital support network.

They also suggest a cultural change in that ethnic minority officers can now safely retain a sense of their ethnic identity and still be police officers. This is also in contrast to Cashmore's study which suggested many new recruits are just 'black faces in uniform' (2002: 333).

O'Toole, T., Marsh, D., Jones, S.

University of Birmingham

Explaining non-participation: Towards an understanding of young people's politics

There is a great deal of anxiety about young people's political interest and engagement - with turnout among 18-24 year olds in the last General Election estimated to have been as low as 39%, many researchers and commentators have spoken of today's young people as an 'apolitical generation' characterised by their political apathy and general lack of political literacy. Such assessments of the implications of declining electoral turnouts among young people, however, do not take into account the particular ways in which young people express their political interests, nor do they recognise the extent to which young people view mainstream politics as being conducted outside of their concerns. We argue that young people's political interests have been habitually neglected by researchers examining political participation. In this paper we show that by drawing on youth transitions models, it is possible to examine the issues that affect young people's lives and to explore the ways in which these shape their political engagement. We report the findings of an ESRC-funded study of young people's political participation, which tend to show that young people are very far from being politically apathetic and are in fact highly articulate about the political issues that affect their lives, as well as the neglect of these within mainstream politics.

Paechter, C.

Goldsmiths College

Power, knowledge and embodiment in communities of sex/gender practice

This paper takes up my previous work (Paechter 2003; forthcoming, 2003), which looks at how masculinities and femininities can be regarded as local communities of practice (Wenger 1998), and considers the importance of power/knowledge for this conceptualisation. I focus on how power/knowledge relations impact on which communities of practice are constructed, become established and achieve dominance, and on which communities of practice particular individuals want to and are permitted to participate in.

A key issue in this paper is the question of which knowledges are constructed through and by particular communities of practice and the implications, in terms of power relations within and between communities, of these various knowledge configurations. Despite the Cartesian legacy of mind/body dualism, embodiment and embodied knowledges, are fundamental to these power/knowledge distributions, because of the inescapably embodied nature of human beings and the relationship of bodies, and how they are labelled, to legitimate participation in communities of practice.

I will thus consider the contested and embodied nature of sex and gender and the implications of this for power/knowledge relations between and within communities of masculinity and femininity practice.

Panay, A.

University of Abertay, Dundee

Vanishing white Americans: The captivity narrative in American popular culture

The captivity and subsequent rescue of Private Jessica Lynch on or around April 2nd 2003 was widely reported by the world's media. In the United States the story received blanket coverage via 24-hour news channels as both they and the press quickly descended on Lynch's modest home in West Virginia. The reporting of Lynch's trials in captivity, her broken and wounded body, her life at the mercy of unpredictable and alien foes resonates with tales of Indian captivity from previous centuries. Historically, a fact of life for American settlers on the numerous frontiers which constituted the outermost reaches of their civilisation, was the threat and actual occurrence of Indian raiding parties seeking captives. This paper seeks to locate the captivity of Jessica Lynch and other modern abduction narratives as culturally continuous with the historically grounded Indian captivity narrative. Through an inter-textual analysis I will attempt to demonstrate and explain the media fascination and fixation on this modern captivity tale as an outcome of an older and formative historical tradition in American popular culture.

Papadimitriou, C.

American College of Thessaloniki, Greece

Reshaping the injured body: Rehabilitation and physical disability

This paper focuses on the "work" involved in the rehabilitation processes of spinal cord injured (SCI) adults. It analyzes the cardinal rehabilitation task of transforming the compromised, limited, and injured corporeal style of newly injured adults (best described phenomenologically as an "I can not do" or "I no longer can") into a new style of embodiment, one in which "I am newly able to". This transformation is not a passive, surrendering experience. Rather, as informants made clear on many occasions, "rehabilitation is hard work". It is this "work" that this paper examines.

As a phenomenologically informed sociologist, I argue that while the contemporary critical, politically astute, anti-medicalization view of rehabilitation as a powerful and normative agent of social control is informative and necessary, it misses the collaborative, co-constitutive meaning-structures of clinical work. Though there is great truth to the social and political criticisms of medical establishments, in this paper I try to recover what is interactionally valuable in the relationships between rehab staff and patients. I do this in two ways: First, I document what PT staff mean by "work" and how they struggle to achieve it during therapy sessions. Second, through an ethnographic vignette, I explore the collaborative and situational constitution of a patient's "progress" during the "hard work" of physical therapy. In this section, we see what actually happens during a PT session - something that physical therapists could not describe/articulate in their interviews but which they live every day in the rehabilitation center. The merits of this kind of experience-near research are presented in the concluding sections of this paper.

Parent, D., Byrne, D.

Southeastern Louisiana University, USA

Social exclusion in NAFTA

Recently most nation states have turned to liberalization of economies and reductions in social spending in the name of staying globally competitive. The general premise was that this would level the playing field among countries, stimulate faltering economies, and produce well paying, secure jobs. In turn, this would lessen the need for government spending on social programs, thus reducing taxes. One outcome of this doctrine was the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) covering Canada, Mexico and the USA. To a varying degree, the results of NAFTA have been the same in all three countries. Large corporations have benefited and workers have experienced few if any gains. Labour production has increased and social programs have been restricted. Incomes have not risen in proportion to output, with Mexican workers fairsing the worst. There has been a significant assault on welfare state provision. The purpose of this paper is to examine the social exclusion that has resulted from NAFTA. The notion of social exclusion is less frequently conceptualised in Canada and Mexico than in Europe. In the United States it is basically an alien term among the general population as well as social scientists. We consider that the idea of social exclusion in its strong form - i.e. understood as a process of excluding rather than a categorisation of the excluded - has considerable potential for illuminating the way social structure and the potential bases for social action have been and are being transformed in the NAFTA countries.

Parker, K.

Queensland University of Technology, Australia

Managing mobility: Ordering systems in an international airport

Complex systems and organisations are characterised by conflict. Within complex systems competing agents, technologies, and various other components must be ordered and managed for a system to operate effectively. Although research relating to the processes of ordering has traditionally been the pursuit of academics working within the fields of business, management, and logistics some sociologists have also undertaken examinations of these often mundane and neglected 'ordering' forces to better understand the operations of our social world. In this spirit, this paper explores the complex array of network elements within an international airport facility that enable global mobility. Rather than analysing the abstract, macro qualities of the global mobility this research project has focused its attention on the intricate systems and processes within an airport facility that permit the daily transition of millions of passengers globally. By incorporating theoretical tools and concepts advocated by John Law and Bruno Latour this paper investigates the techniques used by an airport's administration to manage, coordinate, and order the sometimes competing and contradictory assortment of agents at play within an airport facility. In particular, through interviews conducted with managers of the Brisbane Airport Corporation this project provides a descriptive account of the ordering practices used by the airport's management that seek to control the potential chaos of travellers, technology, government agencies, corporations, and environment experienced constantly at airports across the world. In this respect, this paper highlights the incredible complexity involved in coordinating air-travel regularly taken for granted by commuters.

Payne, G.

University of Plymouth

Social dividing: Social divisions as processes and hierarchies

'Social division' has gained popularity in the sociological lexicon as a term for the way society consists of dissimilar groupings of people. The concept emphasises that group differences are best understood as an overlapping set, rather than separate phenomena (e.g. Carling 1991; O'Brien and Howard 1998; Anthias 1998, 2001; Payne 2000, 2004; Barham and Janes 2002). Anthias, Barham and Janes prioritise social class/gender/ethnicity. Alternatively, Payne sees these 'big three' as conceptually similar to other social divisions like age, nationality, disability, religion, or sexuality, albeit sometimes more significant ones. Individuals are 'members' of divisions, hence having multiple social identities: which membership is most salient in any situation is context specific.

Up to the present, discussions of social divisions have predominantly consisted of separate descriptive accounts demonstrating the existence of differences, and the specific characteristics of each division. In conventional terms, these could be called statements about structure, rather than process or agency. Less attention has so far been paid to how and why divisions are reproduced, and actively re-constructed in the lives and identities of social actors. The idea of dynamic processes which continuously divide in active ways has potential for further development. Drawing on work from outside the social divisions debate (e.g. Bradley 1996; Skeggs 1997; Sayer 2002), sources of the competition of overlapping memberships of divisions are explored. A hierarchy of divisions, in terms of the social forces involved in their re-production, is advanced to clarify how collectivities of people are actively socially divided on a day-to-day basis.

Perry, M.

Lebanese American University

Localism and collective labour in the post-industrial world: The new urbanism's quest for community

New Urbanism represents a significant shift in social structures in the West. It attempts to establish systemic supports to community through application of theories of interpersonal relations and human interaction with the built environment. However, observers have noted that it has yet to achieve the goal of community-building. Most New Urbanist developments retain the same alienation between neighbours as do other residential projects. This paper traces local discontent to several factors: 1) Residents are passive consumers. While New Urbanism elevates architectural design from the level of the individual house to the neighbourhood and even broader concepts, it still presents the residential area as a finished product to consumers who are minimally involved in the actual design and construction—charette meetings notwithstanding. "Community" is artificially created and imposed from without, not organically evolved from within. 2) The industrial and post-industrial division of labour prevents residents from having a direct creative connection in both decision-making and praxis in community-building. Residents see little relationship between their own labour and their community. 3) Collective local labour is an untapped resource. We identify meaningful labour with salaries and wages, and volunteerism with irrelevant or socially marginal projects (such as charities). 4) Collective local labour has been discouraged in the West in part because of Cold War identification of freedom with individualism. New Urbanism and related movements—car-sharing and urban farming—may constitute a paradigm shift encouraging the local community to labour on its own behalf, and transcending the ideological competition between capitalism and communism.

Pilcher, J., Pole, C., Edwards, T., Boden, S.

University of Leicester

Children, clothing and the gendered body

Our paper draws upon some preliminary findings of an ESRC funded project, *New Consumers? Children, Fashion and Consumption*, in the examination of a range of issues surrounding the gendered consumption of children's clothing. Using qualitative data gathered from ethnographic fieldwork with children aged 6-11 and their families, and with executives in the children's wear industry, our approach recognises children as embodied agents who actively and creatively shape their social worlds, as well as being shaped by them. We therefore explore ways in which children use clothing in the construction of their gendered identities, within a context where their active consumption of clothing is shaped by, for example, their parents and the design and marketing strategies of the children's wear industry. In particular, we focus on the issues raised by the 'adult' styling of clothes for girls in terms of identification with models of femininity centered around the display of the body, and, for boys, through leisure wear and footwear, identification with models of masculinity centred around the 'sporty body'.

Platt, J.

University of Sussex

Teaching challenges - and how we have met them

An archive of teaching documents from 1950 to the present day is being collected. The paper will report on the pattern of syllabus change over time, looking at that at the levels of the character of individual courses [e.g. which books are used, which topics, theorists, methods are covered?], of the structure of syllabuses [e.g. the extent to which courses have been compulsory, the changing provision of particular options], and of the degree of consensus across the country on what a sociology student needs to know. To what circumstances do changes appear to have responded, and are those aspects of social change in society at large, of specific external demand for the product, of constraints and incentives in the academic system, of the internal demography or dynamics of sociology as an intellectual community, or...?

Potts, L., Forrester, J.

York St John College

I wouldn't have thought of it like that: re-mapping 'self and the environment' as the result of illness

'Identity' is often thought of as something that is held with respect to others (Cohen, 1994) but work carried out by Forrester, Potts, Cinderby (SEI-Y, 2003) and others is looking at the life histories of people who suffer from illnesses which may have environmental 'causes' or links - e.g. asthma, breast cancer. Mapping such life histories gives rise to a setting where individuals are required to re-think their identity not with respect to others, or other cultures, but with respect to their own lived environments.

Thus, rather than identity (personal and 'political' - with a small p) being a product of social life chances it can also be a product of environmental chance - I am what I am not only because I am 'middle-class', 'working-class', 'black', 'white', and so on but because I was exposed to certain environmental pollutants at certain times in my life.

This paper shows how illness can make people re-think the basis upon which their personal identity is constructed.

Price, S.

De Montfort University

'Modelling Social Relations'

This illustrated paper comprises a study of the visual rhetoric contained in promotional brochures, advertising, television commercials, official circulars, forms of political address, and public relations material. Particular attention is given to the way in which models of 'community' are created through the use of 'progressive' forms of gendered and cross-generational display. The relationship between the use of the human figure and theories of 'corporate citizenship' (Tichy, et al, 1997), where private companies attempt to reconfigure the subjectivity of the citizen, is placed within the overall context of theories of symbolic power (Fiumara, 1992). A realist variant of critical discourse analysis (Fairclough, 1995) is employed to construct a theory of promotional address.

Prior, N.

University of Edinburgh

From distinction to distraction? Bourdieu and the trans-aesthetics of perception

Bourdieu and Darbel's classic study of European art museum audiences, *The Love of Art*, remains one of the most influential academic studies of the social indices of art perception. Much in Bourdieu's account of art perception, however, has begun to appear dated and in need of supplementation. This paper will be a critical, but sympathetic re-reading of Bourdieu's sociology of art perception in the light of recent developments in the field of cultural production in the U.K. Whilst fine art and its institutions continue to function as sources of social identification and differentiation, this paper argues that the relationship between perception and stratification is somewhat looser than connoted in Bourdieu's work. Beyond the shift to a less rigid taxonomy of social formations, the immense expansion of the visual arts complex has opened up possibilities for the dissemination of art knowledge beyond the cultivated bourgeois. New audiences have emerged from this mix with less dichotomised – that is, either cultivated or popular – ways of seeing culture that suggest a revision of Bourdieu's overly integrated account of class and cognition. An alternative "postmodern" approach to art perception is entertained, where an aesthetics of distinction is replaced by a culture of distraction, but this, too, is found wanting at an empirical level. Capturing the shift to an accelerated cultural present, instead, requires a warping of Bourdieu's categories to account for broader patterns of culture and economy and the rise of hypermodern cultures.

Rafanell, I.

University of Edinburgh

Who is afraid of Judith Butler?: Social structures as a discursive construction and the objectivism of the performative

Under the banner of 'poststructuralism', Butler's performative theory of sex and gender emphasises the constitutive power of discursive activities, questioning the essentialist ahistorical bias present in most mainstream social theory. Her conclusions on the other hand, are criticised for dissolving 'objective' reality into 'mental' events.

Within feminist theory, poststructuralist discursive accounts have been accused as discounting the world of 'things' in favour of 'words' (Jackson, 1992). What is implicated in this contested arena is the exact understanding of the social as 'constructed' and how it relates to the micro-dynamics of everyday practices (linguistic or otherwise). In this paper I suggest that Butler's analytical approach for theorising notions of 'discursive construction' and 'objective social reality' can be clarified by using the Strong Programme's brand of the Sociology of Knowledge and reconsiders some of the criticisms posed to Butler's 'discursive idealist' position.

Combined, I argue, the performative position of these two models offer a different ontological understanding of the objective nature of social facts. Such an approach moves beyond the models of most social theory that tend to reify social phenomena as either 'mythical posits' or structural givens.

Rees, A.

University of York

Rising above nature: Representations of human identity, society and evolution in narratives of popular science

Current debates surrounding the question of what is to count as 'the human' and the definition of human identity itself range from the abiding concerns evoked by the new genetics and the prospects of xenotransplantation to the prospect of the inclusion of members of other animal species (domestic pets, the great apes) within the greater civil and moral community. At the beginning of the 21st century, boundaries between humans and animals, or between culture and nature, are under active dispute. Historically, attempts to locate the basis of human culture explicitly within human nature have been passionately opposed, not just by sociologists, but by scientists and laypeople alike - but currently, biological accounts of the origins of human natures and their relation to human cultures have become increasingly and evidently more popular.

This paper examines six popular accounts of the evolutionary basis of human society and culture, dating from the 1950s (the birth of modern genetics) until the present day. It analyses the way in which definitions of human identity are rhetorically constructed within the textual narratives and are related to the then-current perceptions of the problems that beset Western societies. It demonstrates the manner in which these scientific depictions of the elements lying at the heart of the collective identity of the human species shift over time and in relation to the besetting ills thought to trouble each succeeding generation.

Ribbens McCarthy, J.

Open University

Independence and support: Who's autonomous and who's responsible?

Current debates about the nature of family-based relationships in contemporary western societies tend to theorise and diverge over values of independence and autonomy on the one hand, and support and responsibility on the other. The major debates may be seen as quite dichotomised about how to characterise changes that may be occurring in people's close relationships. A more marginalised perspective within these debates questions the broad sweep statements that are made, seeking instead to provide more nuanced and empirically based accounts of how people actually experience their lives and relationships. This paper is situated within this latter approach, and uses recent studies concerning relationships between parents and their children - as they encounter the years of late teens and early twenties - to provide insights into the variable ways in which independence may be understood. This then leads on to a discussion of how 'support' may be theorised, with implications for the ways in which support may be seen as antagonistic, or as intrinsic, to the developmental goal - or ideology - of independence for young people. Questions will be raised about what this means for those burgeoning social policies that centre on the language of 'support'.

Robinson, H.

Lancaster University

The social organisation of water: Consumption, conservation and domestic practice

The domestic water supply provides the necessary commodity on which a whole range of water using habits and routines depend. The monitoring of domestic consumption is of interest to the various UK water companies, the government, the Environment Agency and other groups such as the office of water services (OFWAT). Water companies have devised the means of monitoring how much water a typical UK consumer uses on a daily, weekly and seasonal basis in order that supplies might be managed and maintained efficiently and effectively.

However this means that the knowledge we have of contemporary water use patterns has been based on forms of statistical analysis that incorporate variances such as seasonal use, type of dwelling and occupancy rating as well as the ownership of a range of household appliances. Though this method of investigation tells us how much water is used by the average person on an average day the measuring of water consumption alone can tell us very little about what influences the range of human water use. Why do people engage in specific practices in the ways and frequencies that they do?

This paper shifts the emphasis away from a resource based understanding within a supply based paradigm by exploring the full range of everyday water use in order to contribute to revised ways of knowing that prioritise the determinants of ordinary practice.

Robson, J.M.

University of East Anglia

Reading between the lines: Victoria goes cybershopping

Discourses are articulated through a myriad of visual images and texts and, as part of a wider study on the social construction of the e.shopper, this paper presents an analysis of shopping web sites, drawing on insights from textual, and in particular, discourse analysis. Discourse itself is powerful as it disciplines subjects into certain ways of thinking and indeed, a sense of the self emerges through the operation of discourse.¹ It is also argued that the blurring of the public and private spheres is facilitated by the Internet, but this displacement of space and compression of time can lead to conflict as readjustments to our daily patterns and indeed, our self identities must be made.

Although a number of studies have investigated the role of the Internet on practices of consumption² and also the Internet as a research resource³ there are few studies which attempt to deconstruct the sites of electronic exchange, the websites themselves. This paper seeks to redress this deficiency by presenting a textual and discourse analysis of three shopping web sites. Research on 'web textuality' has been pioneered by Mitra and Cohen,⁴ whose 'critical text work' considers: semiotic analyses of content; the relationships between texts; and the interpretative role of the reader in rendering the text meaningful. Using such texts as a foundation, this paper considers whether users of shopping web sites are directly addressed as gendered subjects and the implications of such appellation on their constructions of the self.

Roginsky, S.

Queen's University Belfast

The voluntary sector in comparative perspective: A socially constructed view of the sector

One of the challenges facing theories and concepts which look at broad and international social phenomenon is to create a methodological and theoretical framework which is capable of exploring and comparing such phenomenon in specific situations and in different socio-political environments.

Focusing on the concept and phenomenon of the voluntary sector, this paper suggests that a cross-national and comparative methodology improves the prospects of an empirically grounded and conceptually enriched analysis of the voluntary sector and its influence on the policy process with an international and inclusive perspective. Evidence and examples are provided from my research which is conducted in Northern Ireland and Ile-de-France.

The argument of the paper is that the concept of voluntary sector provides both a means of encompassing a wide variety of social processes and a notion which has much more than simply technical meaning, as it refers to symbols, values and ideology. The paper suggests that a focus on usage, meanings and perceptions of the voluntary sector as a theoretical concept and social phenomenon opens up fruitful vistas for analysing such an international and complex phenomenon.

Translation and the analysis of language make it possible to investigate how (and to which extent) the perceptions of the voluntary sector influence the way in which it engages with politics and with its environment as a whole. Finally, the paper investigates the importance of reflexive, non-empirical aspects of methodology in research, and demonstrates the necessity of their explicit inclusion in methodological as well as theoretical discussion.

Rokis, R., Anderson, B., Arber, S., Dex, S., Drew, E., Gershuny, J., Jamilah, A., Jowell, R., Kahn, J. S., Manderson, L., Noraini, M. N., Pahl, J., Raja Rohani, R. M., Siti Rohani, Y., Stevens, M.

University of Bristol

The traditional male interests perspective on women, work and home in Malaysia

This paper attempts to understand how cultural traditions penetrate into women's life in Malaysia. It elaborates the influence of male dominance (or patriarchy) over women at the workplace and home. Non-empirical explanations in the forms of religions and traditional customs dictate and influence the life of women, which create a paradoxical image and a clashing position of women in the public and private life.

The effects of globalisation and industrialisation that come into contact with the country have not really influenced the authority of cultural traditions. In the areas of work and home, cultural traditions are more significantly affected the women population than men. Employed women in Malaysia are in a conflicting situation between the need to participate in employment and the conformity to the cultural expectations on women's responsibilities at home. However complicated this situation may sound, this paper believes that women in Malaysia manage to embrace both areas quite adeptly.

This paper does not perceive this traditionalist trend negatively because most aspects of cultural traditions particularly religious beliefs, societal norms, morality and mores are generally considered to be good, and thus guided people in every sense. In fact this traditional perspective has uniquely characterised the Malaysian way of life, which may not be the portrayal of any other societies around the globe.

Rose, M., Banovcova, L.

Bath University

Work orientation as life-style prophylactic: How far can prioritising career pursuit offset workaholic hours and singleton stress?

Making use of the rapidly accumulating survey and panel study evidence, social scientists have begun detailed examination of the 'no one to play with' problem of the modern labour market, in which heavy temporal work commitments often prevent higher qualified employees from developing good work-life balance, including personal friendships with depth and permanence, stable partnerships, and nuclear family households. It might be assumed that objectively poor work-life balance indicated by lack of such relationships will be experienced also as acute subjective deprivation. However, the evidence for this is much less clear-cut than might be expected. Many employees with high commitment to career building and career pursuit appear either to develop 'resistance' to such social and emotional disutilities, or to embark on longer-term career building projects only after favourably assessing their own ability to withstand the absence of 'normal' relationships. New theoretical literature and research evidence on the work orientations, non-work activities, and well-being of aspiring employees will be summarised, drawing on the speaker's recent ESRC research on 'the costs of a career in minutes' (ref: R000223499), and joint research with the second author on rationales of work and the contemporary work ethic.

Roseneil, S.

University of Leeds

Ambivalent affectivities: Angel's "arrangement" and a psychosocial lens on the (postmodern) condition of personal life

The intervention I wish to make in this paper is that of a sociologist researching contemporary practices of intimacy and sociability who has come up against the limitations of a strictly sociological analytic for the study of matters which are as fundamentally biographical and psychic as they are social and cultural. It is my argument that if we are to understand the contemporary condition of personal life, we need to explore the complex intertwining of the social and the psychic - that which is historical and changing, and that which is part of the human condition, the unavoidable product of the relational, inter-subjective nature of human existence. The paper takes as its focus the case of "Angel"- a 46 year old white heterosexual man living in a northern city -, and the somewhat ambivalent story he tells of the "arrangement " he has with a woman, an arrangement which he clearly differentiates from a "relationship". This story is read within the context of the wider narrative Angel offers of his personal life, in which, against a backdrop of relationship break-ups and psychological break-down, friendship is currently assuming increased importance in his life. The story of his personal life can be understood as speaking of many of the processes of social transformation in personal life which characterize the highly mobile, individualized postmodern era, but it is also one of psychic life, of ambivalent affectivities, of abandonment, anxiety, disappointment, loss and melancholia. It is an age-old narrative of the struggle with existential pain, and the search for pleasure and connection, lived out in the particular context of the 21st century city.

Rosenfeld, D., Faircloth, C.

Colorado College, USA

A body at rest remains at rest: Movement and morality in arthritis narratives

In contrast to the dominant discourse, which reifies bodily movement in the lives of people with chronic illness into "functional mobility," biographical osteoarthritis narratives are driven by images and metaphors of movement. This is especially important when considered in light of Hockey and James' (1993) argument concerning the relationship between movement metaphors and the aged in Western culture. Arthritis narrative metaphors and images include the movement of pain across body regions, the limitations osteoarthritis places on movement across space and in time, the movement of the consequences of osteoarthritis outwards (to social relations) and inwards (to shape internal thoughts and dialogues), and movement as a moral mandate and evaluative standard. This paper suggests that these metaphors are used to sustain the practicalities of everyday life, social networks, and a moral order based on the necessity of movement.

Sagar, J.M.

University of Leeds

Exploring the 'I' in H(I)V and A(I)DS: The relationship between biomedical discourse and lived experience

In the late 1980s the emerging AIDS epidemic signified fear, rejection, isolation, acute chronic illness and the threat of imminent death for many individuals diagnosed in the UK. However recent biomedical advances in the treatment/ management of HIV/Aids mean that diagnosis is no longer viewed in such austere terms. In western societies, the medical meaning of HIV/Aids has now shifted from a 'fatal disease' to a 'chronic illness'. How then do long-term survivors [LTS] living with HIV/Aids attempt to re-structure their lives in light of these advances? How are we to understand how HIV/Aids is internalised and expressed by those infected? This paper seeks to examine how recent changes in the treatment and management of HIV/Aids have impacted on the lived experiences and identities of long-term survivors [LTS] in the UK. This is accomplished by drawing upon the preliminary findings of a qualitative study exploring the experiences and perceptions of men and women living in the UK who have been diagnosed with HIV/Aids for 10 years or more.

Key issues include: (1) the exploration of new and existing challenges shaped by biomedical discourse (2) the extent to which medical definitions of HIV/Aids and bodily suffering come to be collectively imagined and experienced (3) how individuals with HIV/Aids actively participate in the shaping and moulding of their own identities.

This paper concludes by suggesting that greater emphasis must be placed on the lived experiences of LTS in order to understand the significance and consequence(s) of changing biomedical discourse on those infected.

Sanger, T.

Queen's University Belfast

Conformity or deviance?: The lived experiences of transpeople and their partners

This paper will be an examination of my postgraduate research, of which I am currently in my second year. The research is an exploration of sexuality, desire and gender identity within intimate relationships involving transpeople. I will discuss the interviews which have been conducted to date and my initial findings based on these. Within this discussion I will explore the ways in which transsexualism and transgenderism are theorised, particularly within feminism and queer theory, as examples of conformity and, conversely, of deviance. Emphasis will be placed on the lived experiences of transpeople and their partners and how these lives can inform academic inquiries on the subject. Further, the academic work of transpeople will be examined in order to determine how lived experience may have a more direct influence upon academic inquiry.

Sayer, A.

University of Lancaster

Restoring the moral dimension

Contemporary sociological accounts of action tend to pay little attention to its moral or ethical dimension, emphasizing habit, discourse, convention and interest instead. Yet this dimension of social life is inescapable in practice, social relations being differentiated partly by the particular moral expectations that are associated with them. Ignoring it makes it impossible to understand much of what actors care about and why - why, for example, justice, recognition and respect should matter to them, or why people are vulnerable to shame. People are evaluative beings, continually monitoring or at least sensing their own and others' behaviour as more or less good or bad, whether through their 'feel for the game' or more reflectively. Moral sentiments or emotions are not mere subjective forms of 'affect' but have a rational, referential aspect. They are intelligent dispositions and susceptibilities. They are not wholly reducible to effects of social position. While moral norms tend to have a conventional character their force derives not merely from convention backed by sanctions but from the seriousness of their concerns in relation to whether people flourish or suffer. By reference to examples of the experience of inequality, it is argued that concepts from moral philosophy can help illuminate the (un)ethical qualities of social relations and practices which sociology has tended to overlook. The paper derives from research conducted with the support of an ESRC fellowship.

Schweber, L.

University of Reading

What counts as theory: American sociology and the quantitative turn

One of the primary challenges to sociological theory lies in the integration of empirical and theoretical work. This paper uses the case of *The American Soldier* to provide a historical perspective on this problem. The book was published in the early fifties and was viewed by many American sociologists as an exemplar of a new scientific approach, combining survey research and quantification. This paper examines the consequences of this development and the quantitative turn, more generally, for sociological theory.

In the US, these developments were accompanied by a division between grand theory and empirical research. Empirical researchers differed over relation between theory, concept definition and measurement. 'Operationism' involved a bid to redirect the practice of theory towards the definition of concepts in terms of measurement procedures and the elaboration of empirically testable hypotheses. This approach was supported by the promise of government and military funding, a new relation between universities as a whole and the public and intellectual developments in physics and the behavioural sciences. Within sociology, the approach was the occasion for a serious debate, raising issues that remain pertinent for theorizing today. This paper reviews that debate and examines the institutional conditions that account for the elevation of this approach to an authoritative form of practice, against which other forms must situate themselves. The paper concludes with comparative remarks concerning the situation at LSE in the 1950s and 60s and developments today.

Scourfield, J.B.

Cardiff University

Suicidal masculinities

Across the West, suicide rates in young men have been rising for some time. This trend has attracted considerable media attention and is often cited within media discourse as evidence of a 'crisis of masculinity'. The field of suicide research (often referred to as suicidology) is dominated by quantitative methodology, and although there has been research attention to the gendered character of suicidal behaviour, studies tend to compare 'men' as a group with 'women' as a group. There is also relatively little consideration within this literature of power relations and the social-political dimension of masculinities. This presentation will argue the case for a qualitative sociological approach to the study of gendered suicide and will begin to outline a framework for understanding the diversity of suicidal masculinities. Bob Connell's theoretical work on masculinities will be used to analyse evidence from the suicidology literature. The framework will include consideration of when hegemonic masculinity fails; the subordinated masculinities of gay sexuality and mental illness; and control killings.

Shaw, R.

University of Auckland, New Zealand

'The ethics of gift exchange in human egg donation'

This paper explores the rhetoric of gift exchange as it pertains to the giving and receiving of bodily parts and potential persons. The discussion is supplemented by qualitative research that puts the concept of bodily gifting, or 'corporeal generosity' as it has recently been termed, to the empirical test. This involves analysing data from in-depth, semi-structured interviews with New Zealand women involved in human egg donation and 'surrogate' pregnancy arrangements. Although many commentators, from across academic disciplines, argue that this kind of gift exchange is always already a product or residue of commodity thinking, the narrative experiences of persons involved in this research, that have either given or received human ova or potential persons, tend to suggest a real tension with market practices. While this inter-corporeal exchange reveals the many anxieties and contradictions of contemporary forms of non-conventional family making, empirical evidence also indicates positive affirmation in the construction of new kinship forms. This paper attends to some of these ambivalences.

Shaw, R., Kitzinger, C.

University of York

Emotion work in action: Praising callers on a 'home birth' help line

The concept of 'emotion work' has been useful in understanding the work women do both in personal relationships (Duncombe & Marsden, 1993; 1995) and in the workplace (Hochschild, 1983). However, sociological understandings of emotion work are overwhelmingly derived from self-report data (e.g. interviews, focus groups) in which people talk about doing emotion work and not from direct observations of emotion work in action (Frith & Kitzinger, 1998). This paper is based on direct observation of one particular form of emotion work - praising - as it occurs across a data corpus consisting of more than 50 audio-taped telephone conversations between call-taker and callers to a (UK) help-line for women planning a home birth. The paper focuses on instances in which the call-taker praises the caller (e.g. 'you're being tremendously sensible', 'you've handled it so well', 'you've got absolutely the right attitude'; 'I admire the way you're tackling it'). Using conversation analysis, we explore where praise is used in the course of the calls, what it is being used to do interactionally, how it is managed by callers, and what its consequences are for the ongoing interaction. Through detailed analysis of emotion work in action, this paper contributes to our theoretical understanding of emotion work and has important implications for the practice of help-line workers.

Shelly, R., Shelly, A.

Ohio University, USA

Explaining collaborative learning: Constructivism and status

Our goal is to develop theoretical understanding of how and under what conditions learning occurs in collaborative groups. Research and theory in the constructivist tradition is integrated with research on the emergence and completion of interaction inequality in task groups to accomplish this goal. The constructivist tradition emphasizes the social nature of learning experience for developmentally appropriate skills and abilities. Cognitive development, emphasized by Piaget, and socio-emotional development, emphasized by Erickson, is the main focus of our interest. Theory and research on interaction inequality emphasize two distinct processes, one based on enactment of previously established inequality and the other based on the emergence of inequality when among individuals are initially equal to one another.

Constructivists emphasize the social nature of learning but have not been able to detail how and under what conditions such learning is effective in groups. Insights developed in the study of task group interaction are used to identify conditions that facilitate learning. We are able to highlight developmentally appropriate issues in the use of collaborative groups. These issues are related to patterns of inequality which emerge in collaborative groups and affect learning. We propose a set of principles under which collaborative learning is likely to be successfully realized.

Shoveller, J.A., Johnson, J.L., Patrick, D., Prkachin, K.

University of British Columbia, Canada

On being "responsible": An examination of youth's embodiment of reproductive and sexual health service policy

The underlying assumption for this study is that sexual health experiences and sexual identities of young people embody social, cultural, and institutional structures. Such structures are shaped in large part by reproductive and sexual health service policies. To explore this proposition, we interviewed youth and service providers as well as conducted an analysis of 35 health, educational, and social policy documents pertaining to youth sexual and reproductive health in British Columbia, Canada. In this paper, we examine the ways in which the interactions between policy and practice affect young people's sexual and reproductive health.

Drawing on the works of Bourdieu, we attempt to demonstrate how local action and more distal policy structures are inextricably linked. Through the application of notions of practice and "habitus," our analysis illustrates how the social actions and attitudes expressed by youth regarding "being responsible" in their everyday experience represent an embodiment of reproductive and sexual health service policies. We suggest that the embodiment of such responsibility extends beyond youth's sexual lives and pervades their social interactions with others in various aspects of their own existence and the life of their community. We draw on the idea of "collective lifestyles" advanced by Frohlich to extend our explanation of the relations between so-called "compositional" and "contextual" explanations of youth sexual and reproductive health. We argue that the social structure and social practices of youth intertwine to create a "habitus" in which the development of their sexual identities occurs.

Simpson, V.L.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Social change in the gaming industry: A sociological investigation

It is a commonplace view that modern industrialised societies are experiencing an Information and Organisational Revolution. The paper will investigate the changes within the setting of the betting shop.

This study adopts the ethnomethodological and interactionist approach as the study concentrates upon the specific setting of the betting shop and is a descriptive and detailed account of daily life within the Ashton shop. The study looks at the impact of technological change on the attitude and activities of those who work in and make use of betting shops. The study is also a contribution to workplace studies as the betting shop is changing.

Ladbrokes had introduced a 'new' type of betting shop known as the 'concept shop' and it was decided that the Ashton betting office would be the ideal place to trial it. The concept shop was the 'shop in a shop idea'. Money had been lost to the National Lottery and Ladbrokes responded by introducing their own numbers betting, that specifically targeted the female population. They had designed a new style of Ladbrokes shop, which incorporated a numbers section within the traditional atmosphere of the betting office - hence 'shop in a shop concept'. Ladbrokes also introduced new computerised till systems, known as BS2000, and I will consider how this new technology has impacted on staff who have to implement it and on the customers to which it serves. This is also a cultural phenomenon as the cultural environment has been lost and a new one formed.

Sinha, S., Curtis, K., Jayakody, A., Roberts, H., Viner, R.

City University

Religion and attitudes to sex and relationships among young people in East London

This paper draws on analyses from a mixed method study to explore connections between identification with religious beliefs and attitudes to intimate relationships and sexual behaviour among young people in East London. Our quantitative data derive from a school-based cohort study of 2,800 13-16 year olds; our qualitative data are based on focus group interviews with 143 15-18 year olds. While the main focus of this paper will be the qualitative work, survey data will provide information on religious identification and sexual behaviour among the larger quantitative sample. The qualitative data will be used to illustrate the relationship between religious identification and a range of social markers such as age, ethnicity, gender, special needs, and peer group identification. Topics discussed will include attitudes to meeting partners and partner choices, abortion and young parenthood, being heterosexual, bi-sexual, gay or lesbian as well as career aspirations, relationships and sexual behaviour. The paper suggests that religion impacts in a range of ways on what young people chose to tell us. Moreover, our data suggest that an active identification with religious beliefs can be a positive resource on which young people draw to make sense of intimate relationships and sexual behaviours. Our findings revealed personal readings of religious values very different from the conservative intolerance popularly associated with religious belief. Policy implications for sexual health among young people will be explored.

Skinner, D.

Anglia Polytechnic University

Finding a cure for racism: The strange case of Sociology, 'race' and biology

Discussion of science has an important foundational role in the sociology of race and racism. Nineteenth and early twentieth century science is often portrayed as the inventor of modern race thinking while, in contrast, post war science we are told has provided incontrovertible evidence that debunked the very idea of objective racial differences. These assertions rest on some questionable simplifications about what science did and does say regarding race and biology. They also make assumptions about the status of scientific knowledge and the changing relationship between science and society that would not hold in other sub-disciplines of sociology.

This paper explores some of the contradictions running through the sociology of race and racism's stance towards science. It argues these contradictions have left sociology ill-equipped to deal with a new wave of biologically-based accounts of human difference. These accounts challenge existing notions of relatedness, personhood and the nature/culture distinction, and as such are altering the terrain over which 'race' is discussed.

Smith, S.

University of Surrey

Reconfiguring the brand: Problematizing dualities in an online community

Recent popular and academic interest and debate about branding has tended to fall somewhere between two artificial extremes. On the one hand, brands and processes of branding are said to encourage practices of individuality and expression, and form loci of social relationships. On the other, agents of production are seen as attempting to organise consumption experiences and radically reshape social and cultural environments, against which some consumers actively and consciously resist. Despite their differences, both imply the centrality of brands in contemporary society. However, very little research exists that has attempted to examine how consumers actually engage with brands in their everyday lives.

In this paper, I focus upon an online community whose original purpose was to provide a forum for discussion between users of the FujiFinePix brand of digital cameras. Research with this group over an eight month period suggests that members' online interaction and development of interpersonal relationships act to reconfigure the brand in the life of the group. However, unlike the 'brave young activists' in Klein's No Logo, these members do not pursue a general strategy of active oppositional resistance to branding. Rather, like de Certeau's walker through city spaces, they mark and subjectively transform 'branded' terrain with their own individualities, identities and intentions. In sum, I contend that analytical distinctions between materiality and intangibility, between the material and the social, and between design and consumption, are difficult to maintain, and that branding processes and practices of identity and consumption are unbounded, negotiated and contested fields.

Southerton, D.

University of Manchester

Cultural capital and experiences of time: The relationship between orientations towards social practices and temporalities

This paper explores how cultural capital impacts on the temporal organisation and experience of daily social practices. It draws on twenty in-depth interviews, which enquired about how suburban households organised and experienced time. In order to sharpen the focus of analysis, three types of practices are considered: eating, recreation and domestic labour. Two broad questions are addressed. The first relates to how cultural orientations toward the three practices shape modes of engagement, expectations and senses of competent conduct. The second concerns the impact of temporal rhythms on the performance and experience of practices. It is demonstrated that cultural orientations, patterned according to volumes of cultural capital, shaped how respondents' engaged in practices and their expectations of how those practices should be experienced. Such cultural expectations had a direct impact on the degree to which practices were experienced as, for example, hurried, pressured, leisurely. It was in response to this relationship between expectations (such as what constitutes competent performance) and the experience of practices that respondents' understood the modes of consumption, which they appropriated in order to deal with the temporal challenges of their daily lives. Examples include willingness to compromise care for convenience in food preparation, or to institute rigorous routines at the expense of the potential for spontaneous moments of recreation or sociability. It is argued that accounts of consumption need to consider the importance of temporality in constraining social practices and how cultural capital is a resource with direct implications for differential experiences and understandings of time.

Southerton, D., Hand, M., Shove, E., Warde, A.

University of Manchester

Re-ordering domestic space(s): Constructing normality in narratives of extension

Given the accumulation of an increasing number of technologies in UK kitchens this paper asks: what happens to all these machines and how do they change domestic practices? Analysis of in-depth interviews conducted with forty households reveal that 'extension' is the response. We discuss 'extension' in its literal sense of extending the home and metaphorically to capture the 'extension' of inter-connected practices. Two apparently contradictory processes emerge. On one hand, collective trajectories of accumulation of domestic technologies suggest a form of mass consumption. On the other, and despite respondents' viewing their daily practices as 'unambiguously normal', narratives of the way in which domestic practices were organized, what counted as competent practice, and the varying contextual demands of domestic lives produced significant diversity of meaning and use. A Theory of Practice helps explain this apparent contradiction. Technologies can be conceptualised as part of the 'entities' that coordinate domestic practices (other entities being material, socio-economic, spatial and temporal constraints). For example, domestic technologies come with scripts of how they should be used, expectations and rules of use, have specific purposes, and evoke emotions and moods - all of which coordinate practice. However, it is only through performance of practices that they become socially meaningful, and it is here that diversity emerges. A theory of practice offers a conceptual and theoretical framework for thinking about the role that technologies play in constructing normal domestic practices - and it is their capacity to co-ordinate practices that allowed respondents to be so sure that what they do is competent and normal.

Strelitz, J.

London School of Economics

Second generations: pathways into poverty and prosperity for children of immigrants

What has been the experience of the children of those immigrants who came to Britain in the 1950s-60s? What has determined their trajectories into relative poverty or prosperity in adulthood? Using the ONS longitudinal Study, linked data for a 1% sample of the England and Wales census, this paper focuses on the outcomes for second generation immigrants in early mid-adulthood, in terms of aspects of relative poverty and prosperity.

Using longitudinal census data, children of immigrants from a diverse range of places can be studied including; India, Pakistan, the Caribbean, Ireland, Western and Eastern Europe and Old Commonwealth countries and the USA. By looking at the situation of this second generation in childhood in 1971 and linking it to their adult outcomes, in the first place in 1991, this paper aims to challenge the typical account which describes the aggregate success of one group and failure of another, often attributing such outcomes to aspects of group 'culture'. Recognising the heterogeneity of experience within all groups, the aim is to determine if there are shared factors associated with pathways into relative poverty or prosperity in adulthood across immigrant groups. Moreover, by comparing the experiences of immigrants and non-immigrants the research aims to examine whether the extent and antecedents of intergenerational social mobility differs for children of immigrants and children of UK born parents.

Sutherland, A.J.

Kyushu University of Nursing and Social Welfare, Japan

The aesthetic ambitions, performance and income experiences of international jazz and improvising musicians

Initial research on jazz musicians reported careers and social values conflicting with the social norm (Becker). More recent research on jazz as a musical culture (Early 2001, Gabbard 1995, Kenney 1995, Monson 1996, Rasula 1995), views musicians as disadvantaged due to the combined oppressive effects of 'race', ethnicity, social class, gender, etc., and experiencing conflicting self-identities. The music (they largely confine to mainstream jazz, marginalising free-, avant-garde-, and improvised-jazz/musics) is interpreted as created in opposition to these oppressions and Western aesthetics. This research focus is shown overly narrow; because early in its history jazz became an international musical culture, dependent on international income-earning touring circuits, and increasingly heterogeneous in form and ambition. Focusing on interviews with current professional international jazz/improvising musicians, supplemented by published data, this paper examines their career and performance experiences, the discrepancy between their social stratification origins and certifications, which anticipates entry into professional careers, and their actual career circumstances. As most endured 15 years of financial adversity before becoming 'financially established', regardless of current status, what sustained them through this period, their assessments of performances, the ways they forged international associations among musicians to pursue musical projects and attain performance bookings are discussed. Their current variation in monthly incomes and performances, and the overall balance of their income sources is discussed, showing that these musicians evaluate their incomes as inadequate measures of their training, effort, working hours, professional status as musicians and the aesthetic worth of their music.

Tanner, E.

Nuffield College, University of Oxford

Mothers and workers: The importance of work conditions in the relationship between maternal employment and the parenting attitudes

One of the most significant changes in family life over recent decades has been the dramatic rise in the labour market engagement of women with young children. Yet, despite the fact that it is now the norm rather than the exception for mothers to be employed, the ways in which their employment relates to their role as parents remains poorly understood.

The allocation of time has been widely assumed to be the most important factor in the research activity of different disciplines in this area and has been the focus of work-life balance policies. In contrast, this paper builds on the theoretical work of Kohn and colleagues in arguing that the environment and conditions of work may be equally if not more important in influencing the mother-child relationship. Kohn theorised that parents internalise workplace values of self-direction or obedience to authority and interact with their children in a way that reflects this, by encouraging independence or conformity to parents' rules.

A detailed questionnaire survey of 300 working mothers with young children from one large English city provided empirical support for this theory. A scale of 'self-direction' was created from responses to 10 attitude statements describing work conditions including participation in decisions, control over the work task and challenge or monotony. When education level and occupational class were controlled in multiple regression analyses, a relationship persisted between self-direction and parenting attitudes which encourage age-appropriate independence. The implications for work-life balance are discussed.

Taylor, Y.

University of York

The ties that bind: Class in intimate relationships

This paper will present findings from my PhD research on 'Working-class Lesbians' (in-depth interviews with fifty-three women). I will explore the ways in which class manifests itself in personal relationships, through material and cultural factors. This occurs through processes of comparison, and dis/identification with 'intimates', generating in/securities and in/adequacies. Respondents spoke of the 'problems' they had with middle-class women – they felt 'inadequate', in terms of unequal economic and cultural capitals and these 'inadequacies' produced intense discomforts, insecurities and resentments within intimate relationships.

Interviewees spoke of being able to relate to other working-class people due to 'commonalities'; empathies and understandings affirmed life experiences and identities. Class, as a subjective experience, also informed notions of 'attraction', both physically, through the embodied signifiers of class that enabled recognition, and emotionally, which produced mis/understandings.

In relationships with working-class women each partner 'checked out' the other one; a complex processes of de/valuation ensued as they estimated and challenged class positions. Anger surfaced through 'unjustified' class identifications – for instance partners 'pretending' to be working-class. This causes a re-assessment of the notions of 'attraction' and 'worth'; empathetic understandings were desired (as a challenge to economic 'investment'), but only from the 'proper', entitled, source.

There were difficulties even with other working-class women. Some labelled partners as too working-class or 'too much' – this brings into mind an image of embodied excess and vulgarity. Contradictory emotions are experienced as a result of feeling proud of being working-class but not wanting to be 'embarrassing'. I will explore these processes.

Theodosius, C.

Essex University

Expressions of the embodied self in emotional labour

Drawing on empirical research (participant observation, interviews and audio diaries) amongst a group of nurses, Hochschild's (1979;1983;1990) notion of emotional labour and Archer's (2000) theory of emotion, this paper looks at how personal and social identity are intertwined in emotional labour. It sets out to show how aspects of self worth, and self identity concerned with performative achievement and competency skills, are integral to emotional labour and expressed through the embodied self in interactive, relational processes that occur in prescribed social roles such as nursing. Taking an embodied approach to emotion, the paper analyses some physiological, psychological and social aspects of emotional labour. It also introduces a typology of the emotional labour observed in the nursing context: therapeutic, instrumental and collegial.

Timms, J.

London School of Economics

Corporate citizenship: A social role for business in a globalising world?

This paper is concerned with the social responsibilities assigned to business in a global context. Processes of globalisation have brought changes to the organisation of business and to the expectations placed on business activity. The research presented in this paper is part of a larger study focusing on the social role transnational corporations (TNCs) are promoting for themselves as good corporate citizens, at a time when claims are made about the declining power of the state. The overall project will focus on those who benefit from corporate citizenship, and how such concepts affect the treatment of transnational employees in different parts of the world. This paper will present the research done so far on the concept of corporate citizenship and the implications this can have on issues of global governance. Findings will be presented from research into the definition, use, and representation of ideas about socially responsible business, by a range of organisational stakeholder groups including the transnationals, their employees, pressure groups and anti-capitalist groups. This stage of the research involved analysis of stakeholder literature and websites, attendance at meetings, and initial interviews with key representatives. These preliminary findings will be used in this paper to address the questions of how TNCs promote themselves as good corporate citizens, how this is influenced by stakeholder groups, and the possible benefits involved in creating a social role for business.

Toerien, M.

University of York

Pluck, wax or thread: Normalizing hair removal in the beauty salon

Feminist investigations of practices for producing an 'appropriate' feminine body - from make-up application (e.g. Dellinger & Williams, 1997) to cosmetic surgery (e.g. Davis, 1996) - have highlighted the normativity of women's body-alterations (see Chapkis, 1986), of which body hair removal remains one of the most taken-for-granted among Western women today (Tiggemann & Kenyon, 1998). The present paper is part of a broader study of women's hair removal practices (see Toerien & Wilkinson, 2003a; Toerien & Wilkinson, 2003b), including data from questionnaires, interviews and focus groups. This paper focuses, however, on the part of the research that is based on tape- and video- recordings of actual professional hair removal sessions. This is the first study to empirically investigate hair removal, not through women's accounts of their practices, but through analysis of records of the practices themselves. The paper addresses a broader sociological conundrum: how to theorise the relationship between agency/choice and socio-cultural pressure/structural determination in understanding women's apparently 'voluntary' conformity with a culturally sanctioned norm (see Black, 2002; Black & Sharma, 2001). Using conversation analysis, the paper examines negotiations between beauty therapists and clients. I argue that one by-product of these is the construction of hair removal as a necessary improvement of the body. In examining the details of talk-in-interaction in the salon, we see both the exercise of agency by beauty therapist and client, and the bottom-up reproduction of the socio-cultural requirement to be hairless. In conclusion, the implications of this analysis for a feminist sociology of the body are explored.

Toke, D.

University of Birmingham

Wind power and the middle classes

In the late 1970s Inglehart explained the rise of environmentalism in terms of a rise in 'post material' values among the middle classes. The case of wind power planning casts doubt on this long-established theory. Analysis of wind power planning cases reveals that opposition to wind power schemes is primarily led by people in the immediate vicinity of proposed schemes and that fears about effects on property values and other economic concerns seem to take priority over aesthetic issues. The wind power case suggests that middle class affluence leads to a strengthening of material priorities in new directions, as well as any tendency towards 'post materialism'. There are aesthetic concerns voiced, by landscape protection groups, concerning wind power. However, the domination of planning discourse by such concerns can be partly attributed to the fact that appeals to concerns about economic issues are usually ineligible under planning law.

This case study also casts doubt on a second key strand of theory about middle class environmentalism. In 1980 Cotgrove argued that radical concerns about pollution, which emerged in the late 20th century, have led on from 'traditional' environmental concerns about the landscape. However, insufficient attention has been given to the potential for conflict between radical environmentalism and more traditional concerns about landscapes. There is clear evidence of conflict between these strands of environmentalism over the issue of wind power planning policy. Nature conservation groups have usually supported wind power proposals while proposed windfarms have often been opposed by landscape protection groups.

Toke, D., Marsh, D.

University of Birmingham

The media and GM food

The relationship between media coverage and political events and activity is examined covering the 1998-1999 period leading up to the Government-led agreement to freeze the commercialisation of GM crops. The case of GM food suggests that the media have reacted to, rather than shaped, increases in public concern about GM food and crops. However, the way the media has framed the issue has reflected their own stances and media decisions to prioritise the issue may, in turn, have influenced the priority given to the issue by political actors.

Surveys of articles in the 1997-2000 period suggest that media coverage increased following events such as the decision by Iceland to ban GM food from its products and anti-GM food statements made by Prince Charles. However the most intense coverage of GM food followed on the decision by the Daily Mail to launch a 'Frankenstein Food' campaign in January 1999. This campaign was followed by a decision by the Tory leadership to give priority to the GM food issue. The Daily Mail framed the issue as an 'anti-Labour' one, in sharp contrast to the approach of Greenpeace and coverage in the Guardian which framed the issue as an 'anti-corporate' issue.

Trehan, N.

London School of Economics & Political Science

Human rights entrepreneurship in eastern Europe: The case of 'romani rights' NGOs in Hungary

My research interrogates the recent (post-1989) shift in the discourse on Roma (Gypsies) in the central and east European region: from 'Gypsy question' (or 'problem') to 'Romani rights'. In particular, it focuses on the attempts at social change by domestic and transnational non-governmental organisations and liberal human rights activists in postcommunist Hungary, their influence vis-à-vis state policy, and their relationship to Romani communities. In grappling with the emergence of the 'Romani Rights' movement, emphasis is placed on key actors and organisations (both Romani and non-Romani), while an assessment is made of their aims, claims, and strategies, as well as the long-term policy impact of their work, and its perceived limitations.

What is significant is that Romani leaders are beginning to assert themselves as the rightful interlocutors of their communities' destiny, leading to a key paradox of the 'Romani Rights' movement - that of popular discontent on the part of many Romani activists with the methods and practices of the 'Romani Rights' agenda - which some claim has been hijacked by non-Romani human rights entrepreneurs. Thus, the conflicts and tensions within the field of 'Romani Rights' are significant and for the most part, unresolved. Issues revolving around representation, legitimacy and efficacy are rife with contention, and an examination of these constitute the core of this paper.

Truninger, M.

The University of Manchester

Organic food practices and everyday life: Meanings and justifications

In Portugal, as elsewhere, levels of organic food consumption have expanded significantly during the last two decades. This paper presents evidence of the growth of an organic food movement, of producers and, especially consumers.

An analytical account based on 30 semi-structured interviews conducted with consumers who purchase organic food and are resident in mainland Portugal is presented. Three main topics will be addressed. The first is the conceptual meaning of organic food. The second concerns different procedures of food shopping, focusing mainly on food selection criteria. The third topic covers the justifications, motivations and values behind organic food consumption, along with the different levels of commitment to the organic food and the organic farming movement. Under this third topic trust and mistrust issues are covered as important aspects of food safety in a period of increasing anxiety about food.

This paper reflects upon the singularities and similarities of meanings, processes and justifications of eating organics. It shows the intricate relationship between provisioning systems, routines and practices, and alternative collective conceptions of health, spiritual well-being and environmental ethics. It also contributes to the theoretical and conceptual debates about practice and consumption.

Tulle, E.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Conflicting bodies: Ageing bodies and athletic bodies

Ageing appears to be inimical with the embodied competence associated with athletic pursuits. And yet, in the last 30 years, there has been an increase in the number of people continuing to take part in athletics at high levels or picking it up well into their later years, reflecting a loosening of class, gender and age barriers to sports participation. Masters elite runners force us to confront conflicting discourses and conflicting bodies.

I will argue that the encounter with ageing, whilst being constructed by athletes as a threat to performance and to the accumulation of different forms of capital, is managed across two discursive frameworks: 1, the discourse of decline and 2. The dispositional demands of athletics, such that the management of the body both in the present and in an uncertain future does not simply revolve around masking or denying biological ageing, but also leads athletes to navigate a series of dialectics in the understanding of ageing, the language of age and the construction of physical performance.

This yields two conclusions. Firstly, the care of the body is directly associated with the development of an athletic identity well into old age. Secondly, the particular combination of class, gender and age in the development of long distance running, allows us to rethink ageing athletes as engaged in the creation of a new habitus position centered around the management of bodily capital, and the achievement of social and cultural capital.

Uprichard, E.

University of Durham

Children as present and future agents: A realist perspective to children and childhood in changing places

So far, most attempts to understand children and childhood have adopted constructivist perspectives which focus mainly on understanding the ways in which different discursive practices produce different childhoods - childhoods understood as both 'real' and to be the result of the creative production of social life. Children, like adults, are seen as agents - albeit agents who are constrained by structures - who are acting in and upon structures; the structures are themselves subject to historical change. This paper extends these discussions by considering children not only as agents of their daily childhood lives and discourses which are situated in time and place, but by also considering children as agents of their transition to adulthood, and as future adult agents. Drawing upon interview material taken from small group interviews with local school children talking about their imagined future lives in an imagined future city, namely the city of York, the paper argues for a relational understanding to children and childhood as embedded agentic components of the complex set of local systems from which the urban emerges.

Vail, J.

University of Newcastle

The dynamics of market imperialism

Since the establishment of the market economy, it has been a commonplace assertion among social scientists that capitalism has an unparalleled capacity to insinuate its values and practices into the fabric of everyday life. In our contemporary "market society", it is often claimed that the scope of the market has increased exponentially, penetrating into arenas of cultural, political and social life (the body, family and intimate life, nature, public sphere) that had hitherto resisted these imperatives. This market imperialism is thought to be corrosive of non-market relationships and institutions and to generate intolerable levels of inequality and insecurity.

I argue that this process of market imperialism is both theoretically and historically underdeveloped. There has been little systematic analysis that delineates the core dynamics of this process; or explains why certain spheres prove more vulnerable to market incursions than others; or illustrates how the pace and intensity of market imperialism may vary over time; or the range of pre-existing institutions and practices that condition its spread. Nor has there been any substantial comparative historical work that addresses why the domain of the market may be more extensive in some historical epochs than others.

Through the use of paired comparisons drawn from distinct historical periods, I identify robust social mechanisms that account for market imperialism, and explore whether different combinations of these mechanisms may lead to variable cumulative effects. I believe an improved understanding of market imperialism will enhance our ability to design feasible alternatives of decommodification and regulation.

Vrecko, S.

London School of Economics & Political Science

Governing disease, governing desire: Subjectivity and recovery in Alcoholics Anonymous

How have popular conceptions of addiction changed and expanded over time? What are the implications of a person identifying him- or herself as an 'addict'? How has the proliferation of self-help groups altered the way individuals conceive of and regulate their desires and impulses? These are some of the questions this paper investigates. Through an examination of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) - the original Twelve-Step program after which many other programs designed to aid in the recovery of the addict have been modelled - it examines the implications of an alcoholic (and by extension, addictive) subjectivity that seems to necessitate the undertaking of certain regimes of governance, both by addicts / alcoholics themselves and by agents of social regulation or coordination.

Drawing upon historical research, textual analysis of primary documents, and original participant observation studies, this paper elucidates the specific ways in which individuals are themselves called upon to effect changes in their thoughts, attitudes, health, and day-to-day living. It challenges recent sociological accounts which characterize AA as a primarily spiritual or ethical program (e.g., Valverde, 1998; Minnick, 1997). While the treatment of alcoholism is largely undertaken by AA members as personal matters of freedom and choice, the research reported in this paper suggests that individuals form and endeavour to meet standards of physical, moral, mental, and social 'health' in conjunction with professional, scientific, and public authorities.

Wade, A.

University of Leeds

Buffing the pearl: The travails of contemporary mothering

In this paper I consider whether the tensions inherent in being both a person and a mother are becoming more pronounced. We live in a period characterised by the need to 'become what one is' (Bauman, 2002); when self-actualisation has become both democratised and a lived necessity. But the narrative of mothering is a narrative of another as much as that of the self. How easy is it for the two to co-exist? Popular accounts of mothering, whether fictional, journalistic, or polemical, now frequently take the form of a lamentation; an elegy for a lost self, a protest at a loss of self-determination; but neither attempt to transform the associations of mothering with care and selflessness, nor reject the 'banality' (Sage, 2001) of mothering itself whatever its discomforts. Indeed, they are a testimony to the anxious desire to live up to and reproduce some traditional ideal and to achieve success in the form of a career. By drawing on interviews with mothers, their own mothers and their grandmothers, I explore how far these published accounts mirror the experiences of contemporary women, and to what extent the dilemma they express is a new one. I look at the different contexts in which three generations of women have raised their children, explore the meanings motherhood and self fulfilment have had for their lives, their difficulties and satisfactions with the mothering role, and the creative solutions they have found to the task of being themselves whilst committing themselves to the care of another.

Walby, S.

University of Leeds

Complexity theory, realism and path dependency

This paper discusses the implications of complexity theory for sociological theory. In particular it addresses the question as to whether complexity theory is more consistent with a poststructuralist approach, as argued by Cilliers, or a realist approach, as argued by Byrnes. In so doing it addresses issues of probabilism, determinism and emergence, contrasting the Prigogine and Sante Fe schools of complexity theory. It argues that complexity theory transcends this dichotomy in sociological theory. The argument is taken forward by an analysis of the issue of 'path dependency' in comparative macro sociology.

Waldron, C.

University of Nottingham

Women interviewing men: 'The art of "research aikido?"

In contrast to the abundance of literature on the woman-to-woman interview, accounts of the woman-to-man interview are in short supply. This paper, based upon my own experiences of interviewing male steel workers, will address this and seek to stimulate debate upon this often neglected topic. To begin with the paper seeks to explore why the woman-to-man interview has received relatively little attention and will provide a brief overview of the accounts which do exist. It will then move towards a discussion regarding the apparent 'lack of fit' between this literature and my own experiences of interviewing. Rather than focusing solely on gender within the woman-to-man interview, this paper suggests that, particularly in regards to my own research, a different 'reading' can be employed in which class, age, generation, ethnicity and gender are all intertwined.

Walker, C.

University of Sheffield

The everyday role of racism: The perspectives of young Asian women in Sheffield

This paper explores the everyday role of racism. It is based on doctoral research that described and analysed the views young Muslim women from Pakistani backgrounds who lived in the same neighbourhood in Sheffield, with a particular focus on perceptions of identity and belonging. Analysis of their views about the local neighbourhood and the wider city of Sheffield, revealed mundane perceptions of 'racism'. For the young women, 'racism' was a sense of apprehension about encountering racial harassment or violence when out in urban space. White people, particularly strangers, were seen as the likely perpetrators of such abuse. For the young women, this represented their everyday experience of 'racism'. This sense of apprehension was central to the imagination of 'Sheffield'. This was evident in the apparently contradictory description of Sheffield as a place where 'racism' is not a problem. The paper explores how the articulation of belonging in Sheffield, through meanings about racism not being a problem, was a response to underlying, yet pervasive, apprehension about being attacked. 'Racism' did not bar the young women from feeling a sense of belonging, but had a central role in their perspectives about 'home'. Often debates focus on the worst incidents of racist violence. The paper concludes by arguing that if sociology is to comprehend perspectives about everyday life in urban localities (such as the young womens') mundane experiences of racism also need to be recognised.

Wang, Y.H.

Cambridge University

The politics of ethnalisation: Time, space and place

Identity politics in modern societies is influenced by social division, economic hardship, cultural disadvantage and political oppression. It is under these circumstances that our ethnicity is in constant debate. Recently such debate has taken place in relation to the negative consequences of neo-liberal capitalism and the distributive inequalities of social capitals. On these grounds, how might sociology venture to identify the status of ethnicity in the world it seeks to explain? 'Space' can explain to some extent by using the notion of social geography in Frankenberg's (1993) term. Time is another important factor to the vicissitude of ethnicity. As Mac an Ghail (1999) argued, the racialisation in 'place' and 'time' has a long history that, in Taiwan's case, includes the twentieth-century experiences of Chinese diaspora, the migration of Taiwanese, and the urbanism of minority. Banton (1977) used the concept of 'racialisation' to refer to the use of the idea of race to structure people's perceptions of different populations. I adopt the concept of 'ethnalisation' to unravel the relative influence of multiple factors (economics, politics, demography, culture, and ideology) in patterns of 'ethnalised' relations in Taiwan's context. This paper attends to explore the changing processes of 'ethnalisation' of social relations in Taiwan at a time of rapid change. Its main focus is 'the growth of ideologies', in Solomos' (1993) word, which has focused upon ethnicity as an important political symbol, the role of non-Mainlanders political mobilisation and the impact of social and economic restructuring on ethnic and national identities in Taiwan.

Ward, K.J.

University of Sheffield

'I love you to the bones': The 'pro-ana' underground as an 'anti-medical' model of anorexia

The aim of the paper is to suggest that the web based 'pro-ana' (anorexic) underground facilitates the emergence of an 'anti-medical' model of anorexia, and provides intriguing insight into the dynamics of this complex illness as an expressive and oppressive embodied state. Using data collected from girls and women participating in the 'Anagrrl' interactive forum and follow-up individual interviews, it is argued that the pro-ana movement challenges biomedical ideas surrounding the treatment of anorexia, which are characterised by the 'normalisation' of the body shape and weight. By way of contrast, the pro-ana movement focuses on the maintenance of anorexia and the 'rexy' body as a source of stability, comfort and control: a refuge the users have little desire to forfeit. The anti-medical model of anorexia is characterised by manifold inherent complexities and contradictions, indeed central to the pro-ana model is the careful balancing of a 'healthy' and 'anorexic' lifestyle. The underground movement provides guidance and support for those who wish to remain in the 'sanctuary' offered by 'ana', and using the data I will illustrate the way in which the users embrace the pro ana movement in their rejection of conventional approaches to treatment; the radical use of diet pills, which are used to pursue and maintain low body weight; and the consumption of carefully measured 'safe foods', vitamins and supplements to retain a 'healthy' anorexic state.

Webb, P.M.

Edgbaston, Birmingham

The relevance of milieu for understanding cultural production: Beyond subcultures, scenes and neo-tribes

Sara Cohen made a plea for more ethnographies of 'scenes' to "help illustrate the way in which scene's are lived, experienced, and imagined by particular groups within particular situations, and to explore their local, national, and transnational connections" (Cohen, 1999: 249 in Horner and Swiss, Eds. 1999). In this paper I look at the development of Bristol's popular music milieu. Using my research into the music of the city I discuss the use of terms like scene, subculture and tribe. I suggest that the term milieu has more explanatory power and through its theoretical tradition (phenomenology of Schutz, Scheller, Goffman, and Cassirer) is better able to help us understand the gestation of music within particular groups of people. Through an analysis of my research and participation in the musical culture of the city I then situate the term and concept of milieu within more complex connectivities. Looking to the work of Bourdieu (1993), Wacquant (1992 & 2002) and Gurnah (1997) this paper goes some way to developing a theoretical outlook that will provide more illuminatory power for research into these and similar areas. Bruno Latour suggested Actor-Network Theory was a method that went beyond the micro and macro 'dissatisfactions' of traditional sociology (Law and Hassard, 1999: 16) and studied the circulating transformations and translations of networks. I finish the paper by discussing the limits of actor-network theory and how a different approach can overcome the problems of this theory and help our understanding of cultural production.

Webster, A., Brown, N.

University of York

New medical technologies and identities: Reordering the body in time and space

New medical technologies are increasingly at the centre of novel transformations in the corporeal and social body. Whilst reproduction, health, ageing and dying have long been areas for technical intervention, the emergence of molecular biology and information technology raise far-reaching political, social and identity questions that challenge our notions of 'embodiment'. This paper offers a critical analysis of the role and cultural significance of technological innovation in redefining the boundaries of medicine and the body, tracing this process through the figure of "the lifecourse". Anchored in recent work in the sociology of science, the paper illustrates the ways in which the boundaries of time and space associated with the lifecourse are being disrupted by the play of intersecting biomedical and informatic sciences, that change both the personal and wider social sense of embodiment, health and the meaning of illness and disease.

The paper argues that NMTs similarly express both the reproduction of the body-medicine-technology relationship but also its de-construction that may be highly dis-orderly and contingent. Indeed, this is how many patients will experience NMTs - both offering modernist promise of cure and treatment yet simultaneously creating new risks, fears and uncertainties.

West, A., Bloxham, S.

St Martin's College

Playing the assessment game

Students need to understand the assessment process in order to be effective learners in higher education (Elwood and Klenowski, 2002). And, significantly, the QAA has called for greater transparency to ensure that students have access to, for example, assessment criteria (information specific to a piece of assessment) and grade descriptors (statements relating to degree classifications). Until recently such developments have been accepted somewhat uncritically as 'good practice'. Recent research, however, suggests that words are not enough and that students need to be actively inducted into the academic 'community of practice' in order to realise the real benefits of transparent assessment information (Orsmond, Merry and Reiling, 2002; Rust, Price and O'Donovan, 2003). This issue may be particularly pertinent in relation to the widening participation agenda where students may enter higher education without a full understanding of the expectations of work at this level, ultimately leading to poor retention rates amongst non-traditional students (Haggis and Pouget, 2002). This poster reports the results of a project designed to engage students, registered on a Level One undergraduate module in Sport Sociology, in the assessment process. An action research methodology was employed to examine students' perceptions of the value of providing them with an opportunity to blind peer assess their colleagues' work. In addition, quantitative data, in the form of final marks, provided a measure of the relationship between students' ability to mark and their quality of their own work.

Wester, J.R.

Lancaster University

'It's about time: Translating Quantum Theory into a Sociological approach to the study of Death

This paper focuses on a temporal-visual approach to social science utilising aspects of quantum theory to examine the myths and symbols of Western medicine using three forms of time. The aim of this investigation was to elucidate the apparent increasing disparity between public expectation of what end-of-life medical care should entail, and what appears to be the standardised medico-scientific response to death and dying.

Legal, medical and ethical debates regarding end-of-life (eol) medical treatment decisions in the UK have raged for several decades despite such efforts as medical school training aimed at improving doctor-patient communications and developing guidance on withholding and withdrawing life-prolonging medical treatment. Much of the problem appears to be a result of privileging objective scientific a priori knowledge and biomedical technology over subjective individual beliefs about death and dying regarding the eol decision.

By using a temporal approach to examine the symbols of medicine in linear (historical) time, cyclical (sacred/repeatable) time and spiral (relational or combined) time, a dialectical relationship between time and death reveals an institutional cycle of belief about death. Each ideology of death, therefore, emerges as a dominant discourse within this cycle during the Hellenistic, Early Christian, Renaissance, and 20th Century periods; and is signposted by the commensurate medical symbols and concomitant myths. As a result I argue that, although there appears to be a 'superordinate goal' or mission of medicine, there are four distinct medical ideologies of death which can be used to interpret that mission in the eol decision.

Westwood, T., Corbett, K.

St George's Hospital Medical School

'Dangerous and severe personality disorder': An illustration of the risk society within psychiatry

This paper analyses the newly proposed United Kingdom (UK) psychiatric diagnosis of 'dangerous severe personality disorder' ('DSPD'). The analysis aims to show how 'DSPD' characterises Beck's analysis of the 'risk society'. Concepts such as 'dangerousness', 'violence' and 'risk' are critically reviewed in relation to 'DSPD' and are found to be less than objective. The paper interrogates the political underpinnings of this newly proposed diagnosis and analyses pre-existing frameworks of potential utility for developing further understanding of mental health. Key issues are critically discussed in relation to the concept of 'dangerousness' including the reliability of assessment tools, the socio-economic status of those potentially diagnosed and detention without committing any prior offence. The paper also discusses the potential for conflict between the proposed legislation, the UK Human Rights Act 1998, healthcare practice and the likelihood of divided professional loyalties. The paper argues that this newly proposed health policy has a socio-political rather than psychiatric rationale for justifying psychiatric detention and, as such, is an illustration of the late modern culture of risk within the field of mental health.

Wilkinson, K.

University of Nottingham

The challenges of data collection: Women's magazines and their editors, textual analysis and interviewing

The data collection stages for this research project required the collection of an extensive sample of specific magazine content and conducting qualitative interviews with magazine editors. The strategies used to access both interviews with editors and the magazine sample will be outlined and problems experienced during data collection stages will be summarized.

There is a general tendency in cultural sociology to focus research on the 'manifest' text that the mass media produce, overlooking the established production processes on these mediated texts. It is also widely assumed that mass media output is the most obvious and accessible part of the communication process. Many media researchers have found it difficult to secure interviews with editorial staff in this sector. This paper will demonstrate how, in this instance, this precedent was turned on its head.

Wilkinson, L.A.

University of Manitoba, Canada

The labour market entry of immigrant, refugee and native-born youth in Canada

Work is an important activity for the majority of youth. For many, employment is an integral part of transitions throughout the life course and the responsibilities associated with becoming a productive and active citizen. Difficulties associated with youth transitions to the labour market are well documented and include: problems with finding well-paid employment, increasing levels of unemployment, declining wages, and attaining a reasonable standard of living (Betcherman and Lekie, 1997; Baldwin, 1998). While there is recognition that the transition processes may differ by gender (Geller, 1996; Hughes and Lowe, 1993), by socioeconomic status (Bellamy, 1993), Aboriginal status (Gabor et al., 1996), and visible minority status (Perron, 1996; James, 1996), there are no systematic studies of the employment experiences of immigrant-born or refugee-born youth. This is an important omission, especially since a prevailing assumption of many immigration/integration theories is that youth tend to be more successful in the labour market than their parents (Hagan et al., 1996; Isajiw, 1999). While this assumption may be true, the employment experiences of immigrant and refugee youth are largely unknown. This research addresses this knowledge gap by answering the question: What are the labour market experiences of immigrant-born and refugee-born youth and are they similar or different from the experiences of Canadian-born youth? Evidence is based on the statistical analysis of two 1998 databases: the Statistics Canada Survey on Labour and Income Dynamics (N=384 immigrant youth, N=8989 Canadian-born youth) and the Resettlement of Refugees to Alberta Database (N=123 refugee youth).

Will, C.

University of Essex

People, patients, subjects? A psychoanalytic observation method in a clinical research setting.

This paper draws on observations carried out using a psychoanalytic method in two hypertension clinics, one part of a research trial, one in an NHS setting. I explore what this research method might have to offer for a 'sociological' understanding of emotion and institutional culture. The paper considers how far the clinics' cultures were shaped by anxieties about their different primary tasks and argues that there were particular tensions in the trial, located around the tasks of collecting and organising 'data' through contact with individual research subjects. Staff were occupied with emotional work ranging from sustaining a certain liveliness to offering the collective reassurance of personal contact. However, this failed to mask some underlying confusion about their own work and about the position of the research subjects as people, patients or participants.

Willmot, H.

London School of Economics & Political Science

Competitional co-existence between romance and aspects of independence and equality in young women's intimate relationships with men

This paper examines the competition between romance and independence or equality in young women's intimate relationships with men. Based upon interviews with 30 young women which addressed such relationships, this paper will argue that both romantic practices and aspects of independence or equality are important to young women today and that they can conflict within their intimate relationships with men. The argument is illustrated by three case studies that show different forms of conflict between different romantic practices and aspects of independence or equality. The relationship between the young women's resources and both the aspects of independence and equality sought seek and the form of conflict experienced is explored. This paper will critique the argument that romantic love is waning in the face of women's increased autonomy. In conclusion, it will argue that conflict between romance and independence or equality constitutes a part of the widely recognised conflict and contradiction that young women face today in the sphere of intimacy.

Wills, W., Backett-Milburn, K., Gregory, S., Lawton, J.

University of Edinburgh

The perceptions, understandings and negotiation of dietary practices amongst early teenagers living in disadvantaged

The proportion of young people who are overweight or obese has risen substantially over the last 10 years. Evidence suggests that obesity may have its roots in childhood and adolescence and that it is also more prevalent among lower socio-economic groups. Nutritional and general health surveys have mapped out broad trends, patterns and associations between social and dietary variables and associated risk factors. Little is known, however, about the social and cultural processes that may be contributing to these trends. This on-going qualitative study examines young people's perceptions, understandings and their negotiation of dietary practices, drawing upon in-depth interviews with a sample of 36 obese, overweight and average weight 13-14 year olds living in disadvantaged areas of Eastern Scotland.

The study examines what these early teenagers perceive the causes of weight gain and weight loss to be (e.g. genetic influences, socio-economic factors, diet, physical activity, stress etc.), whether these perceptions are gendered, and the extent to which these perceptions of causality are reflected in everyday dietary practices. The study also looks at how much control teenagers perceive themselves as having over their own dietary practices, whether food consumption is an emotive and/or contested issue for them and how they feel about their own and other people's bodies.

Wood, B.

Massey University, New Zealand

Globalisation and the place of Britain in New Zealand television

As one of the most deregulated media markets in the world, New Zealand television is a useful site for exploring the cultural dynamics of globalisation. Prime time may be regarded as a place where countries compete for semiotic presence. This paper analyses shifts in the territory occupied by programmes sourced from the UK. Prior to globalisation, New Zealand television was a state monopoly. UK content levels were on a par with the USA and New Zealand. Since the 1980s, however, the UK's presence has declined to around ten per cent. In the early 1990s, the USA and New Zealand vied for the vacated space, but by 2002 the latter had fallen back to one third while the former had risen to over fifty per cent. The UK has not only been resized, it also has a different meaning. The years of globalisation have seen both change and continuity in its semiotic character. On the one hand, the UK has become more like New Zealand, with declining contributions to both fictional and hybrid programming. The USA now clearly dominates these imaginary and transgressive domains. On the other hand, the UK has continued to be largely excluded from the realm of fact, which remains overwhelmingly New Zealand sourced. Moreover, as in the years of state monopoly, the UK and New Zealand continue to be the leading providers of the more theatrical forms of programming. The paper concludes by considering some implications of this semiotic repositioning.

Woodiwiss, J.

University of York

Politics, responsibility and childhood sexual abuse

This paper will explore ways in which self identified survivors of childhood sexual abuse and false memory syndrome appropriate therapeutic discourses which both encourage women to hold themselves responsible for their own unhappiness and provide a way to alleviate that responsibility.

Although I look critically at women's engagement with abuse narratives the intention is not to enter the 'recovered memory wars' but rather to explore the consequences of locating adult victims of childhood sexual abuse within a therapeutic rather than a political framework. Within this therapeutic culture priority is given to self-actualisation and personal fulfilment and the self is increasingly seen as a project to be worked on. A pervasive theme within the therapeutic literature is a particular linkage between women's 'inferiority' and their oppression. Women are not only shown an array of problems from which they suffer together with self-improving solutions but are encouraged to seek the 'hidden' causes of these problems in the past and to probe further and further back rather than look to the material conditions of their lives for explanations.

Drawing on interview material I will look at how women invest in discourses which encourage them to (re)construct themselves as sick, damaged and ultimately responsible for their own unhappiness. I will then go on to explore possible links between these discourses and the emergence of multiple personalities which both provides an explanation for hidden knowledge of abuse and may offer women a way to alleviate responsibility.

Woods, A.

University of Nottingham

'Accidents just happen': Resolving conflict in the child safety promotion parent-health professional encounter

Because 'accidents' have been banned and everything has become predictable the gulf between parents and their attendant health professional in promoting childhood safety is widening. Forty in depth qualitative interviews were conducted with parents of children and midwives and health visitors recruited to a childhood injury prevention randomised controlled. Interviews were tape recorded and transcribed and the data analysed using the NVIVO data management software.

Safety is a central issue for parents of young children and brings up feelings of guilt, sadness and fear. The decisions they take in keeping their children safe make sense to them and are based on peer and family influence, past experiences and media information. However, these decisions may be at odds with advice given by health practitioners.

For parents there are just some things that don't seem to be preventable and they feel the burden of responsibility when things 'go wrong'. The implications of this for policy and practice will be discussed.

Woolley, R.

University of Western Sydney, Australia

Re-reading Bourdieu: A relational conception of un/certainty

This paper is centred on the construction of a viable life in contexts of uncertain social futures. This struggle is understood as the effort to maintain the stability and durability of those social relations which construct social experience and personal identity as coherent and continuous. The particular focus of the paper is on a reading of the work of Pierre Bourdieu and his key theoretical relation habitus-field. It is argued that Bourdieu's emphasis on a practical 'feel for the game' needs to be understood in terms of the specific empirical studies from which it emerged, particularly the seeming relation of 'good fit' between habitus and field. However, Bourdieu's publication of *La Misere du Monde* (1995) revealed a social world in which it was the multiple disjunctures between habitus and field that took prominence, with their attendant contemporary experiences of social suffering and anxiety. The paper discusses the habitus-field relation as a theoretical tool for interpreting the struggle for coherent and durable social experience, with reference to doctoral research conducted with individuals in their 'middle years' in Sydney, Australia (2003). Whereas embodied 'practical reason' (habitus) can be interpreted as the 'ontological ground' of a sense of social certainty, contemporary social systems are increasingly marked by demands for practical flexibility, cognitive adaptability and the individual capability to strategise (mobilities). Conclusions are drawn about sociological challenges posed by social uncertainties and mobilities and the salience of Bourdieu's key theoretical relation in dealing with these problematics.

Worley, C.

University of Huddersfield

Theorising community, ethnicity and gender in new labour's community cohesion policy agenda

This paper seeks to explore the contemporary New Labour Community Cohesion policy agenda, which emerged following the 'civil disturbances' in Bradford, Oldham, Burnley and Stoke on Trent in 2001. These disturbances exposed tensions around issues of 'race' within communities and the series of reports which followed (The Oldham independent review, The Burnley Task Force report, the Government commissioned Cantle report and The Denham Report) highlighted the lack of integration between different 'communities' within 'communities', whilst also providing a challenge to the dominant model of multiculturalism.

They also prompted massive debate, culminating in the Community Cohesion initiative with a range of Pathfinder Community Cohesion programmes across the country.

This paper will critically explore the Community Cohesion policy initiative, particularly exploring New Labour's usage of 'community' and its links to the third way, alongside an examination of the inter related dimensions of gender and ethnicity. The paper will draw upon qualitative field research conducted in a Community Cohesion pathfinder area, using data gathered from interviews with those involved at the level of policy/service delivery (policy officers, community cohesion workers) and the local community towards which the initiative is being directed. The research is located at the intersection of applied sociology, feminist theory and ethnicity studies, and the paper will address theoretical concerns through a reconsideration of questions of gender, ethnicity and 'race' in relation to broader questions of community, structural inequality and power.

Wray, S., Deery, R.

University of Huddersfield

'Fatness' as an embodied expression of oppression in the health care setting

This paper explores the issue of what it means to be 'fat' for women in western (British/North American) society. Contemporary gendered bio-medical discourse dominates attitudes towards body shapes and sizes (Bordo, 1995). In this, fatness is constructed as 'clinical obesity' and associated with risk-taking behaviour. Under the rhetoric of 'health', a large body size becomes symbolic of self-indulgence and moral failure (Duncan and Weitz, 1998). This, in turn, leads women to question their sense of self and their rights to adequate health care. This paper argues the use of medical knowledge and definitions of fatness have pathologised and stigmatised women's bodies, affecting women's access to and experience of health care (Carryer, 2001).

Further, the over reliance of health professionals on bio-medical knowledge has legitimised unhelpful diagnostic labels and categories and led to oppressive practices. The purpose of this paper is threefold. First, to challenge rigid hegemonic bio-medical perspectives on 'fatness' and the oppressive unequal power relations they create. Second, to examine the process by which such perspectives come to be the only legitimate discourse. Third, to question the impact of fatness as a pathological illness defined as 'obesity' on women's perceptions of their bodies and experiences of health care.

Yuill, C.

The Robert Gordon University

The body as weapon: Bobby Sands and the republican hunger strikes

The Republican Hunger Strike of the 1980's marked an important shift in the policy and practice of the Republican Movement in Northern Ireland. Bobby Sands' election as an MP, while on hunger strike, indicated a shift to the ballot box and an increased acceptance that there was a 'parliamentary road' to achieve a united Ireland. The main expression of Republican politics and resistance was through the bodies of the hunger strikers. Within Republicanism particularly and within Catholicism generally there is a tradition of expressing pain and suffering through bodily denial, sacrifice and martyrdom. After the Easter Rising Republican leader Pearse warned the British authorities that by leaving so many martyred Irish dead the British would eventually face defeat in Ireland. Catholicism also has a strong emphasis on the suffering of Christ and the pain and passion involved in his execution. This paper will seek to sociologically explore the reasons behind the hunger strike and its particularly social and cultural significance. Drawing on Bourdieu's notion of habitus and Elias' ideas on civilising the body it will be argued that there exists a habitus of bodily sacrifice within Republicanism derived from its history and close association with Catholicism. Comments will also be made as to why and how a hunger strike and the 'dirty process' made such an impact on contemporary society by inverting accepted modes of bodily behaviour.