

PAPER/POSTER ABSTRACTS

listed in alphabetical order of first author

Aapola, S.

University of Helsinki

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/020

Fast-forward? - Young people transgressing cultural age-orders

In this presentation, the aim is to explore the diversification of young people's transitions towards adulthood, and its social consequences. The focus is on a particular group of young adults, who have transgressed normative cultural age orders by making early transitions within at least one life-sphere. This group includes, among others, young mothers, as well as those who have moved away from home at an early age, and those who have finished their education earlier than average, and furthermore those who have acquired status positions at a young age, such as successful young athletes.

The theoretical framework in this ongoing postdoctoral study is based on a discourse analytical approach to dimensions of age. The cultural definitions and social meanings of age, as well as connections to gender and social background, are explored. Age is seen as a socially constructed, contextually defined and multi-dimensional phenomenon that needs further exploring in social sciences both empirically and theoretically. (See Aapola 2002.)

The data in this research project is derived, on the one hand, from Finnish media, and, on the other, from biographical interviews with Finnish young people from various backgrounds. In this way, both public representations of young transgressors and their own conceptualizations of their life-situation are included in the research. The data is analyzed from a critical discourse analytical perspective.

Adams, M.

University of Brighton

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Reflexivity and tradition: A critique of the individualisation thesis

The individualization/risk society thesis relies on an account of increased reflexivity at an individual and institutional level, to make sense of contemporary identity. This paper is intended as a critical exploration of that premise. The paper will first summarise the concept of reflexivity and its centrality to the individualization/risk society thesis of Beck, Bauman, Giddens and others. It will then discuss how, in accounts of contemporary individualised risk societies, traditional or 'pre-modern' selves are conceived of as stubbornly non-reflexive, individuality limited by long-established religious cosmologies and social orders into which specific existences neatly slot. But is this a sociologically and historically accurate representation? The paper will reflect the author's initial research into the reflexivity of 'traditional' identity. It will draw on a range of sociological research and analysis, illustrations and examples, to sketch an alternative picture of 'traditional' identity, one in which reflexivity plays a more constitutional role. 'Traditional' settings may not have been as clearly marked by an absence of reflexivity as accounts of individualisation suggest; subsequently, it will be claimed that current theorisations of identity drawing on the individualisation thesis rely on a systematic simplification and misrepresentation of 'traditional' identity. It will be argued that combined with existing critiques of the exaggerated role of reflexivity in contemporary accounts, the reassessment of traditional identity could offer the basis for a powerful corrective to the conceptual foundations of the individualisation thesis, and invigorate the sociology of identity and the life-course in the context of social change.

Allan, H.T., Bryan, K., Henry, L., Larsen, J., Mackintosh, M.M., Smith, P.A.

Eltham Health Service, University of Surrey

Caring

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/002

Challenging the vocational nature of nursing: The effects overseas nurses' migration to the UK

This paper discusses the effects of migration of overseas nurses on caring practices in the UK. It explores two questions which arise from these social changes: how is caring transformed by the migration of overseas nurses? How do overseas nurses influence caring discourses in the UK?

In an increasingly competitive global labour market, the UK is faced with a nursing shortage and has been recruiting trained nurses from abroad (NMC 1993-2002). We argue that this trend presents challenges for British nursing practice, which has been shaped by a discourse of caring which locates the 'essence' of caring within a moral normative framework.

This paper is based on data from two linked studies. The first was commissioned by the Royal College of Nursing in the UK into the experiences of overseas trained nurses in the UK (Allan et al 2003). The second is funded by the European Social Fund into career progression and equal opportunities of overseas nurses and other health care professionals in the UK.

The data suggests that overseas nurses have their own moral frameworks, which are both shaped by and challenge the normative British moral framework and caring practices. Two examples of how overseas nurses' moral frameworks challenge British caring practices are the way in that hierarchy in the nursing system is experienced in the UK and how nursing may be used as a career strategy which challenges the assumption that nursing and caring are vocational career choices in the UK.

Allatt, P.

University of Teesside

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L002

"It used to be so perfect and mapped out": A life course perspective on changing perspectives of the life course as seen by young people and their families

This paper concerns today's twisting kaleidoscope of career strands that constitute young people's life course - schooling, leisure, domestic, work etc - and the response of young people and their families, particularly parents, to its repatterning. The lived experience of these changes is explored by focussing on the educational strand amongst young people in late-adolescence and the implications for family processes. From a life course perspective, this period is one of transitions and turning points; it carries notions of trajectories, young people's own futures, pasts and presents as well as those with whom their lives intersect - kin and others. The approach also offers a conceptual link between micro and macro events and change, encompasses structure and agency, and gives a place to individualization, risk and uncertainty. Conceptually and empirically, we integrate a life course approach with the themes of family resources and supports for young people, normative expectations, and wider social changes. We set educational careers within reconfigured life course strands to illuminate, in the family context, social identities and the changing experience of being young.

The data are drawn from a qualitative ESRC study: Youth, Family and Education: the Formation of the Independent Learner within the ESRC Research Programme: Youth, Citizenship and Social Change. Set in the North East of England in an FE college and a community college, the study tracked independent learning from educational settings into the home. Data, collected in 1999-2000, comprised interviews with teachers, young people and their parents, classroom observation, and visual material.

Allender, P.

Coventry University

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Class, regional difference and higher education

This paper is based upon my contrasting experiences of coming from a Northern, working class background, on the one hand, and being an academic in the South, on the other. The North-South divide in England was exacerbated during the 1980's and remains an important signifier of economic, social and political inequalities and differences. I grew up in an industrial part of Sheffield in South Yorkshire and became an academic in Canterbury in Kent. There are huge cultural differences between these two cities, some of which I will explore in the paper. Before Canterbury I lived in London, and after it I continued to be an academic in Oxford.

My lived experience of the inequities of class involves regional differences as much as it does class differences. I have lived in the North and South of England for exactly 24 years each. The contrasts between the two regions are tremendous, particularly as regards social values. The dominant social values of the North are collective in orientation while in the South they are individualist. Whilst this is a sweeping generalization which reduces the complexities of the actual social realities, nevertheless I believe it to be an accurate characterization of the North-South divide. The main differences between the North and the South are not poverty and wealth, important though these are, but instead the social responses of the inhabitants of the respective region to prevailing economic conditions. The paper will focus upon these differences with reference to aspects of my experiences.

Almack, K.

University of Nottingham

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L005

"Seeking sperm: Access and motivations relating to lesbian couples' use of donor insemination"

This presentation draws upon data from qualitative research with 20 lesbian parent families in the UK, where couples have had children using donated sperm. The two main routes of conception used by women in this study were donor insemination at a clinic (DI) or by private arrangement with a donor - commonly referred to as self-insemination (SI). I discuss how lesbians have been able to make use of (and subvert) knowledge of assisted reproduction in order to have children. Respondents' accounts of the decision-making involved in using donated sperm highlight a diverse range of issues. Some of these relate to the practicalities of finding a donor, such as locating a clinic that will accept lesbian couples or finding a man willing to donate sperm. Practicalities aside, respondents' decisions were also highly influenced by the ways in which different sources of donated sperm impact upon how their families are defined and the potential of involvement (if any) of the donor in these families. In these considerations, I discuss how respondents negotiate the biological and social dimensions of the family relationships created and respond to the popular and public discourses around the legitimacy of the lesbian parent family created by donor insemination.

Antcliff, V., Saundry, R., Stuart, M.

University of Central Lancashire

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Individualisation, collectivism and the management of risk in a freelance labour market: The case of the UK television industry

Successive legislation throughout the 1980s and 90s, designed to reduce regulation and introduce competition to the UK television industry, has resulted in casualisation of the employment relationship and a largely 'freelance', project-based labour market for television production workers. Research suggests that a web of informal networks, word-of-mouth recruitment and repeated contracting among groups of individuals underpins freelance employment in television. A complex relationship exists therefore between individualised competition, collaboration and co-operation. Thus while individualisation is pervasive in the television industry, there is also evidence of workers acting collectively to defend their interests and to manage the risks associated with freelance employment. The paper draws on qualitative and quantitative data from an ESRC funded project to investigate the role of networks in the representation of workers interests.

Data from a series of interviews with trade union officials, industry representatives and television production workers are used to explore the range of mechanisms that freelance workers employ to defend and pursue their interests. A picture emerges of individuals and organisations reacting to counterbalance the individualising effects of casualisation. This is evident in the response of existing institutions such as trade unions and the emergence of new forms of collective organisation. Individual workers pick and choose between these collective resources, constructing a network of associations that best represent their personal interests. From this perspective distinctions between individualism and collectivism become less important and attention is focused on the interplay between the two in individual risk management strategies.

Arber, S., Daly, T., Vandrevalla, T., Hampson, S.

University of Surrey

Caring

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/002

"Doing gender" and attitudes towards life prolongation in later life

Attitudes towards the use of life prolonging medical technologies used to increase life span at the final stages of life are profoundly gendered. Older women are much less likely than older men to support the use of CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation), ventilation, and artificial (tube) feeding in general and for themselves.

The paper uses data from a novel study of late life decision making conducted in SE England (funded by Nuffield Foundation) to explore the reasons for this gender difference. Detailed interviews were conducted with equal numbers of older men and women (aged 65+, n=69), and the person identified as their confidant. The majority of the 53 confidants interviewed were also above age 65.

Approximately two-thirds of older men were in favour of life prolonging medical technologies in general and being applied to themselves, compared with under a third of older women. However, there was no gender difference in the attitudes of confidants. The paper uses qualitative data from the interviews to show how older women's attitudes are associated with their gender identity. Their reasons are other-orientated, particularly not wishing to be a burden on others and linked to their experience of caring for others. Most older men's attitudes are embedded in a self-oriented discourse, related to control and their desires for longer life or their own quality of life. The discourse of women who are confidants emphasises that their attitudes are framed by their perception of the wishes of the other about life prolongation.

Archer, L., Hollingworth, S., Halsall, A.

London Metropolitan University

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/T007

"University's not for me - I'm a Nike person": Inner-city young peoples' negotiations of "new" class identities and educational engagement

The promotion of increased post-16 educational participation among working class groups is a key feature within New Labour educational policy. However, such policies have largely represented working class young people in negative/ pathologised terms, as deficient, 'lacking' and/or misguided. This paper examines how working class, inner-city young people interpret and negotiate educational policy discourses through the mobilisation of classed, racialised and gendered identity discourses.

We draw on empirical data from an ongoing project concerned with tracking the identities, aspirations and post-16 routes of a cohort of 50 ethnically diverse inner city young people who have been identified as 'at risk of dropping out' of education. Following the work of Savage (2000) and Skeggs (2004), we explore disjunctures and continuities between young people's own multifarious classed identity constructions and the structural impact of class within their lived educational experiences. In particular, we trace how 'new' languages of class that are organised around consumption (Kenway & Bullen 2001) and the denial of class are mobilised to resist policy discourses and interventions that are aimed at raising working class post-compulsory participation. We also attempt to unpick the complex ways in which young people negotiate 'culturally entangled' (Hesse 2000) contemporary inner city identities within educational spaces (e.g. 'twisting' between authenticity and pretension). The paper concludes by discussing the material and symbolic injustices that educational policies enact on working class young people and examines the implications for those who buy into the New Labour meritocratic aspirational 'dream' and those who resist.

Arksey, H., Harris, D.

University of York

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L006

The neutralisation of risk by students in higher education

Higher education institutions have been neglected as key arenas for the experience of risk. Most existing literature discusses this experience in terms of the 'study problems' exhibited by students of non-typical or unconventional background, which generally call for course design remedies or student support policies. Considering the problems faced by unconventional student in terms of risk helps reconceptualise these common approaches. It can be argued that students - in particular mature and overseas students - face risks in a particular form. Not only are their earlier identities and competencies challenged, but higher education itself can provide a corrosive reflexivity which can limit conventional forms of management of these risks.

The paper draws upon a review of the literature on risk, including some work on how participants in risky leisure pursuits both experience and manage risk, and can even experience it as a form of pleasure. Some current work on the 'normalization' and 'neutralisation' of deviant activity such as illegal drug-taking is also informative.

The authors are currently engaged in research on students' experiences of higher education, and some preliminary results will be presented. These suggest that activities important to future employability, such as giving presentations and team working, involve risk; perversely, students tend not to take advantage of study skills courses. The risks entailed in balancing academic work with a social life, whilst simultaneously staying out of debt, require fine management. The implications of the key themes emerging from the data for the body of literature on risk will be considered.

Ball, S.J., Vincent, C.

Institute of Education

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Middle class children, class dispositions and "legitimate culture": Living class experience in care and education

Drawing on an ESRC funded study of middle class families choosing child care this paper explores aspects of the habitus, dispositions and practices of families in different fractions of the middle class as they organise and plan the care and education of their children. In particular we will look at the efforts of these families which are devoted to cultural transmission and the inculcation of the capacity to recognize 'legitimate culture' - as Bourdieu calls it - or 'taste'. In doing this we will seek in particular to understand the relationship of the middle classes to the 'legitimate arts' and to highlight the importance of what Bourdieu calls 'the conditions for acquiring' and 'classificatory practices' which are embedded in schemes of appreciation and perception. We will also attend to differences between class 'inheritors' and class 'newcomers'. The paper uses material from interviews and re-interviews with 59 middle class families in two localities in London conducted over a two year period.

Banks, M.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/010

Aspects of moral economy and cultural work

This paper critically examines conventional assumptions about the (im)moral character and effects of cultural work. In doing so I draw on the recent work of Andrew Sayer and his efforts to re-instate the notion of 'moral economy' to debates around the relative status and intersections of the 'economic' and the 'cultural'. A rekindling of interest in moral values may, as Sayer suggests, fly in the face of much post-modern and post-structural thinking and what he calls the fashionable 'refusal of normativity', but is clearly stimulated by a concern to move beyond the stale confines of a debate that tends to see all values as either instrumental or purely aesthetic. It is suggested that contemporary capitalism is a sufficiently imperfect operation to accommodate a broad range of moral-political values that will potentially effect a diversity of outcomes at the level of practice - drawing on work in Manchester, UK the paper examines conditions under which cultural entrepreneurs are engaged in moral (or immoral) work; that is the extent to which they are consciously or unconsciously engaged in good or bad forms of practice (in terms of management and organisation), exhibit moral/immoral ways of acting towards others, and negotiate the balance or trade off between holding instrumental or non-instrumental values.

Barron, C.

Simon Fraser University, Canada

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Goodricke College G/020

"Nasty girls": The impact of the risk society on female young offenders

The current moral panic that young female aggression is a serious problem in need of attention has contributed to demands by the public and the government for harsher penalties for violent offenders. However, in conjunction with the current punitive modalities and mentalities that govern the youth justice system, the construction of risk profiles on young offenders signals the emergence of actuarial technologies in correctional-based programs. Stemming from the need to ground risk theories in empirical research (Lupton, 1999), this paper will present the findings from my doctoral research which questions the impact of risk rationality on young female offenders. How do girls understand their 'risk factors' as presented by expert knowledges? What does treatment and 'rehabilitation' mean in the age of risk management? How are systems of representations such as gender, race, age and sexuality influenced by risk logics? Utilizing the method of "grounded theory", the data collection for the study includes in-depth interviews with twenty-three young women incarcerated for a violent offence and with twenty-four Correctional authorities. This paper will challenge the assertion by some youth justice experts that we need improved risk assessment tools for violent girls, without questioning how these management techniques potentially depoliticize the process of social control and further marginalize young female offenders.

Bartley, M., Head, J., Stansfeld, S.

University College London

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Early motion environment, attachment style and adult adaptation in the Whitehall II study

Several social commentators have suggested that individuals in the late 20th century were required to adapt to a more individualized social environment, as family, region and occupation became less reliable predictors of the life course and so a less secure source of identity. Under these circumstances, the individual is more reliant on the sense of self that has been developed during early childhood. Attachment theory offers one perspective on the ways in which early experience of relationships with carers may influence security of identity in adult life. According to this theory, where a child has had a satisfactory experience of early nurture, the young person develops a 'secure attachment style' in which they value relationships to others and are good at making and maintaining such relationships without becoming excessively dependent upon them. Less favorable experiences in early life may result in other attachment styles, in particular these may result as 'anxious', 'avoidant' or 'dismissive'. In this paper we offer for the first time a description of the distribution of attachment styles in a large sample of adult working men and women. We examine gender and social class differences in attachment styles, how these relate to recalled early life experiences of emotional and material deprivation and parenting styles, and the relationships between attachment styles and mental health in adulthood.

Bennett, T., Savage, M., Silva, E.B., Warde, A., Gayo-Cal, M., Wright, D.A.V.

The Open University

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Cultural capital and the cultural field in contemporary Britain

This paper presents a preliminary analysis of the survey component of an ESRC project on Cultural Capital and Social Exclusion focused on the relations of culture and class in contemporary Britain. It draws on the data produced by a national survey of the cultural activities, preferences and knowledges of 1700 UK residents. Administered in 2003-4, the survey constitutes an expansion and revision of that used by Bourdieu in *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. In presenting this data, the paper will examine the organisation and distribution of cultural capital within and across different components of the cultural field in contemporary Britain. Attention will be paid to aspects of the following fields: the art, music and literary fields, the media field, the culinary field, and the sports-embodiment field and to the correlations of tastes that are discernible within each of these as well across the relations between them. The distinctive form that the relations between different kinds of popular and elite tastes take within different fields will be considered, as will their positions relative to one another in the formation of distinctive kinds of cultural capital. In summarising the project's findings in these regards, the paper will also consider the respects in which they qualify Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical formulations of cultural capital. Their bearing on subsequent debates - Richard Petersen's account of omnivorous taste cultures and the literature on distinctive sub-cultural forms of cultural capital, for example - will also be considered.

Bhopal, K., Myers, M.

University of Greenwich

Open

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/010

"Because they're black they're better off than us" - Gypsy travellers, social exclusion and marginalisation

This paper will discuss current research on Gypsy Travellers, which is being carried out in one London Borough in a primary and a secondary school. The research aims to explore the complex issue of the social status of Gypsy Travellers in society, focusing on themes of social exclusion and marginalisation and examining these within the context of educational achievement. Whilst much of the research on Gypsy Travellers has explored and examined an under researched group and 'given voice' to the community, the present research aims to ask what role education plays in the social exclusion process for Gypsy Travellers. Sixteen secondary (8 boys and 8 girls), sixteen primary (8 boys and 8 girls) children, their parents and members of the Traveller Education Service as well as teachers and senior management team in schools are participating in the research. This paper will discuss some of the preliminary findings of the study. It will focus on the issue of 'the other' and how some Gypsy Traveller pupils articulate their position within society and the school setting, in particular their position in relation to that of other black minority ethnic groups. It will examine the extent to which some Gypsy Travellers have learnt to identify and align themselves with (both politically and socially) white working class groups in the area. It will also explore how one particular school deals with issues of race and racism from Gypsy Travellers towards non-white minority ethnic groups and whether this is or can be effective.

Bishop, L.

University of Essex

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Oot o' the Groun' and Intae a Pot: A sociological study of fresh and processed food consumption

This paper uses secondary analysis of qualitative data to explore historical shifts in the consumption of, and attitudes toward, processed food. With processed food implicated in health risks such as obesity and hypertension, why did it become a staple of the modern British diet? Food practices are purportedly slow to change and in the 1950s, relatively little processed food was available. However, within thirty years, processed food had become a large and rapidly growing proportion of the British diet. How did this shift occur so quickly? Factors such as women's paid work, the domestic division of labour, and concentration in retail food industries will be considered. Three data collections have been identified for secondary analysis. The first has 444 interviews with residents of Great Britain born between 1870 and 1908. The cluster sample was stratified by region and class. Questions were asked about types of food eaten and use of home processing methods such as bread making.

The second collection contains interviews with 46 Scottish women born between 1915 and 1935. These women were asked about the role of food in their children's health. Respondents commented on the relative "goodness" of home-cooked compared to processed foods. The third collection has nearly 200 interviews with people born between 1930 and 1955. Questions about food were asked, however, the food-specific data are more sparse. This paper also has methodological implications for assessing the value of secondary analysis in revealing the historical underpinnings of the contemporary consumption of processed food.

Black, P.

University of Sussex

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/T007

"How did I get here?" Living class in UK universities

Social class may be understood as reflecting objective social location. This is most often measured according to economic and employment factors, although cultural aspects of social class are increasingly incorporated into definitional schema. In particular, Bourdieu's framework drawing on the metaphors of capital to trace the intricate and complex trajectories of class has allowed economic, social and cultural forms of capital to be acknowledged. There is also space here for an understanding of the psychological elements of class location. This paper will take the notion of class trajectory through the life course and understand Bourdieu's schema in an auto/biographical form. In particular the experience of working in British Higher Education is explored through the lens of movement from (a broadly defined) working class to a middle class location. In so doing the concept of class is interrogated and understood both through auto/biography and by drawing on Bourdieu's concepts. Policy transformations in British HE are also examined in relation to their implications for class and their differential impacts upon academic staff from varied class backgrounds.

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

University of Leicester

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/010

"Dedicated followers of fashion? The influence of popular culture on children's social identities"

This paper examines the extent to which popular culture acts as a key influence and reference point in the lives of children, with particular focus on the concept of 'fashion' and the consequent consumption of children's clothes. In doing so, this paper identifies two substantive aspects of popular culture which appear influential on the desires of children to construct and present a 'fashioned body'. The first influence is sport, including the activity itself, the associated brands and logos, and the styling of popular sports stars themselves, and the second is pop music, its stars, their videos, their outfits, overall image and lifestyle, and their own clothing lines. Such influences are further related to cultural intermediaries such as television and print media, all providing key sources of information for children about the role of fashion and the consumption of image. This paper will go on to show how popular culture influences interact with children in complex, highly nuanced ways: they can, for example, impact on the clothing/body interface, altering children's self-styling and the presentation of their identity; influences can be used to help create a perspective on clothing, helping a child to formulate ideas and express opinions, and; they can drive new 'wants' and purchases, initiate shopping trips and encourage children to select their clothes according to current trends or certain 'looks'. We conclude that the concept of 'fashion' and its portrayal within certain aspects of popular culture plays a key role in defining children's social identities.

Bornat, J.

The Open University

Methods

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/002

Recycling the evidence: Different approaches to the reanalysis of oral history data

In 1991 Professor Margot Jefferys and two colleagues interviewed 'pioneers of geriatric medicine' of whom 60 were geriatricians. These data are now on disk and can be searched digitally. The interviews were long and focussed on the careers of the doctors in terms of their personal successes and their ability to make the undervalued field of elder care into a respectable discipline in academic and practical medicine.

The reanalysis of data for different purposes is an increasingly important methodological issue. This paper introduced the original data and identifies ethical and conceptual issues in multimethod working for secondary data analysis. Finally it considers what can be learned

Brehony, K.J., Goodman, J., Egan, B.

Roehampton University

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Life and career trajectories in early childhood education: An academic field in formation?

The paper reports on in-depth life history interviews with a sample of key figures in the academic field of early childhood studies. Recently, early childhood has become a prime target for policies that are tied to the social inclusion agenda which have given rise to a demand for an expanded work force. While much of this work force is notoriously poorly paid and poorly qualified there has been a significant expansion in courses provided within universities for workers within the sector. These, in turn, have expanded the academic fields of early childhood education and the relatively new field of early childhood studies. The principal figures in the field are, as might be expected in a feminised occupation, overwhelmingly women but the research also will include interviews with men who occupy or have occupied senior posts within the academy. The paper is concerned with the way the expansion of the field was perceived by the interviewees in order to illuminate the processes of professionalisation and of competition for academic and social capital within the academy. A further concern is the interviewees' experience of academic mobility and their perceptions of the relationship between the emergent field and policy formation and implementation aimed at children in their early years. The interviews have been interrogated to reveal the extent to which they provide evidence of the fragmentation of ideas within the field, diversity of social backgrounds of the agents within it and the pedagogical and career risks taken by the interviewees.

Brooks, R.

University of Surrey

Youth Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

Young graduates, education and training

Various quantitative studies, such as the National Adult Learning Survey, have pointed to considerable differences by level of educational qualification in attitude to and participation in adult or 'lifelong' learning. Indeed, they suggest that graduates are more likely than other groups to engage in adult learning, generally, and to be motivated to do so by the intrinsic interest of the subject matter. However, exploring the wider meaning attached to participation in such activities has been outside the remit of these studies. In an attempt to redress this gap, this paper draws on life history interviews with 30 recent graduates from two higher education institutions (with different market positions) to consider the significance they attribute to taking part in post-HE learning and the role they perceive it playing in their lives in the future. The paper focuses, in particular, on the extent to which decisions about post-university education and training can be seen as consonant with 'individualized' life plans, and the degree of similarity between these decisions and previous processes of 'educational choice' in the respondents' lives.

Brownlie, J., Anderson, S.

Stirling University

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Where to now for "anti-smacking"? Re-thinking parent-child relations

It has recently been argued that 'anti-smacking' campaigns have been so successful that 'explicit pro-smackers' are now thin on the ground (Alderson, 2003: 175). Yet the use of physical chastisement remains widespread.

One response to this contradiction is to move the debate 'beyond anti-smacking' (Alderson, 2003) by focusing less on parents and more on children's rights. However, if even for the instrumental reason that it is easier to protect children if parents are 'on board', understanding why it is parents resist or, at least, are inhibited from taking on a children's rights perspective might be useful. Drawing on data from a study of parents' experiences and perceptions of physical chastisement, commissioned by the Scottish Executive in 2002, we suggest that for parents, disciplining is inextricably caught up with deeply-held practices and beliefs about parenting and about children in general, including an understanding of children as objects of socialisation rather than social persons and, relatedly, of parents as completely responsible and accountable for how their children 'turn out'. At the same time, parents are also aware of the changing socio-economic context of parenting and their focus on the perceived pressures they face in the era of 'flexible adulthood' (Lee, 2001) acts to move them further away from a children's rights perspective. Whilst debates about children's rights have been informed by processes of individualisation and individuation, debates about physical chastisement suggest that a focus on interdependencies - in particular, the nature of the caring relationships between parents and children - is also necessary.

Burgess, A.,

University of Kent

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The internet, risk creation and individualisation: The strange case of the rumour that mobile phones can cause petrol station explosions

In many countries mobile phone use is banned at petrol stations, adding to the uncertain sense in which mobile phones are understood to pose a health risk. In so far as an explanation for the ban is forthcoming, petrol station attendants will tell you that the ban is based upon the real possibility that the phone's battery might cause a spark and ignite petrol vapours. In some cases this is backed up with rumours of unspecified, but actual incidents. In fact the chances of such an occurrence have been shown to be virtually negligible and not warranting further investigation. But an internet rumour from 1999 has reported alleged incidents where explosions have taken place, and this rumour has subsequently been elaborated upon and turned into hoax e mails from major oil companies. Partly as a result even most fire personnel still believe that mobiles can cause explosions. It appears that the source of these rumours is often lower level staff at oil companies themselves, who uncritically send on and even 'sex up' stories and videos they receive alleging such incidents. In an important twist to this tale, there have been a number of fire incidents at petrol stations - mainly in the USA - but these have been caused by body static, not mobile phones. Many of the rumours apparently showing a mobile phone igniting petrol vapours are actually incidents involving static. As is often the case risk rumour is here not pure invention but a twisting of the truth.

Burkitt, I.

University of Bradford

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Flexible biographies: Fragmentation, crisis and biographical narratives in modernity

My aim in this paper is to situate biographical narratives and social identity in the historical times and places of 'flexible capitalism' and 'liquid modernity', which has created fragmentation and recurrent crises within the life-course. The end of economic conditions that provided 'jobs for life' has meant the collapse of long-term time frames and created a necessity for people to move from place to place to seek out work or progress in a career. This has fragmented individual biographies and narratives, by breaking up the structures of time, place and social relations in which biographies were traditionally located. I assess the effects of this fragmentation and the continual creation of crises in the life-course through the analysis of biographical narratives drawn from research subjects. From this and other supporting data I suggest that profound change is occurring in individual biographies, which is highly variable depending on social class position. However, it is still possible to develop life strategies and reconstruct narratives in ways that resist some of the more corrosive aspects of flexible capitalism eating away at the fabric of social identities across the life-course. This serves as both confirmation and critique of aspects of current social theory about the fragmented and fluid nature of contemporary social life and identities.

Burnett, J.

University of East London

Methods

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/002

The problem of researching generational memoryware: Using time lines in group contexts

Working with memory may be a desired element of researching collective and individual biographies, yet doing so presents considerable methodological problems at every step of the research process. In exploring the sociology of generation, I researched a sample of people then in their thirties using focus groups to generate data related to memory, consciousness and meanings. While I could refer to earlier studies which claim the cohort specificity of memory, such as Scott and Zac (1992), I decided to adapt a Time Line exercise in focus groups to explore what Mannheim (1927) considered to be the binding power of time remembered, by which I hoped to demonstrate how generational actors have biographies located in history (Mills 1970).

The Time Line exercise was adapted from Weisbord and Janoff's (1995) method, (deployed by them as part of a strategic planning and renewal process in different communities in America), which encourages and enables communities to share diverse and sometimes conflicting accounts of the past.

The paper will begin by considering the problem of researching generational memory. Next I will consider the use of Time Lines, and briefly report its findings, before concluding that a new concept of memory may be needed when working with cohort specific narratives, for which I suggest the concept of memoryware.

Bytheway, B.

Open University

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/010

Age identities and the celebration of birthdays

This paper will focus on chronological age and how it has become the basis of age categorisation both in research and in bureaucratic practices. Within most contemporary cultures, age identities are based upon 'age at previous birthday'. As a consequence, age is perceived to be numerical and to increase by one unit as we reach each successive birthday. Over the course of the last century a huge industry has developed to service the celebration of birthdays. Many of us are made to feel 'special' by family and friends, particularly when it is a 'special birthday'. And yet, both as a reminder of ageing and as a re-categorisation of age, birthdays in adulthood are associated with a complex array of ageist responses and experiences.

This paper is based on research funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (RES-000-22-0566). It draws on evidence generated by the ONS Omnibus Survey and by the Mass-Observation Archive at the University of Sussex. Thus it combines data from the extremes of the quantitative/qualitative axis. The paper will conclude with recommendations regarding further research into ageism and age discrimination.

Cable, N., Sacker, A.

University College London

Caring

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/002

Adolescent binge drinking and adult problematic drinking

Problematic drinking behaviour is a major social epidemic in the UK costing the nation financially as well as damaging individual well-being. This study aims to examine the link between adolescent binge drinking and adult problematic drinking and the factors associated with these two drinking behaviours. We used the 1970 British Cohort Study data from age 16 and age 30 to test gender specific models explaining adult problematic drinking in relation to adolescent binge drinking.

Common to both females and males, adolescent binge drinking was more likely if they started drinking with friends at an early age, had more spending money, their peers drank more and they liked drinking. Factors specific to females include girl's worries about their father's perception of themselves, their communication with their parents about spare time use and parental acceptance; protective factors specific to males were receiving an alcohol educational program and time spent with their father.

Adult problematic drinking was almost exclusively accounted by levels of adult psychological distress followed by a lone partnership status. A weak link between binge drinking and being a problematic drinker in adulthood was found only among women. Other adolescent factors that are starting drinking with friends at an early age, poorer parental social class and father's high level of drinking, predicted adult male problematic drinking. In sum, binge drinking in adolescence was only a risk for adult problematic drinking in women. Psychological distress appears to be the key determinant of adult problematic drinking in both men and women.

Carbonnel, W.

University of Wolverhampton

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L001

It could be you!/Nobody is safe

The modern horror of isolated individuation is transformed by consumerism into a thousand tiny anxieties; scarcely differentiated but already commodified, prefigured by the availability of market solutions, articulated only in the language of commerce.

Expressions of personal discontent flow along an uncertain continuum: from violent rejection to hyper-conformity, from serial killing to serial dieting, from shopping sprees to shooting sprees. The dominant understanding of the spectacular male deviant is dictated by pop-psychological infotainment, often endorsed by governments and law enforcement agencies. Abstract and essentialist typologies and profiles, saturated with sexological and pseudo-psychoanalytic reduction, construct the deviant as type of person: the failed individual with failed sexuality (Ryan, Hamilton, Dahmer) or failed personal mythology (Bryant, Klebold and Harris). Yet such people are distinctive only in terms of the proportionality or disproportionality of their acts, not by the normality or pathology of identities or selves.

Thus an attempt is made to redress a long-standing imbalance in sociology of neglecting to theorise meaning-rich, non-utilitarian (sacrificial) practice and to re-invigorate interest in themes of morality and ritual where practices of violence or excess exist legitimately and can be explored. This paper attempts to theorise the spectacular male violence of serial and spree killing through marginal readings of a canonical thinker (Durkheim) and re-readings of marginal thinkers (in particular Durkheim's illegitimate offspring Bataille and Baudrillard). Emphasis is placed on the notion of liminality, ritual practices and the exploration of intense illegitimate 'moral' experience where society is challenged through rejection.

Chakraborti, N., Garland, J.

University of Leicester

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L005

"Race", place and space: Re-examining notions of diversity and risk in rural communities

Popular constructions of the rural have perpetuated images of idyllic, problem free environments that have largely masked the exclusionary processes that marginalise particular groups from mainstream rural society. Drawing upon research conducted across the UK, this paper asserts that racist prejudice is very much part of the lived experience of minority ethnic groups whose presence in the rural tends to be overlooked.

This paper assesses whether the process of 'othering' that works to ostracise minority ethnic households is similar to that experienced by all 'outsiders' who are newcomers to rural living. It is argued that the conflation of rurality with notions of Englishness and 'whiteness' serves to reinforce this marginalisation. Indeed, the scattered distribution of minority ethnic populations in the rural means that any understanding of these 'communities' needs to recognise that they are not 'communities of place' but instead are 'communities of shared risk', as it is the risk of racist harassment that provides commonality, kinship and shared experience amongst these diasporic populations. Consequently, it is argued that the significance of racist victimisation in a rural context will only be acknowledged through a greater appreciation of the diverse complexity of rural space, and the abandonment of singular, outdated notions of rurality.

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

University of Wales Swansea

Work, Family and Negotiation

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Goodricke College G/045

Family support networks: continuity and change

This paper will explore the different forms of support that members of extended family networks provide for each other and their impact on negotiations between partners regarding participation in work, both paid and unpaid. It therefore addresses a question originally investigated by Elizabeth Bott in the 1950s but will adopt a different theoretical approach which incorporates contemporary concerns with processes of de-institutionalisation and individualisation. It will explore the ways in which structural change has affected the ability and willingness of family members to provide support for each other and whether this varies between social classes, ethnic groups and age and stage in the lifecourse. We shall focus on heterosexual couples at different stages of the lifecourse and in different generations in order to explore whether processes of individualisation and de-institutionalisation can be discerned and the effect they are having on the nature of support provided within kinship networks. The paper draws on a re-study of the family consisting of a thousand-household survey and ethnographic interviews in 4 different parts of a South Wales city. Where appropriate and feasible, comparisons will be drawn with the findings of the baseline study, *The family and social change*, (Rosser and Harris, RKP) published in 1965.

Charsley, K.

University of Edinburgh

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Risk, trust, gender and transnational cousin marriage among British Pakistanis

For British Pakistani women and their parents, marriage is a time of particular risk. Brides traditionally move to their husband's home, and so are conceptualised as vulnerable; their parents oppressed by the burden of ensuring their daughter's safety and happiness in the choice of husband. This paper explores the high rates of marriages to close kin in Pakistani as a response to risk, following Rayner's (1992) suggestion that people are not concerned so much with calculations of 'probability x consequences', as with 'fairness', rooted in considerations of 'trust', 'liability' and 'consent'. Kinship is shown to provide the basis for all three - trust based on moral obligations and conceptions of similarity between kin, group sanctions to hold a transgressing spouse to account, and networks through which marriages can be negotiated. The religious and moral connotations of place also influence the choice of spouse, with a husband raised in an Islamic society considered by some to present a safer option than young men who have grown up in Britain. For others, distance and the incentives of migration undermine trust between kin, producing dissimilarities between even close relatives, and the risk that a husband might use marriage simply to gain entry to Britain. Traditional and diasporic discourses of gendered risk, emerging partly in response to the 'formal' risk management (Adams 1995) of immigration legislation, interact in this explanatory model of patterns and diversity in British Pakistani marriage practices.

Christie, E.

The Robert Gordon University

Caring

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/002

An exploration of the experiences and impacts of young caring during adolescence in relation to the nature of parental illness

Young caring which refers to children who look-after an ill or disabled family member is a relatively recent area of research interest. The work of researchers within the field has highlighted the restrictions that such youngsters may experience in relation to their childhood development as a consequence of their caring role and the broad aim of the current qualitative, exploratory investigation is to further consider such impacts in relation to adolescents within differing caring contexts.

The two phase approach utilised within the project offers a comparative element in relation to caring context. The first phase which has largely been completed using a case study method, has considered young caring in relation to parental physical disability, whilst the interest of the latter phase (currently being undertaken) concerns parental mental illness, substance misuse and learning difficulty.

Whilst previous research has concentrated on young caring in relation to parental physical and mental health problems, the impacts and experience of young caring in adolescence in relation to a range of caring contexts has never been considered within a single study. Moreover, problematic substance misuse and learning difficulty in relation to the experience of young carers, have received very minimal interest. Therefore, the particular issues, impacts and needs resulting from specific caring contexts are unknown.

Preliminary analysis has highlighted areas of interest including the nature of parental-child role reversals and specific needs relating to particular caring contexts as well as professional identification, self-identification and labelling of young carers.

Cieslik, M., Simpson, D.

University of Teesside

Youth Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

The Role of Basic Skills in Transitions To Adulthood

This paper examines the role of basic skills competencies (such as numeracy and literacy) in the structuring of the extended transitions of young adults. Although much research has documented the extension of transitions to adulthood and the growing significance of education and training (for example lifelong learning) to these processes very few researchers have examined the significance of basic skills to the structuring of 'marginal' and more 'successful' forms of transition.

This paper documents the preliminary findings from a qualitative research project conducted in Great Britain that explored the dialectical relationship between basic skills competencies and types of transition made by a sample (n.60) of young people aged between 20 and 30 years of age. The initial findings suggest that the lack of basic skills have a profound impact on the quality of life of young people and contributes to vulnerable or 'risky' transitions routes through education-to-work, housing and relationships that they make as they grow older. The findings also raise important questions about the relative contributions of structural and agential processes in the shaping of transitions and contributes to wider debates about the extent of individualisation of youth transitions in the UK. The paper concludes with discussion of the sorts of policies that could improve the basic skills of young people and with it promote greater social inclusion in the informational societies of the twenty-first century.

Clark, C.

University of Strathclyde

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Crossing borders, changing lives: The transient "placeless" landscapes of a Roma asylum-seeker community in North East England

This paper results from long-term ethnographic work with a Roma asylum seeker community in North East England (2001-). During the summer of 2003, it appeared that the multi-dimensional and often contradictory ways in which the transient 'here and now' was being understood by the community was changing. Tensions were becoming critical, panic evident. The central issue for (largely male) informants, is one that could best be described as 'belonging' and where, in particular, their family and children 'fit'. Landscapes in such a political context were becoming material metaphors, more than symbols. Hence, both place and space have become regarded by sections of the community as anchors that embed them to a geography that it does not want to leave. With deportations occurring on a weekly basis, claims for asylum were found to be wanting.

This is a peopled landscape coloured with a sense of 'here today, gone tomorrow'. The tiny, squeezed, 'landscapeless' spaces between four key junctures 1) arrival -- 2) dispersal -- 3) settlement -- 4) removal --, are guarded heavily, internally, and seem almost like a time/space enclosed, partially 'frozen' and potentially capturing a permanent state of being. This is largely, of course, an emotionless, bureaucratic decision that is out of the communities hands. Before the final phase, removal, is the management of temporary settlement: the 'arrived at' landscape is creatively constructed by a distancing from a place once called 'home' to which most will return, by force.

Clarke, G.

University of Southampton

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Documents of death: Understanding the endings of life

This paper will examine an important yet neglected form of life writing and documentation namely obituaries. Obituaries and the public statement they make of a life's ending are avidly read by many yet rarely are they subject to critical sociological analysis. In order to redress this attention will be directed to an in-depth comparative analysis of obituaries from the Times, Guardian and Independent over a two week period in late 2004 or early 2005. In so doing consideration will be given to whether they are dispassionate and many sided (see Whitman, 1971) and how they both chronicle and commemorate a life (see Hume, 2000).

Cocks, A.J.

Surrey County Council/Visiting Lecturer Reading University

Methods

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/002

"I hope you've got clean knickers with you": The role of participant observation in seeking inclusivity in research with disabled children

The research referred to within this paper is a qualitative study of the existence and nature of peer culture(s) among groups of children with learning impairments who attended two non-educational specialist settings. At the outset one of the key concerns was to achieve total inclusion among a group who use a wide range of different methods of communication, some formally recognised such as makaton and pic symbols and others unique to individual children. Exploration of a variety of options resulted in the decision to use participant observation as the primary method of gathering data. This was supplemented by documentation generated by the settings and semi-structured meetings with staff groups.

This paper is a critical reflection on the process of implementing participant observation. Firstly it will focus on discussion of the achievement of a 'least adult' role (Mandell 1991). The researcher was required to review and refine their own role and behaviours within social engagement in order to gain the trust and participation of the children; whilst also maintaining the acceptance of adults within highly regulated and supervised settings.

Secondly the paper will consider the analysis of the resulting data, which provided an invaluable rich contextual account of the nature of children's cultural activity, yet also posed problems in interpretation relating to intentionality within children's cultural activity. The paper will conclude with a reflection of the impact of prioritising inclusion from the early planning stages in research design.

Cooke, M.

University of Western Ontario, Canada

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Social Assistance, lone mothers, and the life course

Social assistance, the bottom tier of income protection in Canada, has undergone significant changes since the early 1990s, in order to promote work rather than long-term receipt. Marxist and feminist analyses have described the ways in which these programmes reinforce class and gender structures, and how these changes therefore primarily affect women and the working class. However, "risk" approaches to poverty suggest that risk of low income and social assistance use may extend to the middle classes, with short spells of poverty increasingly common for more people. As well, economic rational choice models emphasize the importance of individual decisions in interactions with the welfare state. This paper investigates the ways in which gender and class shape the social assistance experience of lone mothers, using a theoretical framework of the life course, social structure, and individual agency. An event history analysis using the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics finds that lone mothers are more likely to receive benefits, and do so for longer than others, but that long-term receipt is generally rare. An analysis of life course trajectories of lone mothers finds that rather than a few well-defined routes into or out of social assistance, women's pathways through work, marriage, and social assistance events are varied and complex. The paper demonstrates how the experience of social assistance over the life course continues to be influenced by gender structures, more than by social class, but that there is also a great deal of variation and individualisation in these women's life courses.

Cox, A.L., Hebson, G., Sung, S., Olivier, G.

University of Manchester

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/045

Individualisation of organisational change: Consequences of negotiating the work-family balance for men and women

This paper considers employee experiences of reconciling work and family commitments across four organisations - two building societies and two telecommunications companies - in the context of organisational change. We aim to evaluate in particular the consequences of tensions between work and home life for men and women. Through approximately 120 semi-structured interviews divided equally between men and women at the top, middle and lower end of organisations, we identify the relationship between cultural, structural and individual action factors and how these interrelate and shape choices about work and family in gender terms.

We find that work-family dilemmas are manifest in a process of individualisation of responsibilities and argue that it can serve to hinder progress towards gender equality, since individualisation may be used to absolve organisations from responsibility for the outcomes of change and neglects the potential for differential impacts of change on groups within the workforce. Organisational cultures appear to present the toughest barriers to career progress for men and women with caring responsibilities and we discuss the practical and policy recommendations which may help to dismantle outdated assumptions about long working hours, possibilities of part-time work and (lack of) employee commitment to career progression. In the context of debates about gender, we argue that the findings need to be considered in the light of shifts from Equal Opportunities policies to Managing Diversity, since the problems of individualisation also reflect debates within the gender literature about ignoring individual differences or accommodating them.

Crow, G.

University of Southampton

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Family sociology's paradoxes

Family sociology's paradoxes. Sociological arguments are frequently developed around the identification and resolution of paradoxes. This paper explores the use of this technique of engaging an audience's attention in the field of family sociology, broadly defined. It examines both classic and contemporary arguments about family life that have been developed using paradoxes, such as the argument that lone mothers are 'better off poorer', or the argument that rising divorce rates are an indicator of the strength of the institution of marriage. These arguments are considered in terms of whether they are made more persuasive by the use of paradoxical formulations, and whether this is more the case for certain audiences. The paper concludes by reflecting on the implications of using paradoxes to present arguments about family relationships, in comparison with other modes of engaging an audience.

Cuzzocrea, V.

University of Essex

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Orienting towards flexible career-paths as a way of life. A time-gender perspective

In the Age of Uncertainty, orientations to work and employment of inexperienced job seekers are crucial in understanding the perception of general insecurity and unpredictability. In this paper I approach these issues by analysing seven in-depth interviews of young, non-vocational graduates, who have shown to prefer a flexible career-path -i.e. a career made up of 'flexible' opportunities- rather than a traditional, upward one in the same organisation. Such a choice is significant as the sample belong to a traditional context (Sardinia), where graduates are supposed to be candidate to the most socially approved occupations, which are normally secure and long-term. The preference for a flexible-career path gives shape to their future identity from both a personal and professional standpoint. Although the cultural capital plays a key role in opting for risk and uncertainty, I demonstrate that the high level of education does not retain from other 'traditional' biases, such as gender. Gender differences particularly emerges in consideration of the time perspective. In fact, female are overrepresented in flexible jobs, and their expectations show awareness of the constraints implied in a long term flexible career-path. For female, middle terms life plans are hugely affected by the prefiguration of roles within environments different from workplaces, such as families, while this is less than an issue for male. Thus, analysing the orientation towards a 'fragmented' life not only involves the construction of innovative theoretical categories, but also reconsidering more established paradigms such as economicistic or feminist ones.

Davidson, K., Meadows, R.

University of Surrey

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L002

When men get old: Theorising the masculine imperative in later life

It has been argued that as men age, there is a blurring of their sense of masculinity. The ending men's need for breadwinning has been theorised to result in an increase in the capacity for a less self-serving, more caring, style of interacting with others. This is particularly the case when an older man becomes responsible for spouse care, or for self-care if widowed or divorced. This paper explores changing masculinities in later life, what strategies are in place for the maintenance of 'maleness' in an increasingly feminised world. In-depth interviews with 85 men over the age of 65 (31 married/cohabiting, 30 widowed, 10 divorced/separated and 12 never married) were conducted. The rich data revealed that men do not lose a sense of masculine identity, regardless of their marital status and changing roles in the household. We found that they tend to 'add on' more flexible (feminine) skills which may involve a caring tasks, rather than 'replace' their masculine skills. Indeed, men cope principally by calling on their notions of masculinity as capable, in control and strong, in taking on new challenges and responsibilities in their post retirement period.

Deem, R., Morley, L., Tili, A.

University of Bristol

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/010

Negotiating equity in UK Higher Education: Staff experiences of equal opportunities policies

The paper explores recent qualitative case study research conducted for the Higher Education Funding Council for England on staff perceptions and experiences of equal opportunities policies in six UK higher education institutions (HEIs). The research raises questions about the fragmentation and diversity of higher education organisations and the experiences of a range of HEI staff, from cleaners to academics. The paper raises issues about how to theorise equality issues without creating the impression of a hierarchy of oppression and in a context where a rational approach to inequality is no longer seen as legitimate. A number of respondents felt that equal opportunities issues in their organisation were largely about students (quality, widening participation, disability), not staff. In more than one HEI researched, equal opportunities policies were not well communicated to staff and support staff were particularly anxious about not risking the making of formal complaints. Gender, sexuality and ethnicity, age and disability were particularly important in shaping whether or not staff perceived equal opportunities as something relevant to them. Under New Labour, the previous collective framework of equal opportunities has been replaced by a much more individualised and self-validated approach to EO, despite heightened awareness of institutional cultures following the 1999 MacPherson report and a raft of new legislation mostly arising from the European Commission framework for equal treatment in employment. The paper asks some hard questions about how UK HE reproduces, reinforces, undermines and/or challenges existing social inequalities and forms of discrimination amongst staff.

Deem, R., Lucas, L.

University of Bristol

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Identities and cultures of education academics in Scotland and England: The fragmentation, diversity and risk of academic life in two contrasting policy contexts

The paper explores the academic identities, habituses and career life trajectories of 40 diverse academics working in the Education Departments of five universities in Scotland and England. The relationship between research and teaching, the status of applied research in social science and how universities are defined, are current higher education policy preoccupations of both the UK government and the Scottish Parliament. At the same time, university funding crises, issues about student tuition fees, widening participation, declining pay and work conditions and managerialism are affecting the social relations and cultures of academic life. A particular concern in the research, funded by the Higher Education Academy Education Subject Centre, was to examine the extent to which the respondents and their departments saw current higher education policy in England and Scotland, particularly on research and teaching, as contributing to the fragmentation of academic work. The research also analysed academic departmental cultures in the five institutions, the extent to which academics were prepared to take risks in respect of playing both the research game and the teaching game and how differently positioned academics understood the relationship between research and teaching. The departmental unit, the policy context, gender and whether or not academics had begun their work careers as educational practitioners in schools or Further Education and had or did not have a doctorate, were found to be particularly important in shaping academic identities and perceptions.

Dowler, E., Kneafsey, M., Holloway, L., Venn, L., Cox, R., Tuomainen, H.

University of Warwick

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Reconnecting with food: Reconstructing relationships

Food and eating are increasingly characterised as 'risky' in contemporary life: markers for mistrust in authority and experts, of globalising food systems and loss of local control. Anxieties are argued to encompass safety and health, environmental sustainability, economic viability, and the loss of sense of locality and identity. The challenges are articulated by both 'producers' and 'consumers/citizens', and recent work has examined, in context of the former, notions of relocalisation, quality and traceability in speciality food markets; and of the latter, the potential for improved local food access, developing skills, confidence and building trust.

Our present research is exploring the role and potential of emerging contemporary schemes and networks which aim to create 'closer', more 'authentic' relationships between consumers, primary producers and food: i.e. which engender 'reconnection'. The potential for, and realities of, radically different relationships between 'consumers', 'producers' and food is being examined through literature review, and engagement with selected case studies of different schemes and networks, some large, some small, based on both hi-tech and lo-tech solutions to food system fragmentation. The case studies are widely located geographically, and include one virtual food network (internet based). They encompass community-supported agriculture, horticulture or husbandry, food co-operatives and farm shops, and require varying degrees of participation. Qualitative findings from workshops and in-depth interviews with primary producers and consumers will be presented, exploring both the social, economic and ethical implications of making active commitment to such schemes, and the experienced possibilities for self-expression, realisation of identity and re forging 'connection'.

Dwyer, C., Shah, B., Modood, T., Sanghera, G., Thapar-Bjorkert, S.

University College London

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Educational achievement and career choices for British Pakistanis - negotiating gender identities

This paper presents initial findings from a qualitative study on differential outcomes in terms of education and socio-economic advancement among young British Pakistanis. Responding to the conference theme, we suggest that divergent Pakistani masculinities and femininities reflect contemporary demands and complexities in modern social life. The paper complicates dominant accounts of Asian masculinities and recognises plural understandings of both Pakistani masculinities and femininities. It accesses these discourses through an analysis of the ways in which shared values and norms in terms of education, jobs and career advancement are accommodated, negotiated or resisted by Pakistani men and women. And, it examines how divergent masculinities and femininities are manifested in differential academic and employment outcomes. The paper draws from interviews with young Pakistani men and women aged 16 to 23 living in Slough or Bradford. The study extends current research by focusing on respondents beyond post-compulsory education, including those deemed educationally 'successful' and 'unsuccessful', and a comparison of research locations between a relatively deprived urban area with a more suburbanised and relatively economically prosperous area. Given the current 'crisis in masculinities' and panics about young Asian Muslim men, this paper argues for a more complex and contextualised understanding of both Pakistani masculinities and Pakistani femininities.

Edwards, T.

University of Leicester

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/020

New consumers? Children's fashion

This paper is based on a two year internationally recognised study funded by the ESRC under its Cultures of Consumption initiative (worth approximately £4 million in total). The research team includes Drs Tim Edwards, Sharon Boden, Chris Pole and Jane Pilcher. There are two dimensions to the research: first, longitudinal in depth qualitative work with a small sample of families; and second, interviews with a variety of fashion industry and childrenswear personnel including store managers and product directors. This paper is based on the latter dimension and work undertaken by Dr Edwards and Dr Boden. The paper covers three areas:

1. An analysis of the children's clothing and fashion market within the UK, its economic significance and its development and projection. Particular attention is placed on the dominance of national and multinational high street stores and the rising importance of supermarkets and the so-called "Walmart effect" and "fast fashion".
2. A discussion of the differing policies and perspectives taken by industry personnel in relation to children's clothing and, in particular, the importance of branding and processes of decision making concerning product placement and design.
3. A consideration of wider sociological implications of this research including the "adultification" and "sexualisation" of children's clothing and marked gendered differences in its production and consumption e.g. in relation to sportswear.

In conclusion, it will be argued that the often media fuelled interest in children's fashion has overestimated the significance of designer labels and masked more complex processes of production and consumption in relation to children's clothing.

Elder-Vass, D.

Birkbeck College

Realism and Social Research Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/010

Emergence, naturalism, and the shape of social science

This paper discusses the classic problem of 'naturalism': to what extent do, or should, or can, the social sciences resemble the natural sciences? Taking a realist stance, the paper will approach the question by examining the differing ontologies of the natural and social worlds. In particular, it will use the concept of emergence to begin to develop a social ontology, engaging in the process with the work of Bhaskar, Luhmann, and other social thinkers. The paper will go on to examine the implications for the possibility of a naturalistic social science. Amongst the unique characteristics of the social we find the familiar roles of agency and symbolic constructions, but also, less familiarly, ubiquitous interaction between causally effective entities with complexly overlapping components. Ultimately, the paper concludes that while there is a unity of sorts between the natural and the social sciences, there are good reasons why social science is radically different - and these will (naturally) shape its practice.

Elliott, J., Gerova, V.

Institute of Education

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/045

Occupational segregation across the life course

Despite the dramatic rise in women's labour force participation and the convergence in the qualifications of women and men during the second half of the twentieth century, occupational sex segregation has remained an enduring feature of labour markets across all industrialized countries (Reskin 1993; Rubery and Fagan 1995; Anker 1998; Blackburn Jarman et al. 2000). To date the majority of research on occupational segregation has either been based on cross-sectional data or has looked at aggregate trends over time. There has been much less work that has examined the extent to which individual workers shift between segregated and integrated occupations over the life-course (but for notable exceptions see Jacobs 1989, Jacobs 1995, Li et al 1998). It is not clear therefore whether reductions in occupational segregation can be explained in terms of successive cohorts of young workers entering less segregated occupations, or whether individual workers are moving into more integrated occupations at all stages of their work histories.

This paper will use longitudinal data from the 1958 and 1970 British Birth Cohorts in conjunction with data from the 1991 and 2001 British Census to explore aggregate changes in the patterns of occupational segregation together with individual trajectories between more segregated and more integrated occupations. In particular, it will be examined whether there is less occupational segregation among young men and women working full-time who do not yet have responsibility for dependent children, and whether occupational segregation increases as individuals move through the lifecycle, and particularly if they become parents.

Erben, M.

University of Southampton

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L002

The fragmented identity: The life course without narrative - linking the sociology of Durkheim with the psychoanalysis of Freud

There has been much excellent sociological discussion of the importance of narrative for effective social interaction (e.g. Norman Denzin 1989, Liz Stanley, the journal *Auto/Biography* 1992-2004). This paper will however be concerned with lives experiencing dysfunctional, fragmented or absent narratives. The social consequences of an absence of narrative will be elaborated and discussed through a reconsideration of Durkheim's formulation of Anomie and Freud's formulation of the Id. These will be examined as attempts to explain and understand what we can call following Ricoeur and Habermas, "de-narrativised existence". Examples will be given that compare and contrast the utility of these conceptions. In the case of anomie, suicide will be discussed in relation to the suicide rates of young men in prison and in the case of the id there will be discussion of psychotic states in relation to early socialisation. Further, and relatedly, there will be an exploration of the category of atypicality as a methodological resource for the social sciences.

Evans, R.

University of Birmingham

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Negotiating social identities on the street: The life course trajectories of street children in Tanzania

This paper explores the ways that children and young people negotiate their social identities within the street environment in Tanzania. The paper is based on child-focused ethnographic research conducted with street children and children in difficult circumstances in northern Tanzania from 2000-2002. I explore the intersection of issues of age, gender and ethnicity as children and young people move between 'home', the street environment and NGO projects they are in contact with. Drawing on concepts of a 'moral career' and social deviancy, I show how age, gender and time spent on the street influence the livelihood options available to young people within the informal sector. The study reveals that street children's life course trajectories are characterised by considerable diversity and fluidity of movement between difficult home environments, the street, the mines, NGO projects, rural and urban areas. The research also explores how children and young people actively reconfigure gender norms and the concept of 'the family' within the street environment, using the notion of 'gender performativity' to analyse these processes. The study highlights the importance of diversity in understanding how children and young people negotiate their social identities and life course trajectories on the street.

Everingham, C., Stevenson, D., Warner-Smith, P.

University of Newcastle, Australia

Work, Family and Negotiation

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/045

"Things are getting better all the time?" Challenging the narrative of women's progress from a generational perspective

It is becoming common in the social policy literature to argue that since women are becoming better educated and out of the workforce for less time over their lifecourse, their situation will come to duplicate that of men. This paper challenges this 'progress narrative' which assumes that a gender analysis will no longer be relevant for women belonging to Generation X (born in the 1970s). Using material drawn from preliminary, in-depth interviews with three generations of Australian women (26-32; 53-58; 65-70) as well as data from the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, social policy changes to advance women's position in the workforce are shown to reflect the older generations' experience of gender discrimination in a workplace that has dramatically altered for Generation X. These younger women no longer experience the frustrations of combining work and family as a gender issue, rather as an individual 'life-choice', a 'choice' however, which puts the responsibility for having children back onto individual women. While Generation X women may well blame feminism for the high expectations that have been placed upon them, their mother's generation are more likely to blame consumerism. It is argued that a gender analysis which focuses on the generational experience of the work/family nexus will prove very useful if it can generate a reflexive feminism which critically examines its own assumptions about the centrality of work in people's lives and the materialism this can promote.

Feldman, A.

University College Dublin

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Facing the other in the age of migration: "Race"-making and belonging to the "new" Ireland

Scholarship concerning identity and difference in Ireland has tended to focus primarily on the dynamics of Irish racism or issues relating to the traditional Catholic/Protestant, ethno-national divide. In important ways, at both conceptual and strategic levels, such approaches are limited in their ability to apprehend the intricacies of personhood, lived experience and identification in the contexts of the rapid ethnic diversification, in this case, of Irish society. This paper synthesises interactionist, race critical and social psychological approaches to examine the dynamics of 'race'-making and changing subjectivities among the majority Irish population. It employs primary data from a current, large-scale qualitative research project to set out a preliminary analysis of the ways in which the majority Irish population 'face' the racialised immigrant-Other. It argues that effective understanding of the dialogic relationships between persons, regimes and global forces as they form the basis for identity construction, mobilisation and transformation in the current 'age of migration' can be achieved only by going beyond simply mapping the Other as always-only an essentialised, universal and all-encompassingly negative projection, either of the self or of the nation-state. As such it sets out an integrated analysis of the shifting constitution of intercultural/situationalist and monocultural/primordialist subjectivities within the majority society and the negotiation and enactment of 'new' minority ethnic identities and civic participation in the wider contexts of change at national level.

Fernandez, J

Islington PCT

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/045

Emerging ethnic families for drug service provision: The medical model: An issue for health education

This paper discusses a qualitative study developed from the information in the ethnicity audit of 2002. The client perspectives on their support structures, and how they are beneficial for them is examined in this research study. Participants were asked to define their family set-up and the data was analysed through the sociological theories surrounding the family. The family perspective was felt to be influential upon choosing treatment modalities from the two distinct emerging ethnic groups. It explores the themes of ethnicity, polarisation and the perception of the family of drug users in treatment. This is an under-researched area particularly in substance misuse, but hopefully this paper will show the value of considering the family in decision-making for treatment programmes to achieve better outcomes.

The research was conducted as part of an extensive paper that looked at drug using peer groups and route of administration for a cohort of clients entering the South Camden and South Islington drug services. It is argued that the effects of polarisation and family make-up have had an impact on the Bengali ethnic group and has influenced their clinical presentation between the ethnic groups studied. The lessons are for drug services are to understand the social context, the family and its influences on presenting clients, in order to address ethnic

Ford, D.

University College Chester

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/013

Towards a 21st century "sociological imagination": Critical realism and the contemporary substantive social problem issue of smoking

Government social policies, in Britain and elsewhere, have been increasingly concerned with attempts to reduce levels of smoking. In this paper I will argue that a critical realist meta-theoretical perspective, which properly acknowledges smoking as an embedded and emergent social phenomenon, has much to offer to the smoking problem in terms of advances in theoretical understanding and the critical assessment of contemporary social policy. Specifically, since the revelation that smoking causes cancer, the differential effects of anti-smoking initiatives set within wider mechanisms of social inequality has resulted in the social polarisation of smoking in Britain. Fifty years ago the cigarette smoker was perceived as sexy, independent and in control. In the interim, a complex array of underlying social processes has led to the smoker being understood very differently. She is now mad, bad, shunned and contagious and, not at all coincidentally, poor. Finally, it will be suggested that the 'poor smoker thesis' meets a sufficient number of Kuhn's criteria to warrant consideration of its reception as 'new paradigm'. Also, that its orbit extends well beyond the smoking issue. It is therefore hoped that my efforts here may suffice as an operational example of a critical realist research method that could be utilised to contribute towards a reinvigorated 21st Century 'sociological imagination' capable of capturing the complex mechanisms underlying the frightening array of substantive social problem issues facing us in the world today.

Fowler, B.

University of Glasgow

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Collective memory and forgetting: Components for a study of obituaries as life trajectories

This paper explores the cultural form of the obituary as a tributary to "collective memory". Memory and collective memory have been conceptualised in various authors, especially in the classic writings of Bergson, Halbwachs and Benjamin. Tension emerges between those who think that such social forms of memorising, like tradition, is declining across the board and those who think that it is still alive but contained in media such as the newspaper. For the latter, including the present author, these mosaics of tiny testimonies can shape collective memory.

The cultural form of the obituary is undergoing an internal transformation. Although there is still considerable evidence of the material and social privilege of these subjects, today, the obituary is not limited to the "dominants". Obituary editors aspire to include all those who have significantly shaped the modern world, including, in our terms, representatives of popular memory and even counter-memory. Moreover, obituaries have now branched out beyond the arena of myths depicting national heroes and villains and into depictions of a more shadowy, contradictory world of tragedy and paradox, thus giving more details about diverse trajectories. A key element of such memory is the public reality of producers. However this is not so much the sphere of business or worker "heroes of production" as of those who have left distinguished cultural and scientific works for the collective inheritance. The paper finally asks how the democratisation of the form might be further advanced whilst also recognising its basis in the scarcity of distinction.

France, A.

University of Sheffield

Youth

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/020

The impact of "riskfactorology" on the "youth question" in late modernity

In late modernity the 'youth question' in public policy has been dominated by how the 'youth problem' of the future can be prevented. A range of policy initiatives and interventions has focused on finding 'solutions' to future youth problems. Developments in science and technology have provided the 'tools' that are seen to aid the process of identifying and targeting young individuals and their families who are to become the future 'social problems' of our times. Such a position is constructed as 'ahistorical' and 'atheoretical' proposing that scientific evidence and method developed within the discipline of public health will ensure a 'withering away' of future youth problems. This expansion of 'preventative science' or 'riskfactorology' within public policy is having major impacts on how the 'youth question' and the notion of youth itself is being constructed and understood. At one level it continues a tradition of constructing 'youth as a social problem' but in late modernity it broadens and sharpens the construct while also giving scientific justifications to increased forms of surveillance, control and ultimately governance especially to certain groups of 'troublesome or problem youth'. This paper will critically engage with this debate drawing out its moral, political and social underpinnings and highlighting the continuities and differences to how the 'youth question' is being constructed in late modernity.

Friel, J.

University of Bristol

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/T007

'Disaffection': A way of being for the new 'workless class'?

Government research indicates that 'disaffected' young people, that is those who are disconnected from the education system, find it difficult to find a way back into mainstream society in later life (SEU, 1999, 1998, DfEE, 1998). Such research suggests a causal link between 'disaffection' and 'social exclusion', a concept that is notoriously difficult to define and even harder to measure. The implication is that the 'disaffected' are suffering from lack of ambition, that 'poverty of aspirations' rather than poverty is the root cause of their 'social exclusion'. The paper will initially place the construct of 'disaffection' into the wider discursive formation of 'workless class', another of New Labour's catch- words which appears to have superceded the term 'underclass'. The remainder of the paper will present the initial findings of a Bristol-based study into the causes of 'disaffection'. The results of the study indicate that 'disaffection', inasmuch as it has a concrete reality, is a class-based phenomenon: a defensive response to the grinding pressures of poverty and an alternative way of being for those who can not succeed in conventional terms. It will conclude with a discussion on the link between 'disaffection' and the crisis of white, working-class masculinity (Segal, 1990, Willott & Griffin, 1997).

Frost, J.

University of Bristol

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Uncertain Age: "Older" Women and "Early" Miscarriage

While much of the medical literature has either focused upon the physical outcomes of a pregnancy loss or the psychiatric consequences; sociological research has concentrated upon women's perceptions of their hospital care and treatment (Moulder, 1998) or support systems (Cecil, 1994). However, little has been written about how women perceive their loss in terms of their identity.

This paper presents findings from in-depth interviews conducted with 29 'older' would be mothers (that is those over 35 years of age) about their experience of early miscarriage. Many of these women contextualised their experience in relation to notions of bodily ageing. The miscarriage was viewed as a signifier of both the loss of an identity (mother), but also (for those coming to the end of their reproductive careers), as the end of the possibility to become a mother.

These ideas are discussed in the light of the deconstructing of ageing (social, biological and chronological) that has been provided by Arber and Ginn (1995), and findings that, with increased longevity, women are delaying their reproductive decision making (DoH, 2002). While many women discussed a perception of a 'right time' to mother (Berryman et al, 1995), few of these women were unaware that the possibilities of miscarriage increase with age (Hansen, 1986). For women's reproductive decision making to be truly informed, women need to be aware of the increasing possibility of complications associated with a 'later' pregnancy, while employment practices that discourage women from taking carer breaks need to be outlawed.

Gatrell, C.

Lancaster University

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/045

A labour of love (and a sound investment) Parenting, power and negotiation

A recurrent theme in scholarship on heterosexual couples and paid work is the association between earned income, power and the intimate relationship. This paper extends the assertion that money is a locus of control among married/co-habiting couples, by conceptualising the parenting of dependent children as an additional and important source of power. Drawing upon qualitative research undertaken in 1999 - 2001, with professional couples where both partners were in paid work and were also parenting pre-school children, I argue that children may be central to mothers' and fathers' lives within an intimate relationship. This suggests a change from previous research, which has indicated that most fathers rely on women to mediate relationships with children, asserting their rights only post-divorce. Drawing upon both modern and post-modern theories of power, I suggest that couples take into account relationships with children when negotiating allocative systems regarding how many hours of paid work they undertake, and how much household work.

I then assert that, for some mothers, fathers' desire to attain a more "involved" relationship with dependent children within a partnership/marriage may be seen as a positive change (meaning that both parents may undertake paid work while minimising the amount of time spent by children with paid carers). However, this could also threaten women's traditional role as principal carer, especially since fathers' involvement with children may induce them to seek greater control post-divorce. Women may therefore be particularly vulnerable when relationships breakdown, standing to lose out both financially and in relation to children.

Gerodetti, N.

University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Individualised identities: Narratives in care in the context of psychiatric institutions

This paper proposes to look at identities and personal narratives in the context of psychiatric interventions during the first half of the twentieth century. Examining the accounts of people who had experienced welfare interventions in psychiatric and "mental deficiency" institutions in Britain and in Switzerland, this paper tries to address possibilities for agency in the context of eugenic practices. Having emerged during the second half of the nineteenth century and having gained international acceptance and popularity, the 'science' of eugenics was used to assist nation-states in formulating social policies which would improve the 'quality' of the population. The growth of modern health and social policies from the turn of the twentieth century provided the institutional conditions for translating the eugenic rhetoric into practice. Far from merely being inscribed into official and semi-official policies of sterilisation, eugenic thinking heavily influenced institutional care for those deviating from standards of intelligence, gender norms/expectations, sexual behaviour, criminal behaviour and so on. Narratives of people whose life was influenced and shaped by short-term and long-term institutionalisation are examined here to discern how people managed the interventions in their lives.

Gillies, V.

London South Bank University

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Mothering, class and culture: Analysing the social and material context of childrearing

This paper will highlight the central role of social class in shaping experiences of mothering. Drawing on material from qualitative interview research with a range of working class mothers, it will foreground and contextualise day to day lived family practices. It will highlight the different ways in which mothers cope with disadvantage and will show how their decisions and practices are grounded in a material and social reality. In particular, the paper explores how such mothers make sense of their lives with their children, how they position themselves within a context of inequality and vulnerability, and how they resist, subvert and survive material and social marginalisation. In contrast to evaluative and outcome focused literature on parenting, it will demonstrate how decisions and practices which make less sense from a middle class vantage point, shift their meaning when viewed from a specific, situated working class perspective. The paper will also incorporate a critical analysis of wider academic and policy debates around parenting. It will be argued that childrearing practices are commonly isolated from their situated, interpersonal context and presented as methods which must be taught for the public good. The paper will illustrate how the promotion of parenting 'skills' as neutral, technical tips, effectively works to obscure normative, culturally specific assumptions about what constitutes successful childrearing.

Gimlin, D.

University of Aberdeen

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/X001

'It almost makes the diet bearable': The social functions of commercial weight loss groups across the female life course

In light of high rates of obesity in the UK and cultural mandates concerning female thinness, a large proportion of British women is dieting at any given time. Yet relatively little is known about the differences in women's weight management practices across the life course. This paper draws upon ethnographic and interview data from two commercial weight loss groups to explore both younger (aged 18 to 25 years) and older (aged 55 years and over) women's experiences of organised dieting. Available research fails to address either the meanings that different age groups attach to their participation in commercial weight loss programmes or the range of benefits that women may accrue. The project seeks to fill this gap by examining both the social resources that weight loss organisations provide and the value of those resources for younger vs. older female members. The study shows that the secondary rewards of group membership - including social ties, interaction and support - are central to many middle-aged and older women's commitment to weight management. In contrast, younger women derive considerably fewer social benefits from group participation. Because they feel ashamed of their body size and their involvement in an 'unfashionable' weight loss group, younger respondents frequently avoid friendships with other members and conceal their attendance from outsiders. Furthermore, organised dieting actually serves to isolate younger women by curtailing their involvement in social activities involving food consumption. The paper relates these and other findings to the current state focus on obesity management.

Glaesser, J.

University of Konstanz, Germany

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Dropping out of further education: A fresh start?

In the labour market, formal qualifications - both school and vocational or university degrees - are of increasing importance. It is generally considered to be everyone's individual responsibility to attain such qualifications. This may be especially true in Germany, where formal qualifications are highly valued. Dropping out of vocational or university training is therefore regarded as a risk for young people in the process of entering the labour market. In order to gain an understanding of this problem and to acquire knowledge which may be helpful for the prevention of dropping out, two questions should be addressed: 1. Who are the young adults who are at risk of dropping out? 2. What happens to them, i.e. do they get a chance to resume their education and if so, who is more likely to do so? To examine these questions, both individual factors such as scholastic achievement, intelligence or motivation will have to be taken into account as well as structural factors pertaining to the school and further education systems. A life course perspective is essential for the identification of the relevant factors.

These questions will be dealt with using a longitudinal data set (Life-Study, Universities of Constance, Münster and Zurich) which allows individual attributes to be linked to structural aspects of the educational system. The study covers the age range from 12 to 35 and provides data on approximately 1500 individuals.

Goodwin, J., O'Connor, H.

University of Leicester

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/010

Whatever happened to the young workers?: Change and transformations during forty years at work

Young Workers by Ashton and Field (1976) was one of the early definitive studies of school to work transitions. Some of the data used in this book was drawn from Norbert Elias's Adjustment of Young Workers to Work Situations and Adult Roles project, undertaken in Leicester in the early 1960s. Ashton and Field identified three groups who they argued were central to understanding the young worker transition process; they were the Careerless, the Short-Term Careers and the Extended Careers. They used these groupings as shorthand to describe the possible career trajectories of the young people in the sample based on their educational, family and social class backgrounds and the different meanings the young people attached to work. In 2001 the original interview schedules were rediscovered and have been used as the basis for a new project entitled From Young Workers to Older Workers.

Using data from the original interviews and from re-interviews with 200 of the same sample undertaken some forty years later, this paper focuses upon the work and life experiences of 4 people over a period of 40 years. The case studies are used as vignettes to examine Ashton and Field's predictions and to explore what actually happened to the young people in the original study. The data reveals that respondents had far more complex career trajectories to those suggested by Ashton and Field and that they now face uncertain futures. However, despite the respondents' experiences of fragmentation, diversity and risk many retain their original craft-based occupational identities.

Gregory, S., McKie, L., Bowlby, S.

University of Edinburgh Medical School

Caring

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/002

Care and (inter)dependency across the lifecourse

Caring changes as children grow, parents change jobs, elderly parents become dependent and other demands emerge. Caring routes evolve and people develop expectations about their own obligations to provide care and also the care they may one day need themselves.

This can lead to major decisions concerning jobs, relationships, home locations and family form and size. Caring pathways can be ill-defined, taken for granted or restricted by resources, income and services and plans may have to shift at short notice; changes are sometimes triggered by public policies (e.g.: New Deal for Lone Parents) or driven by personal events, such as the arrival of a new baby or illness of a relative. Crucial to the multi-faceted nature of caring is the recognition of needs and (inter)dependency.

This paper discusses the theoretical framework, 'caringscapes' through which caring at points and contexts in the lifecourse can be examined, emphasizing (inter)dependency and care as people grow up and older. Adapting Adam's notion of 'timescapes' it examines new ways of conceptualising caring that incorporate the multi-dimensionality of time and space. It examines the compartmentalisation of caring issues (in academic enquiry and public policy) encouraged by a focus on understanding caring at discrete points of the lifecourse. Our aim is to bring together academic and policy issues by highlighting points in the lifecourse (such as childcare and eldercare) and social institutions (such as community and organisations) to illustrate how decision-making (individual or political) in relation to one point in time/space has implications for other points in time/space.

Gustafsson, U., Mitchell, J., Draper, A., Green, J., Thorogood, N.

Roehampton University

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Tony Blair won't eat our dinner: why do we

Headlines often suggest that young people when given a free reign will automatically select an unhealthy diet. To what extent is self-realisation open to young people in contemporary society? The notion of autonomy accorded to young people in school meals policy is accompanied with concerns about the problematic content of what they eat and also the social criteria they employ in making their choices.

Our research involved approximately three hundred young people in secondary schools with over triple UK national average free school meal provision in policy agenda setting on school food and nutrition issues and in the implementation of such policies at school level in the form of whole school food policies and nutrition action groups. A complex picture emerged where young people are interested in eating healthily but they feel let down by the quality and lack of variety in the food they get served. They are also aware of adult hypocrisy in promoting healthy food whilst allowing fizzy drink vending machines for commercial purposes. They are keen to play an active part in improving school meals despite their limited scope of influence.

Our study adds to the understanding of the way young people are involved in reflexive construction of their lives. This takes place in a context where there is still limited scope for young people to be heard in the public sphere despite rhetoric suggesting the contrary.

Hall, D., Matthews, N., Hall, I., Cameron, A., Green, P.

University of Liverpool

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Life course, life skills and aspects of citizenship: The impact of student volunteering in the curriculum

What is the impact of students volunteering in community organisations? How do such experiences change students themselves: do they build on or initiate a career of volunteering or work in the voluntary and community sector? Do students undertaking voluntary work as part of their degrees change perceptions of higher education within host organisations? Do such students become 'active citizens' or do they become more critical of government welfare policy and welfare agencies?

These are some of the questions that four universities, Liverpool John Moores University, the University of Wolverhampton, Liverpool University and Liverpool Hope University, are hoping to address in a study funded by the Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics, part of the Learning and Teaching Subject Network.

The project will begin by looking at the various ways that opportunities to undertake work in the voluntary sector have been built into sociology and cultural studies programmes. Having identified around five departments which present different ways of offering opportunities for students to volunteer, graduates, current students and host organisations associated with each department will be interviewed to find out about the impact of volunteering in the curriculum. The reflective logs of students who have completed volunteering modules provide additional data on personal learning and attitudes.

Of particular interest is the longer term effect of volunteering on career, social interests and views on welfare provision and citizenship in the UK.

Hand, M.

Queen's University, Canada

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Inermediation, disintermediation, and remediation: Constructing virtual products in the assurance industry

It has long been recognized that institutions and organizations appropriate and reconfigure new technologies according to their own interests and frames of reference. Recent work in the history of technology and new media studies has begun to focus upon how, as part of this process, different artefacts relate to one another. This paper explores relations between 'old' and 'new' technologies within a global life assurance organization. The organization is implicated in a general shift toward 'virtual' forms of organization and delivery, utilizing ICT's (the Internet in particular) in order to redefine itself and its place in global markets. The empirical focus of the paper is on how, as an element within this self-transformation, the organization has attempted to develop and deliver on-line products to consumers. The paper identifies a number of organizational problems occurring during this process which embody current 'risk' anxieties about relationships between interactivity and insecurity: (1) the undecidability of Internet properties; (2) disintermediation in practice; and (3) the salience of the graphic signature as an 'old' technology of intent and consent. In exploring how these problems prevent the organization from 'virtualizing' its operations the paper seeks to develop some theoretical ideas around issues of remediation, translation and materiality in relation to the Internet.

Hepworth, C., Stitt, S.

Bolton Institute

Open

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/010

"Social capital and faith-based community groups: A locality case-study"

This year is the twentieth anniversary of the seminal report 'Faith in the City (ACUPA 1985) which first drew attention to the concerns of religious agencies whose remit was to tackle growing multiple deprivation in the UK. Since then, the role of faith-based organisations as mediators of welfare provision, urban regeneration and community development has attracted little attention from sociologists despite claims that such roles are becoming increasingly important. Successive UK Governments have highlighted the potential of religious congregations in enhancing social capital and promoting social cohesion. The seminal work of Greg Smith (University of East London) emphasises this theme. Other sociological literature in this area (mainly American, e.g., Putnam) argues that faith-based community agencies provide a degree of social support and relationship structures that accumulate as social capital resources. However, there have been few attempts to assess the overall and specific contribution of faith-based voluntary effort to welfare provision in a locality or region.

This paper will attempt to address the contribution planned for the Bolton area by the Christian-founded organisation Emmaus which offers the locality a unique community-based support structure for homeless people. The Emmaus Movement was born out of the Paris housing crisis that followed World War Two. From there, it has reached out to homeless people in more than forty countries. This paper will attempt to evaluate the contribution the Emmaus project plans to make to the Bolton area whilst highlighting the importance of religious organisations to community development and social capital.

Herová, I., Kocmánková, L.

Czech University of Agriculture, Prague

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/045

Changes in social conditions of young and old people in Czech rural areas

Reasons for changes in stratification of age cohorts lie in changes of social and living conditions both in younger and the oldest part of population. The continuously growing percentage of seniors in Czech rural population is primarily caused by two factors: decreasing natality and increasing life expectancy.

Political transformation has opened greater opportunities of self-fulfillment for young people and along with growing individualism new perspectives on life (alternatives to marriage and family) have become apparent. Studies, work abroad, building one's career or travelling have become competitors to starting a family for a certain part of the young population.

Human life goes through several periods: childhood, adolescence, adulthood and old age. An improved living environment; better hygiene and level of medical care has increased life expectancy in seniors. Modern science and medicine are now able to prolong the period of old age. This disrupts the life cycle that has been natural for humans from ancient times. The period of old age often becomes "too long" and life fatigue can occur. Therefore it is desirable to change attitudes to life of the older generation so they can adapt to changed social conditions.

How is it possible to manage the negotiations between the young and old in rural areas? This is the question our article explores.

Hey, V.

Brunel University

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Re-making the working class; Sure start's re-articulation of working class habitus in a local programme

Economic, social and cultural transformations have stoked high levels of anxiety in advanced capitalist societies as states and political elites seek to manage these changed circumstances and their consequences. One response has been a policy bonanza (policy hysteria Stronach & Hustler, 1999) masking the current range of legitimisation tactics and strategies constituting 'local states of emergency' (Robertson & Dale, 2000).

Sure Start features here as one of the most significant New Labour interventions designed to bring social regeneration for communities deemed disengaged from social, economic and cultural developments. The programme is aimed at pre-school children and their 'carers.'

It is a methodological paper that seeks to 'loosen up' policy analysis through a logic of a feminist poststructuralism that sees policy as an uneven accomplishment of practices in a discursive network. This paper explores the classed construction of femininities generated in a local Sure Start programme by examining the ideological-affective positioning of 'parents' in local discourses and practices.

Hildon, Z., Blane, D., Montgomery, S.M., Netuveli, G., Wiggins, R.

Imperial College London

Open

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/010

Gendered resilience in early old age: A life course approach

The present paper defines resilience as flourishing despite adversity; with flourishing equated with good quality of life and adversity expressed as socio-economic hardship. Our focus is gender differences in this phenomenon and its constituent processes. We describe a model of resilience during early old age, in which resilience is influenced by life course involvement in paid employment and domestic work, and by associated patterns of social participation and coping styles. Gender differences in these aspects of everyday life are seen as the mediators between gender and resilience in terms of quality of life. The presentation will explore theoretical and empirical dimensions of these relationships. It will go on to provide an illustrative analysis of these concepts using questionnaire and life-grid data from the British Boyd Orr cohort study, the members of which were interviewed first as children in 1937-39 and re-interviewed during early old age in 1997/8, 2000 and 2004/5.

Hird, M.J.

Queen's University, Canada

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Express your self: The corporeal generosity of the life course

This presentation attends to a simultaneously mundane and remarkable aspect of the life course: sexual reproduction. Feminist analyses have made important contributions to the socio-cultural experiences of pregnancy, birth and breastfeeding. This presentation draws upon recent theorising within science studies to focus on the mattering of sexual reproduction. Specifically, the paper expands upon Derrida's notion of the 'gift', which Diprose develops through the idea of 'corporeal generosity'. I am interested in corporeal generosity insofar as it circumvents descriptions of relationships in terms of a closed economy in which resources are exchanged without excess or remainder. Corporeal generosity refers to the often missed but nevertheless inescapable debt that a body owes to other bodies. At the same time, this embodied 'gifting' is both unpredictable and intrusive - there is as much possibility of threatening the integrity of bodies as there is of opening new possibilities. Through an exploration of the emergent properties of sexual reproduction, the presentation will explore the major themes of the conference including 'fragmentation' (cellular, metabolic, viral, bacterial, socio-cultural), 'diversity' (otherness, kinship, symbiogenesis) and 'risk' (parasitic, immunity, meiotic costs).

Hislop, J., Arber, S.

University of Surrey

Open

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/010

The trajectory of women's sleep across the life course

For the majority of women aged 40 and over, sleep disruption is a fact of life. Socio-temporal factors associated with the institutionalised structures of paid work and retirement, women's relational responsibilities in the home, and life transitions such as divorce, the menopause and widowhood, often impede access to a good night's sleep and in so doing influence the structuring of sleep. Individual sleep trajectories which highlight the interaction between sleep and its social context provide insights into the relationship between patterns of sleep disruption across the life course and quality of sleep in later life.

Drawing on data from the first empirical study of women's sleep conducted in the UK, this paper examines the use of sleep-life grids in which older women were asked to map their sleep patterns from the age of 40 in relation to life events and transitions. The resulting sleep trajectories provide a unique record of the impact of social context on women's sleep experiences across time.

In the absence of longitudinal data, retrospective accounts of women's sleep in the form of sleep trajectories provide an important data source for understanding the changing nature of women's sleep across the life course. The paper concludes that poor sleep in later life is not inevitable. Despite a history of sleep disruption, sleep quality may improve with ageing as women modify their sleep expectations in accordance with changing life circumstances.

This research was supported by the European Union 'Sleep in Ageing Women' project, grant QLK6-CT-2000-00499.

Hodkinson, P.

University of Surrey

Youth Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

Youth Culture, Internet Communication and Individualisation

In recent times, it has been argued that the internet offers something of a perfect forum for the playing out of broader social trends towards individualisation. Through maximising the ease with which users can move from one concern to another, and though enabling the playing out of several roles simultaneously in different virtual environments, it is argued that online communications facilitate multiple and unstable individualised trajectories (Castells 2001; Wellman and Haythornthwaite 2002). Yet, in apparent contrast to this, various studies of 'virtual communities' have appeared to identify online groupings characterised by stability of membership, commitment and closely marshalled boundaries (Watson 1997; Lee and Peterson 2004). Bearing in mind that the cultural trajectories of young people have been theorised as liminal and unstable for over half a century, this paper investigates the implications of internet use for contemporary youth cultural patterns of identity. Combining elements of primary research with a review of recent work in the area, the intention is to explore the in/stability, up/rootedness and in/coherence of young people's online leisure trajectories and to outline priorities for future research.

Holdsworth, C., Morgan, D.H.J.

University of Liverpool

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L006

"Transitions in transition": Ways of understanding leaving the parental home

Transitions are key elements in the construction of life courses and the process of leaving the parental home has been seen as one of the most important of these transitions. This importance reflects the way in which various transitions appear to converge at this time: home or education to work, single to married, parental home to new residence and so on. However, numerous complexities have been identified with this process in recent years. These include difficulties in determining when the transition actually takes place and the loosening of the connections between various moves. Changing experiences of leaving home have been linked to shifts in employment and housing markets, changes in education and so on. More theoretically these complexities may be linked to other widely discussed processes such as individualisation and globalisation.

This paper will explore these complexities while seeking to answer the following questions:

- a) How far are these difficulties linked to defining or experiencing adulthood and independence?
- b) How far does a consideration of these difficulties require a critical examination of the notion of transition itself, together with associated ideas such as "liminality"?

We explore these questions using the results of a recent, ESRC-funded, study of leaving-home in Britain, Norway and Spain, that has drawn on the experiences of both young people and parents.

Holland, J., Thomson, R.

London South Bank University

Youth Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

Working it out? The place of labour in young people's biographies

What place does work play in young people's biographies and sense of themselves as emerging adults? Traditionally work has been central to the definition of adult citizenship and to the study of youth transitions. The erosion of the youth labour market alongside an realignment in the relationship between work/leisure and public/ private has paralleled a sociological narrative in which transitions to adulthood are seen to be increasingly individualised, fragmented, dispersed and diverse. In this paper we take a biographical approach to understanding the place of work in young people's unfolding life stories, drawing on the 'Inventing Adulthoods' project - an ongoing qualitative longitudinal study established in 1996. We report on a peculiarly UK culture of work in which late childhood is marked by high levels of part time work, where a lost youth labour market continues to exert a powerful hold on imaginations and where the relative cost and benefits of education, training and employment routes are far from certain. By tracing narratives through contrasting case studies we explore the porous boundaries that exist between paid and unpaid work, and between the forms of 'emotional labour' and 'identity work' that can be seen to cut across these domains. We conclude by suggesting how a biographical approach to youth transitions may draw our attention to very different kind of mechanisms than allowed by an approach driven by substantive and structural foci

Holm, G., Kelaher Young, A., Daspit, T.

Western Michigan University, USA

Youth

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/020

The sky is always falling: (un)changing views on youth in the U.S.

We will discuss the dominant, generally unchanging public and research views of young people as becoming more uncontrollable and morally corrupt by reviewing the current ways youth are framed in the U.S. with regard to schooling, sexuality, violence, consumerism and popular culture. We view each of these as a "snapshot" example of how the problem areas are seen within the dominant framework. We have chosen to focus on these four snapshots because they are the areas most often discussed and debated when issues related to youth enter the public debate. Furthermore, these snapshots show very clearly why we cannot follow the positivist tradition of talking about youth as a monolithic unit. In each of the areas portrayed, these snapshots show that there are major differences among groups of young people. Overall young people are framed as being irresponsible and incapable of being trusted with tasks that matter. This justifies diverse societal efforts to control them, including standardized testing regimes in school, bans on films and books, and tough punishments for various kinds of infractions.

We will conclude by analyzing the implications of these unchanging views that "we are going to hell". We believe that by continuing to frame young people in these ways, we ignore the ways young people work in constructive ways in their communities and as producers of knowledge and entertainment. Hence, we want to begin a conversation about how to theorize about youth without colonizing them, without denying their agency.

Holmes, M.

Flinders University, Adelaide

Work, Family and Negotiation

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Goodricke College G/045

Love lives at a distance: Distance relationships over the lifecourse

Dual-residence distance relationships are an under-researched example of new forms of intimate life that do not follow 'conventional' patterns of cohabiting. Such relationships differ from the historical pattern of the husband going away to work (e.g. Chandler, 1991; Hogarth and Daniel, 1988; Hollowell, 1968). Distance relating emerges within the context of women's entry into the workforce and the rise in dual-career couples (Gerstel and Gross 1984). In this paper I draw on early data from my qualitative ESRC funded study of distance relationships, both heterosexual and non-heterosexual. I argue that distance relationships illustrate that human bonds in contemporary society are not as frail as Bauman (2003) suggests. They also imply that proximate intimacy is not essential for a meaningful personal life (cf. Jamieson 1998: 1). Less 'closeness' may provide greater freedom for women, without being care free. Indeed, it seems likely that distance makes care difficult and rationalized solutions are often inadequate to meet bodily and emotional needs. Therefore those who 'do' distance might find caring of all kinds more difficult at certain points, depending on their age, career, and intimate situations. They may shift in and out of distance relationships and other more or less conventional intimate arrangements. Distance relationships therefore highlight the problems of speaking about the lifecourse as though it might be a clear linear path and suggest that the relationship between work and life is not amenable to balance, but subject to accumulated inequalities, especially around gender.

Hope, A.

Sunderland University

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The social construction of risk, identity and school Internet use

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.

Drawing upon non-participant observation and semi-structured interviews undertaken in eight educational institutions this paper explores the processes through which risks perceptions of school Internet use are socially constructed. Having considered the attempts by school staff to construct institutional narratives, this paper then focuses upon alternative risk discourses promoted by certain students. Ultimately it is argued that student attempts to construct differing explanations of on-line dangers is tied in with the concept of identity and ideas of risk taking.

Engaging with the writings of Foucault (1991) this research has implications for the manner in which risk is considered with reference to identity, technology and education.

Horton, D.

Lancaster University

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Environmental activism, Green lifestyles and the Life course

This paper explores the effects of time on environmental activism and green lifestyles. Where youthful idealism tends to treat radical political identities such as environmentalism as eternal, ageing cynicism tends to reduce them to passing rebellions. Against these stereotypes, and based on ethnographic research into the everyday lives of environmental activists and ex-activists in a northern English city, this paper describes the complex interconnections between individual biographies and changing cultural and political identities over time.

During a specific phase of the life course, active participation in the cultures of environmentalism forges an environmental activist identity and, via performance of that identity across everyday life, the assemblage of a green lifestyle. Yet green identities and lifestyles are not timeless; though temporally more durable than the period of environmental activism which usually contributes strongly to their assemblage, they are still prone to change, and especially to processes of decline.

The paper explores three main ways in which environmental activists' and ex-activists' distinctive green identities shift over time, as biographical events and variously 'ungreen' worlds are encountered and negotiated. First, exit from green worlds, the faltering of green cultural practice, and the erosion of green lifestyle. Second, institutionalisation, via the process of professionalisation, of previously voluntary green political commitments, and a commensurate reduction in the significance attached to green lifestyle. Third, the maintenance of green lifestyle, indeed its active continuation as a cultural and political project.

Hughes, J.E.

The Open University & Staffordshire University

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/013

What do older learners want? Researching into the discourse of older people as learners

The research has investigated how the concept of lifelong learning is used at both the national policy level and at the institutional level represented by further education colleges. This investigation was mirrored in fieldwork with older learners investigating their responses to learning in general and learning about ICT in particular.

The informing theory for the research draws on Foucault's concepts of 'discourse', 'archaeology', 'genealogy', 'governance' and 'the self'. The research is an opportunity to assess the value and the limitations of these concepts.

The focus on older (retired) learners serves as a useful marker of the limitations of wider discourses that align lifelong learning with the need for a flexible and adaptable workforce. The interest in ICT also helps to develop a deeper understanding of the discourses that are significant in policy concerning lifelong learning. By considering whether ICT is seen as being 'for' older learners, it is possible to look for clues about who is included and who is not.

The research suggests that the discourses of learning used by older learners are at variance with the discourses that inform government policy in the area of lifelong learning but may be more compatible with other areas of policy including health and welfare.

Hughes, K.

Victoria University, Australia

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L006

The adult children of divorce: Pure relationships and family values?

'No fault' divorce was introduced in Australia in 1976 and those who were children (up to fourteen years) at this time have now grown to adulthood. There is clear evidence that this generation - Generation X - appear to be having, or planning to have, far fewer children than previous generations, and have low rates of marriage. They witnessed large numbers of separations amongst their parents' generation and they were the first generation who, as children, were raised in non-conventional families in large numbers. They now have a high rate of living alone.

Giddens (1992) and Beck-Gernsheim (2002) argue that there has been a shift from stable family formations to relationships which are inherently fragile and temporary. Both propose that intimate relationships in late modernity have been marked by reflexivity and contingency. Although these are not new propositions, little empirical work has been done on the contours of such relationships and the meanings that they have for individuals.

This paper explores Giddens' and Beck-Gernsheim's contentions through an in-depth, qualitative research project conducted in Melbourne, Australia with thirty participants - fifteen men and fifteen women - born between 1961 and 1976 whose parents had either separated, or a parent had died. In either case, the interviewee had subsequently lived in a single parent, step, or blended family. It explores their perceptions of relationships, their family values and discusses the suggestion that we are moving into an era in which 'the normalisation of fragility' will become central to people's intimate relationships.

Hunt, G., Evans, K.

Institute for Scientific Analysis, USA

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/020

Youth cultures, ethnicity, drugs and the dance scene

Research on the electronic music dance scene, especially in the U.K., has tended to emphasize both the fluid and transitory nature of youth cultures. These cultures are portrayed as attracting young people from a wide range of social backgrounds who come together regardless of the differences in their social backgrounds. Recently some researchers (Chatterton and Hollands) have begun to question whether or not the attempts by post-modernist researchers to adopt new concepts such as tribes (Maffesoli) may have led to the downplaying of the structural underpinnings of youth cultures.

This criticism is especially pertinent when we consider the role of ethnicity in the dance scene. With only a few notable exceptions, ethnicity has tended to be overlooked in many of the contemporary accounts. While ethnicity may have been downplayed by researchers in the U.K., it is nevertheless the case that ethnicity plays an important role in defining the dance scene in the U.S. Using data from 300 in-depth interviews with attendees at clubs and dance parties in San Francisco, we examine the extent to which ethnicity plays a role in determining the social make-up of the dance scene. We also explore the relationships between drug use, Asian American identity and the dance scene and consider the ways in which Asian American youth define themselves, the social groupings in which they operate, the type of dance events they attend, the music they listen to and the nature of their drug use.

Jagger, G.

Leeds Metropolitan University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Performativity, subjection and the possibility of agency

This paper examines Butler's account of the workings of social power in a Foucauldian sense in the formation of the psyche. It considers her argument that in rejecting psychoanalysis as 'the repressive hypothesis' Foucault failed to acknowledge the productive aspects of psychic regulation. It is these that Butler focuses on as she develops her account of psychic subjection through melancholic incorporation in *The Psychic Life of Power*. This enables her to show how power forms the subject in a Foucauldian sense providing 'the conditions of possibility of its existence and the trajectory of its desire' (p.2). It also allows her to identify 'the mechanisms through which 'the subject is formed in submission' (p2) which are lacking in Foucault's account of subjection.

However, the main purpose of Butler's attempt to articulate the relation between the social and the psyche is to theorise the ambivalence at the heart of subjectivity: an ambivalence that stems from the workings of power. This is where the problems lie. Butler's aim is to theorise more effectively the Foucauldian claim that the power that produces us is not just external to us but part of us. It forms the basis of our existence and our possibilities even as it subjects us to its workings. The source of our subjection is therefore also the source of our resistance and the source of our political agency. Despite Butler's own insistence to the contrary critics claim this theory of agency is inadequate for political ends. The paper concludes with an examination of these criticisms.

James, N.

University of Leicester

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Academic identity development: Narratives of shifting experiences

This paper will consider how academic identity construction involves different forms of community participation and identification. The paper draws on a study that involved a group of academics, all of whom were psychologists, who explored how they came to see themselves across those communities which were of primary importance to them in the formation of their identity. Through self-reflection and the construction of narratives of experience, their lived and told stories emphasised the diversity of their identities that were negotiated with others within personal, historical and situational contexts.

The paper will conclude by recognising that the study of academics' lives from their perspective, in which they actively and socially develop their identities, not only provides a lens through which they can be understood as shifting constructions of identity, but allows them to rethink who they are and have become.

Jomeen, J.

University of Leeds

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

"Mother in waiting": An interpretation of pregnant women's narratives

Becoming and not becoming a mother is conceptualised within contemporary society as an individual decision, although within a framework that positions motherhood as 'normal', 'natural' and compulsory for all women. This is further reflected in women's accounts that becoming a mother constitutes 'a natural progression' and is 'ultimately fulfilling' (Woollett & Marshall 2000). Traditionally theories of women and motherhood presume that the 'mother' identity is taken on by women following the birth of their first child. This is reinforced by contemporary literature that describes women's transitions to motherhood through their change of role within the family and work and the consequent redefining of identities and relationships following the birth of their babies. This paper provides an understanding of the process of taking on the identity of 'mother' to put forward the theory that women's psychological and social transition to motherhood and identity and relationship reconstruction begins much earlier than the birth of their baby.

Narratives of women in early pregnancy are explored and interpreted using a form of narrative analysis developed from Greimas (1966, 1983) to identify the 'actants' within women's stories. 'Actants' are fundamental to a narrative, but can be absent from or present within the text. These women's narratives tell stories which suggest the presence of motherhood in the early stages of pregnancy and the potential agency of the 'non-pregnant body' and the 'fetus' within the construction of that role. Their accounts present a powerful picture of the renegotiation of identities encountered by women during early pregnancy.

Jones, G., O'Sullivan, A., Rouse, J.

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L006

"Pointing them in the right direction": Parenting in times of "fragmented" youth

As youth has changed and become extended, young people's relationships with their parents have changed, and new forms of parenting are developing. Individual transitions to adulthood need to be set in their family context. The analysis first considers generational change. A generation ago, transitions to adulthood, organised according to principles of tradition, involved a relatively orderly progression (leaving home to marry, etc), and beliefs about what was 'right' derived from parents and reflected class cultures. So much has changed in the last few decades that parents cannot fall back on experience and tradition. Though they have more responsibility (the corollary of extended dependence of their children), they feel they lack authority. Old solutions are no longer applicable and old traditions need to adapt to current circumstances. More democratic families can co-operate and talk, effectively transforming tradition in the family setting. However, more autocratic and controlling parents still adhere to tradition, expecting their children to replicate their own patterns. By providing or withholding economic support on the basis of what they consider to be 'right', parents help to shape their children's transitions to adulthood. The paper examines the role of parents in young people's economic and domestic transitions. It argues that young people's 'choices' are often compromised by parents, and reveals mechanisms whereby social class inequalities are reproduced in families. The study involved interviews with young people (aged 16-25) and their parents in the environs of Stoke and Cambridge. It was funded by the ESRC (R000238379).

Jung, F.

University of Kent

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Lesbian politics and "designer dykes" - then and now?

One claim that is often made in academic as well as non-academic accounts on lesbian lives is that lesbian identities in the 70s and 80s were of a very political nature whereas nowadays they are 'merely' one lifestyle choice amongst many. Some of these texts take a nostalgic stance regretting the loss of political values and commitment in contemporary young lesbians' lives. Lesbianism has certainly come a long way since the 1970s Leeds Revolutionary Feminists. This research is grounded in the life-stories of a number of gay-identified women in Britain today to assess whether there is a noticeable shift in political awareness and engagement between different age-groups of respondents and to see whether and how the 'designer-dyke'-myth can be applied to my sample of young gay-identified women. My first task will be to clearly define the various terminologies used in the paper. Then I am going to discuss the diverse approaches my respondents took to the dilemma of politics versus lifestyle lesbianism. At the same time this paper will look at the wider socio-cultural contexts that may have influenced the women in their outlooks and political commitment. Finally, I shall discuss whether there is a qualitative difference between lifestyle and political lesbianism. Is this clear dichotomy justified? Are they both simply reflective of the periods in which they emerged? Is today's so-called 'designer-dyke' a refreshing example of past battles won and/or is the claim that politics is a taboo for contemporary young lesbians unfounded?

Keating, A.

University of Cambridge

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Goodricke College G/020

The nation-state, fragmenting identities and citizenship education

With the rise of the modern nation-state, citizenship came to be equated with membership of a national political and socio-cultural community. However, over the past two decades it has been argued that the link between citizenship and the nation-state has been challenged by the 'fragmentation' of identities prompted by new social movements, globalization and regionalization. In this paper I examine the response of nation-states to the proliferation of their citizen's identities and citizenships and, in particular, how nation-states attempt to maintain the idea of a 'collective' while facing the challenge of multiplying and fragmenting identities. To measure this response, I examine the evolution of state citizenship education curricula, as education and citizenship education have historically served to inculcate a homogeneous and hegemonic national citizenship in future generations. By tracing the evolution of citizenship education over time, we can assess whether nation-states have accommodated, repudiated, or ignored the fragmentation of citizenship identities, and examine the basis of collective identities in this new fragmented era. To focus the discussion, I provide a detailed, qualitative case study of the Republic of Ireland and its citizenship education policies.

The research presented here is part of an on-going doctoral research project on the Europeanization of citizenship education policy.

Keenan, J.

University of Sheffield

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The construction and negotiation of genetic risk: The experiences of households with inherited blood disorders

This paper, based on wider research in-progress, explores the construction and negotiation of genetic risk amongst households in Sheffield affected by or carrying genes for the chronic genetic illnesses: sickle cell disorders and thalassaemia (SCD&T). These disorders can be detected through simple blood tests and during pregnancy. They follow a predictable recessive pattern of inheritance in families. It is predominantly Black and minority ethnic groups that are seen to be 'at risk', due to evolutionary origins of the mutations, and in many ways the conditions have become racialised.

I draw upon qualitative data from interviews with affected individuals and case households to discuss how genetic risk is constructed, experienced and negotiated. The analysis will be informed by and contribute to current theorisations of risk and individualisation. The 'risk subject' is often portrayed as an independent, universal, rational decision-maker with full information. In reality however, many complex wider social, cultural, political and economic factors and networks of power relations and responsibility are important in informing these 'choices', particularly in respect to inherited disorders in the contemporary climate of the 'new genetics' and under the shadow of eugenics.

The research is a partnership between the ESRC and The Sheffield Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia (SSCAT) Foundation. - A local organisation that provides culturally appropriate support to affected families, and works to raise awareness about the conditions. Outcomes of the research are likely to have policy implications for both health and social care providers, who will be reported to in due course.

Kemp, S.

University of Edinburgh

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/010

The subjective/objective distinction in social science and its problematic consequences for research

Much work in the area of social theory over the last 40 years has argued that those analysing the social world must incorporate both a subjective and objective component within their research. This argument derives from a critique of earlier, 'scientific', approaches, which were criticised for failing to deal properly with the subjective aspect of social life. The requirement to incorporate and balance both subjective and objective elements has been promoted by a range of apparently diverse thinkers, including Giddens, Parsons, Alexander, Habermas, and Bhaskar. In this paper I want to consider a critique of this standard social theoretical assumption, deriving from the work of John Holmwood. Holmwood argues that the use of the subjective/objective division, and those divisions related to it, actually undermines the development of social scientific research. He claims that research findings that are presented using these categories take on a certain indeterminacy, which means that the adequacy of the research findings cannot be easily assessed, and problems intrinsic to them are obscured. Given that it is by identifying problems with research claims that investigators are prompted to develop new, more adequate alternatives, the use of divisions such as the subjective/objective split undermines progress in the social sciences. In this paper I suggest that Holmwood's arguments are correct, and present examples of the indeterminacy generated by the use of the subjective/objective division.

Killett, A.

University of East Anglia

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

Fragmenting experiences: The challenge of engaging with the whole

In a study of young people's experiences of using Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, fragmentation of young peoples' experiences became apparent. Children and young people demonstrated a sophisticated weighing of information and ideas in developing their understandings of their situations and their needs. Often, however, responses from services did not match this sophistication. There was a sense that adults providing the services were not engaging with the entirety of the young people, and the complexity of their understanding. On critical reflection it could be seen that young people were again fragmented in the process of the research.

This fragmentation will be considered in relation to concepts of 'othering' and 'splitting', the impact of regulation of young people's activities and space, and children and young people as works in progress.

The presentation will explore the apparent resistance of adults to engage with the complexity of young people's understanding, but also the possible consequences of developing such engagement. To engage with young people as 'current' rather than as people who 'will be', trusting the understandings they have come to and entering into debate with them about these, we may be challenged to be less fragmented in our thinking. We may have to begin to integrate our doubts and fears about the social environment we are creating, with the 'certainty', the reassurance, offered by evidence based practice and increasing regulation and guidelines for practice (be that education, health care or social work practice).

Knight, D.E.

Cardiff University

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/010

Is there pressure to conform in a de-traditionalised society? Evidence from survey and interview data for a societal consensus on the "typical" age of life course transitions

There is abundant evidence to confirm that the conditions of late modernity are overturning taken for granted norms regarding the attainment of statuses associated with adulthood, such as the universality of marriage, parenthood, home ownership, and age-appropriate consumption of goods and services. Jones & Wallace (1992) and Morrow & Richards (1996) are among those to have commented on the fragmentary nature of the transition from youth into adulthood, exacerbated by poverty. In addition, while late modernity's emphasis on the attainment of personal goals legitimises unconventional choices concerning career trajectories, living arrangements and projects of the self, paradoxically, the individual is called upon to explain such choices as choices rather than the effects of circumstance.

The theory of Structuration, as outlined by Giddens (1984, 1991) and others, provides a framework for understanding the reflexive processes of social life in late modernity, whereby social actors monitor their own actions and the actions of those around them to provide clues for normative behaviour. The individualised actor can thus discern the degree to which his/her lifestyle corresponds to or differs from that of others.

Although the idea of a 'traditional' life course is rapidly losing ground, quantitative survey data and qualitative interview data being prepared for publication demonstrate that a degree of societal consensus persists regarding a 'typical' life trajectory. Whilst the social control resonance of the traditional life course is greatly diminished, it still has the power to make individuals feel uncomfortable about their own choices and achievements.

Kohlrausch, B.

Graduate School of Social Science (GSSS) Bremen, Germany

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/020

A ticket to work? Perilous school-to-work transitions in Britain and Germany

It is considered that transitions from school to work are becoming more and more risky. Failing to enter the job market often means staying detached from the labour market for the rest of one's life. In recent years, Britain and Germany have implemented labour market programmes for young people who have failed to enter the job market. In this paper, I aim to conduct a comparative study of these programmes - the "Immediate Action Programme against Youth Unemployment" in Germany and the "New Deal for Young People" in Britain. The labour market programmes aim to bridge fragmented transitions of those young people who are not able to succeed on the labour market on their own. The purpose of the paper is to analyse school-to-work transitions within the institutional framework of both programmes.

Comparative transition research generally argues that educational systems and labour markets are linked in a systematic manner. On a biographical level these specific linkages create particular patterns of labour market entry. Referring to the current agenda of comparative transition research the main argument in this paper is that although active labour market policy in both countries seems to follow similar guidelines, it differs systematically according to institutional framing and labour market demands. As a consequence, both labour market policies generate specific patterns of school-to-work transitions. I argue that they maintain existing patterns of job entrance rather than create new ones, and consequently, often fail to address those young people who are most threatened by labour market exclusion.

Köller, R.

Graduate School of Social Science (GSSS) Bremen, Germany

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Lessons from the "endangered species" of contemporary retirees

The generation of people who retired in Germany over the last 10 years still belongs to the group of workers protected against such phenomena of post-modern global societies as fragmentation, diversity and risk leading to increased uncertainty. Qualitatively analysing the trajectory of their life courses I find that social contacts and networks are crucial mechanisms for their subjective feelings of relative certainty in spite of living in a post-modern world. These social interactions are especially important in life after work because they protect one from loneliness and social isolation. This protection works through the membership in the social convoy (meaning moving through life in a group exchanging social support) that is most stable over time and not role-dependent, in this case found in family and also colleagues. An assumption can be made that subsequent generations will lack such protection against uncertainty because of increasing individualization seen through changing family arrangements (low birth/high divorce rates), or increasing demand of work mobility. It is also worthwhile learning from contemporary retirees who are not members of social convoys as such lessons can provide insight into future cohorts of retirees. Thus, it is necessary to understand how the work and family trajectories of the contemporary retirees affect the evolution of their social convoy and what makes it lifelong and stable or fragmented and unstable. Thereby the paper contributes to wider sociological discussion on the role of trajectories in life course research.

Ku, H.B.

Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Gendered suffering: Middle-aged women's narrative on domestic violence in southwest of China

This paper is a partial product of our oral testimony projects in Guizhou and Yunnan provinces of Southwest China. Since 1999, we have employed oral testimony method to study the life course of Miao ethnic minority women in China's rural impoverished regions. By employing this method, we aim to explore the hidden voices of the local women and learn about their life experiences, their views on their relationship with their husbands, family, community and other social forces that shaping their livelihoods.

In the project, we employed participatory approaches to address the issues of unequal power relations in collecting narratives and we promoted the idea of "women listening to women". In so doing, the local women had opportunities to become our research partners. They took part in formulating the research topics, participating in the oral testimony collecting, and in interpreting the narratives of other fellow women's living experience. Moreover, the narrators (interviewees) were encouraged to talk in their own dialects.

In local women's narrative, especially the middle-aged women, they were eager to talk about their lives suffered from family burden, family discord, domestic violence, alcoholism and other issues which were beyond our agenda. We finally find that suffering is the collective experience of the middle-aged women and domestic violence is the major source of women's suffering. This paper seeks to examine how the patriarchal system, rural poverty and traditional cultural practices intertwine in shaping women's life and making women's suffering in everyday life.

Lake, A.A., Hyland, R.M., Rugg-Gunn, A.J., Mathers, J.C., Adamson, A.J.

University of Newcastle

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Social and nutritional perspectives on dietary changes in the life course: from adolescence to adulthood.

Eating habits are influenced by multiple factors from an individual's environment and their movement through the life course. This longitudinal dietary study provided quantitative evidence of dietary change and investigated factors influencing dietary change from adolescence to adulthood.

Dietary data, using food diaries, were obtained in 1980 and 2000 from the same 198 respondents aged 11.6 and 32.5 years, in Northumberland, North East England. Two questionnaires were completed in 2000. Foods consumed were assigned to one of the five food groups from The Balance of Good Health and expressed as percentage contribution to total food weight. Combining the quantitative dietary data and descriptive statistics with the qualitative data allowed the identification of relationships between the participant's perceptions of, and attributions for, change in eating behaviour and actual change over 20 years.

Change in food intake between adolescence and adulthood related to life-course events and trajectories. Respondents had accurate perceptions regarding the direction of their dietary change over 20 years. Parents, partners and children were perceived to have influenced dietary change. Other key influences were work, limitations on time and awareness of nutrition and health. Demographic factors and questionnaire responses were associated with the degree of change in intake of the five food groups. Gender differences existed in both measured dietary changes and attributions for such changes. These findings help to explain the complex process of dietary change from adolescence to adulthood. The combination of methodologies from both nutritional and social sciences adds breadth and depth to the findings.

Funded by the Wellcome Trust (057995/Z/99/Z)

Landman, J., Landman, M.

Nutrition Society

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Cucumbers bursting with vitamins?: Expert nutritional advice in the 21st Century

This paper examines current issues regarding safe expert advice in a rapidly expanding field. The fragmentation of modernity's occupational structure already evident in the last century is reflected in new knowledge markets and the commodification of expertise. Consumers have an array of sources for 'expert' guidance: 'nutritionists' apparently abound. 'Expertise' grows with each nutrition-related crisis (e.g. obesity epidemic) and food scare (vitamin and mineral supplements). This raises profound concerns, regarding risk, with implications for people at all points of the life course. Whose advice can be trusted? How are the nutrition professions defined and by whom? Who - and where - are the qualified and properly regulated experts? As food and nutrition increasingly are perceived as a fundamental area of risk in late modernity, individuals seem increasingly willing to negotiate apparently unregulated markets.

The paper focuses on three professional groups of nutrition experts: dietitians, nutritionists and nutritional therapists. The empirical base indicates that there is significant uncertainty within the field regarding the respective roles and function of dietitians, nutritionists and nutritional therapists. There is also considerable confusion among other health professionals about the diversity of practices; in particular, of nutritionists and nutritional therapists. This is the marketplace that the public enters into.

The analysis here considers the paradoxes of risk management in this area of pre-eminent controversy. Indications are that the state eschews being 'nanny', in favour of arbitrated -if not regulated - 'informed choice'. This, then, is the context for full active engagement with nutrition for health.

Larsen, J.A.

University of Surrey

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Existential crisis and the social re-negotiation of life projects

Based on person-centred ethnographic research in an intervention project for people experiencing first-time psychosis and an ongoing research project on the experiences of overseas trained healthcare professionals this paper argues the value of an integrated approach to study both the experiential and the social aspects of identity construction as it unfolds in concrete circumstances. Recent sociological debates over the notion of individual identity, or self-identity (Giddens 1991), have elucidated its socially negotiated character. However, some disagreement in theoretical conceptualisation is found between those who emphasise social roles and those who take a phenomenological approach to study experiential aspects of identity. For example, while Jenkins (1996) points out the internal-external dialectic of social identity and rejects to accept the notion of a 'core identity', Craib (1998) insists that the experience of such a 'core' is crucial to the notion of identity. The paper introduces the concept of 'life project' in an attempt to elucidate social constraints as well as individual agency in the lives of individuals who suffer existential crisis following life-disrupting events, such as mental illness or migration. It is demonstrated how individuals in such circumstances may rebuild a notion of possessing a continuous identity by drawing on cultural resources to construct narratives about their past, present and future - representing an individual 'life project' - which provides them with a sense of biographical continuity. In this sense, the life project is subject to continuous re-negotiation while, at the same time, providing the individual with a sense of possessing a core identity.

Lascaux, A.

Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Science & University of Hertfordshire

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Linking trust to risk: On the limits of Coleman's conceptualisation of trusting relationships

This paper aims at investigating and clarifying complex interrelationships between the notions of trust and risk in both sociological theory and social practice. Traditionally, sociologists have tended to regard the formation of trusting attitudes as a direct consequence of rather unproblematic risk assessment in a situation of indeterminateness. This approach has become widely adopted among rational choice sociologists, especially in James Coleman's influential writings where situations involving trust were simply subsumed under the rubric of risk situations. Nevertheless, equating trust with risk results in a whole bunch of problems. The main obstacles to this view of trust can be set out as follows: (1) agents often lack the metrics of risk, which prevents them from arriving at the decisions about trust based on probabilities meaningfully ascribed to the expected events; (2) a subjective risk estimate is a social rather than mathematical construct, hence purely calculative judgments are inappropriate in establishing trust; (3) approaches to risk are formed within social groups, so assessments of risks, as well as decisions to trust in risky situations, are influenced by status and power inequalities among decision-makers; (4) a systematic lay-expert divide is documented in the matters of maintaining trust in the objective judgments about risk, being compounded by the disagreement among experts affiliated with rivaling organizations or sticking to competing theories; (5) different cultural and psychological factors affect individual propensity to trust in risky situations. The paper is concluded by the theoretical implications of a richer understanding of complex bonds between trust and risk.

Leighton, R.

Canterbury Christ Church University College

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/010

Teaching citizenship is a subversive activity

Although it has been suggested that it was introduced to the National Curriculum in England as a device to define, control and direct political literacy, Citizenship Education is emerging as a potentially emancipating and liberating subject. Continuing a series of presentations at recent BSA conferences (Leighton 2002, 2004), this paper considers the insight which the sociology of education of the 1970s can provide for analysis of this 21st century phenomenon. In particular, the work of Postman & Weingartner (as indicated in the working title and in the structure of the paper) will be considered, as will the potential contributions of Bernstein, Becker, Illich, Keddie and others.

By returning to the critical and questioning stance of, for some, a bygone era of sociology, this paper attempts to show the relevance of such critiques and to place on the agenda the principle put forward by Atkinson and Delamont (1989) amongst others that sociologists should be led by sociological inquiry and sociological principles rather than by the agendas of interested parties, decision makers etc. It will seek to argue that Citizenship as it is taught and as it is learned in English schools is potentially truly empowering for learners rather than the placebo suggested by recent commentators, while cautioning that there is a distance to travel from potential to reality. It concludes that the panic about Citizenship Education is misplaced in that it is the 'wrong' panic and, perhaps, the 'wrong people' who are

Li, Y.

Birmingham University

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Income differentials and social justice in contemporary China

Ever since China adopted the policy of reform and opening up to the outside world in 1978, unprecedented changes have taken place. The quality of life for most people has been improving year by year, although social divisions have also been enlarging. How serious is the problem of social inequality and social division in China? What are the most important factors for the differences? And how are such differences perceived as well as they are lived?

Several studies have been conducted on income differences and social justice in China. They are mostly based on small samples or samples relating to a few cities or provinces in the developed (coastal) areas, and have only looked at the impact of factors such as sectors, industries, gender and employment status. Thus, even though many interesting findings have been made and many theories have been proposed, we still lack a thorough and systematic sociological account.

This paper uses a large-scale national representative sample to investigate the income differentials and the perceptions of social justice in contemporary China. In addition to usual structural factors, we include sociologically more important factors such as education and social class in the analysis. It is found that although sectoral-industrial factors and personal characteristics play a very important part in explaining income differences, it is the social position (class) that is of chief importance. However, even though class is the most important causal factor for the income differentials, it is not acutely perceived as such! Social complexities are blurring.

Li, Y., O'Toole, T., Gail, R.

Birmingham University

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/020

Political and civic participation of black and minority ethnic (BME) groups in the UK in the new millennium

There is growing concern about low levels of civic and electoral participation, particularly among the young and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups in the UK. In the 2001 General Election, for instance, the turnout among the 18-24 year olds was estimated at 39%, against an overall rate of 59%. As the proportion of BME groups is increasing and as these groups tend to have a younger age structure, their socio-political engagement or the lack of it is of vital importance to the health of our democratic society.

Most existing studies in the area are, however, hampered by a lack of good data. Most researchers tend to rely on rather small samples and very few studies are based on large-scale national surveys. Because of this and the associated problems of permissible methods, existing studies do not provide convincing stories. For instance, studies of BME voting rarely examine the effects of age whilst the burgeoning literature on youth participation tends not to disaggregate data by ethnicity. More importantly, existing research does not investigate the relative importance of other socio-cultural factors on BME socio-political engagement.

To ameliorate the situation, we use the large-scale national data from the British Household Panel Survey to study the political and civic participation of BME groups in 2001. We explore patterns of the BME socio-political engagement, their interrelations, and the relative importance of personal characteristics and socio-economic conditions on the participation using multivariate techniques. We find that underlying the BME socio-political disengagement is their socio-cultural disadvantages.

Lindsay, J.

Monash University, Australia

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/020

A big night out: Young people in commercial and niche drinking venues

The broader social context that young people inhabit has changed markedly over the last two decades and this change is reflected in the alcohol consumption contexts. These changes include the attenuation of 'youth' as a life stage, the advent of dance music, the feminisation of nightlife, access to new communication technologies, the move from pubs to clubs and hybrid venues. Urban nightlife venues are now highly segmented and are marketed toward a diverse range of rapidly changing 'taste-cultures' (Thornton, 1995). Based on in depth observations of drinking venues and qualitative interviews with young patrons in Melbourne, Australia, the distinction between commercial and niche venues is explored. The commercial/niche distinction advances debate on the cultural organisation of youth and reveals the social patterns behind the apparent fragmentation of nightlife experiences. The commercial/niche distinction is key to understanding how class, gender and taste are played out in contemporary drinking venues in this local context.

Liu, J.

University of Sussex

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/045

Negotiating the demands of the workplace and the domestic domain: Chinese women's experiences of time before and after being made redundant

Western sociologists have shown that women's experience of time differs from men's. Chambers, for example, has argued that women's 'leisure is embedded in domestic duties' and their 'lives are structured principally by domestic time which fundamentally supports the institutional and leisure time-tables of men'. Drawing upon life history interviews with women manual workers who made an involuntary exodus from their urban workplaces in China's transition to a market economy, I explore how they experienced the constraints of the workplace and the domestic domain and negotiated the demands made on their time by work and family life prior to and after becoming redundant. First, I analyse the effects of three-shift rotation work pattern which many of them had experienced for years, and show how this led them to suffer from 'time poverty'. Then I show that after losing their jobs theoretically they gained 'surplus time' but in practice were often unable to exercise real control over this potential 'leisure time'. Instead, the 'time wealth' they gained was performed utilised for the benefit of their immediate family and other kin and they were drawn into domesticity and caring activities. Furthermore, these increased demands sometimes jeopardized their attempts to become re-employed. Hence, the Chinese case supports Chamber's argument that women's 'lives are structured principally by domestic time'. I conclude that women's relation to time is a representation of their constant struggle to meet the demands between work and family life.

Lloyd, S., Standing, K.

Liverpool John Moores University

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/045

Lessons from the Netherlands on work life balance

Women's labour market participation has resulted in conflict of work and care. Women are increasingly experiencing time pressure between work, care and leisure (Garhammer, 2002; Allan and Grow, 2001, Ester et al 2002). In the UK new family friendly legislation has been introduced which aims to address a reconciliation of work and family conflicts. It may be that the Netherlands employment policies provides a more effective means of over coming these issues via part time work.

The Netherlands is a world leader when it comes to part-time work (Van der Heijden, 1998), part time work became an important tool for restructuring the Dutch labour market. During the last decade, the Dutch "Polder model" has attracted a considerable amount of positive attention as the economic tide has turned (Henning and Weber, 1998a; Plantenga, 2002). This Dutch policy model plays a central role to work solutions, as part-time workers have equal rights as full time employees (OCDE, 2002). The basic ingredients being consensus building, wage moderation and labour flexibility (Plantenga, 2002).

Drawing on the findings from an ESF project on work life balance in the UK and Netherlands, this paper will explore the extent to which the Netherlands labour market policy addresses this problem and promotes gender equity. The paper will ask is there something to be learnt from the Netherlands example, or do its new policies and legislation actually reinforce gender divisions and roles within the employment market?

Lord, M., Besingrand, D.

University of Hull

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L006

A paradise lost and found

Recent changes in the worlds of travel and communication, in conjunction with shifting migration policies, have contributed to an increase in the incidence of intra-European migration. These factors, alongside the relative wealth of the 'baby boom' generation, have resulted in a greater number of British retirees choosing to live in rural France. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative research carried out in 2004, we show how British pensioners living in the Lot have changed their lifecourse trajectories through the quest for a paradise lost. Pursuing the 'England of 50 years ago', they find themselves in the Lot, 'the Place that time forgot' (www.lotguide.com). By examining how this pursuit is variously interpreted, we demonstrate that the hunt for a paradise lost is not solely concerned with the discovery of a rural idyll, but is intrinsic to the way that people make sense of their lives and identify themselves. By moving to a place that reminds them of a time past, they change the trajectory of their lives, living both in the present, but also in their individual past lives, believing that they are more youthful. This is an identity perpetuated through reference to local community values and lives. However, while the British draw on the liberatory potentials of their migration to rural France, they fail to account for the transformation that this may have on the local community, and may, inadvertently, be aiding in the destruction of that which they seek.

Loxley, A., Prosser, J.

Trinity College Dublin

Methods

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/002

Telling stories with pictures: The application of reflexive photo participation in exploring the lifeworlds of "disadvantaged mature" university students

The focus of this paper is to discuss the application of the research technique known as reflexive photo participation (RPP), which is currently being used with a small group of 'mature disadvantaged' undergraduate students in Ireland to explore their experiences of university life. To help set the wider methodological context, I will begin by briefly discussing the role of visual research and how its concern with the production, organisation and interpretation of imagery, can be applied to the study of a wide range of topics: e.g. communities, power, gender studies, spatial relationships, and spectatorship. Following this, the rest of the paper will discuss some of the methodological issues which are emerging from this study, of how RPP in conjunction with more orthodox methods, can profoundly enhance our understanding of the lived experiences of our participants. RPP was adopted as it added a visual dimension (to what otherwise would have been a predominantly logocentric study), through encouraging participants to generate their own images (in this case photographic), which in turn are used as the basis of subsequent interviews. However, RPP goes beyond simple photo-documentation, and invokes a reflexive dialogue between the researcher and participant pertaining to both the content of the image (denotation and connotation) and the context of image production. It is within this interplay between image and image 'talk' (whether at an iconic, symbolic or realist level), that a more densely layered understanding emerges of how these students navigate university life.

MacDonald, R., Shildrick, T., Simpson, D.

University of Teesside

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Critical moments, health and youth transitions

Drawing upon recently completed, longitudinal, qualitative research with young adults, this paper examines the impact of personal health and health-related 'critical moments' on the creation of marginalised youth transitions.

Building on earlier projects, this Joseph Rowntree Foundation-funded study followed the later fortunes of young people who had grown up in some of England's poorest neighbourhoods. Reflecting a move toward more holistic youth studies, it examined the multiple and diverse influences on individuals as they moved into their mid to late twenties. The project went beyond the now common focus on school-to-work, housing and family 'careers' to include as well attention to the impact of leisure, criminal and drug-using 'careers' on transitions in poor neighbourhoods. Yet, in-depth, biographical interviews also uncovered striking levels of personal and family morbidity and mortality that had sometimes dramatic but unpredictable consequences for individual transitions. For instance, over half the informants had experienced the death of a person close to them (a figure that does not include the loss of grandparents). The paper draws upon case study material to analyse the differential experience of these and other health-related 'critical moments' and their consequences for the course of young adults' lives. In conclusion, a case is made for the fuller inclusion of health as an axis by which we might understand different and unequal transitions to adulthood.

MacIntyre, G., Keenan, M.

University of Glasgow

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/020

Between a rock and a hard place: How young people negotiate new spaces of inclusion and exclusion

Social exclusion is about disconnection in terms of experiences. In Scotland there has been an increasing drive by government to include young people in mainstream society. This drive has taken the form of policy initiatives to create and underpin new opportunities for young people to participate more fully in areas such as the labour market and within the community. New measures encouraging inclusion and participation at individual and community levels are in striking contrast to the Anti-Social Behaviour Bill which targets young people in particular. While New Labour has aimed on one hand to create the formation of new spaces for young people to become (re)connected to various aspects of mainstream society through policies of inclusion and empowerment, this can be seen to have resulted in new forms of social exclusion, alongside new boundaries of containment.

Two separate studies focusing on young people were carried out over the last two years in the West of Scotland. While the focus of each study was different, there were key issues and themes that emerged. Both studies involved young people aged between fourteen and twenty-four. In each of the groups young people were identified as being socially excluded, one group had learning disabilities, while the other group were disadvantaged in so far as they lived in an area of multiple deprivation. Both studies found 'new spaces of exclusion' among young people who have been specifically targeted for social inclusion. This paper will address some of the implications of these findings for policy, participation and empowerment.

Macvarish, J.

University of Kent

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Understanding the "popularity" of living alone

The increasing number of people living alone is often cited as one of the clearest markers of individualization. The massive expansion of the dating industry suggests that individuals still desire a romantic partner but are looking to less spontaneous, more managed means to establish relationships. Does this represent a reconciliation to individualization or a 'breakdown' in the negotiation of interpersonal relationships? Through in-depth interviews with thirty and forty-something single women and an analysis of cultural representations of singleness and relationships, this paper explores the disjuncture between desires, expectations and reality. The interviewees reject the 'spinster' label because they do not accept the prospect that their singleness is permanent and because they object to the presentation of their singleness as being the result of other people's choices (to reject them). But contrary to popular representations of the chosen 'single lifestyle', they do not articulate their singleness as a preferred outcome.

This paper attempts a specific analysis of the contemporary conditions in which interpersonal relationships are conducted to avoid the ahistorical tendencies of theory which relies on 'individualization' as an explanatory tool.

Maher, J.M., Lindsay, J.

Monash University, Australia

Work, Family and Negotiation

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/045

Beyond fragmentation: Renovating working motherhood

In contemporary Western popular accounts of motherhood, conflict between good mothering and paid work is a dominant theme defining working women's lives. There is intense policy and public debate about the pressures on working mothers in the UK, US and Australia, often generated by concerns about falling national fertility rates. However, recent research we have conducted on fertility, domestic labour and experiences of mothering suggests that the notion of conflicted and fragmentary motherhood may not fully reflect working women's experiences. We argue that women may be constructing new and flexible models of mothering that focus on skills and tasks, rather than conflict and crisis. Rather than experiencing their labour as fragmented, we suggest women are moving across spheres utilising the same skills. We propose that a new conceptualisation of mothering as a set of practices, or a trade is useful for understanding contemporary motherhood and provides a new way forward for academic and policy debates on work/life balance.

Marshall, B.L., Katz, S.

Trent University, Canada

Ageing, Body and Society

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 17.10

Goodricke College G/013

From androgyny to androgens: Remaking gender in the aging body

Today images of post-menopausal and post-reproductive mid-life for women, and post-andropausal mid-life for men, contrast sharply with traditionally negative and asexual stereotypes of the aging body. Whereas the moral and scientific authorities of the modern era had assumed that aging led to supposed benefits of reduced sexual activity and increased androgyny for both sexes, the postmodern promotion of neoliberal individualism has rejected androgynous gender convergence in favor of accentuating distinct gender roles and behavior. Unlike past discourses based on sexual inequality, however, the contemporary orientation is towards an equality of differences based on sexual enhancement. This study argues four main points useful to strengthening the relation between feminist and aging studies. First, despite the currently popular rhetoric of gender equality and inclusion, distinctly different masculine and feminine sexual identities are reasserted as gender is re-inscribed onto aging bodies. Second, while there is a growing feminist literature on the 'forever feminine' trope of female hormone replacement therapy, there is little commentary on the construction of 'masculine vitality' in the promotion of androgen replacement in aging men. Third, the youthful standards of successful aging are increasingly replacing older ones. Fourth, as masculine and feminine aging emerge as expanded and flexible indicators of social and economic priorities. Feminist gerontological research must revisit the body as a pivotal site for the re-inscription of distinctive gender roles, in particular those related to aging masculinity, and ponder both its theoretical and practical consequences for critical approaches to the life course in the twenty-first century.

Marshall, H.

University of Cambridge

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Goodricke College G/020

Student pedagogic identities as global learners: A study of global education in practice

In the context of increased sociological interest in notions of globalization, global citizenship and the work of education-related NGOs, the need for global education is being debated across pedagogic and official fields. This paper covers one aspect of a larger investigation into the field of global education in England by exploring the pedagogic and curricula ideals of teachers and pupils in a school with a global dimension.

The analysis is based on 38 interviews with staff, and six focus groups with students from three different age-groups. This paper considers the relationship between global education curricula and pedagogy, and mainstream curricula and pedagogy. In other words, it looks at the pedagogic implications of an educational movement for global education. The focus of this paper relates to students' pedagogic identities as global learners.

This paper may be of interest to sociologists of education, those interested in global education, interdisciplinary knowledge and/or the work of Basil Bernstein.

Marshall, H., Davidson, K., Lumbers, M., Raats, M., Arber, S.

University of Surrey

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/X001

The significance of late-life re-partnership for food in later life

Sociological research on food in later life is beginning to recognise the impact of traditional late life transitions on the meaning of food for older people, such as widowhood. However, as later life becomes increasingly diverse we are witnessing changing roles and relationships for older people which impact and reflect in food choices, habits and domestic organisation. Re-partnership in later life following widowhood is one such example and is an increasingly common phenomenon.

This paper reports on data collected in qualitative interviews with men and women aged 65-74 and 75+, both living with others and living alone in southeast England for the project Food in Later Life.* Within our sample of 80 older individuals were a small but significant group of participants who had re-partnered, either to a stage of co-habitation or in a Living-Apart-Together (LAT) relationship.

Comparing cohabiting and LAT relationships with older people living alone, our findings suggest re-partnership in later life has a profound impact on the quality and meaning of meals, which is most extensive for cohabiting partners. Experiences are gendered as older women describe enjoyment gained through preparing food for others and older men express incentive and guidance from their partner to eat more healthily. Both genders strongly value the company at meal times their new partnership brings them. Comparing new relationships with older persons living alone demonstrates the salience of re-partnership for the meaning and value of food and meals.

*Funded by the European Union, contract number QLK1-CT2002-02447.

Martin, P., Ross, A., Schoon, I.

City University, London

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/013

Pathways into adult life: The case of teenage parents

The UK has the highest rate of teenage pregnancies in Western Europe. Young women and men from disadvantaged family backgrounds are more likely to become teenage parents than their more privileged peers. Furthermore young parents are more likely to have left school at the minimum age than their peers who delay parenthood. Whereas the antecedents and outcomes of teenage motherhood have been studied extensively, there is less knowledge about young fathers. The aim of this paper is to explore the pathways open to both young mothers and fathers in their passage into adulthood. The study will draw on data collected for two British Birth cohorts to compare routes into adulthood taken by young people born 12 years apart, in 1958 and 1970 respectively. The findings indicate that by the age of 30 years a significant number of teenage parents had obtained NVQ3-level qualifications or higher, that the majority of men and women were in paid employment, and that in both cohorts most men and women were in a stable relationship. We shall argue that whilst there is no reason to engage in a moral panic about teenage parenthood, young parents do need more support. We shall also examine factors and processes that help young parents be resilient in the face of adversity. Findings will be discussed in terms of a contextual model of human development that takes into account the dynamic interactions between structure and agency, reflecting on theories of increasing individualisation and emerging adulthood.

McGrath, N.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Environmental justice and collective identity: Resisting the individualisation of risk inequality

The individualisation of social life and the high consequence risks of late modernity are intertwining themes of Risk Society theory. In an ecological context, risks are conceptualised as incalculable, incommensurable and unbounded by space and time. For Ulrich Beck this generates overarching and widespread anxieties and insecurities, and shifts the nexus of social conflict from the distribution of wealth to the distribution of risk. Furthermore these insecurities and anxieties are met by the fragmentation of traditional class identities, resulting in the individualisation of risk and forcing an increase in reflexivity as self-confrontation. However, whilst Beck acknowledges continuing, even growing inequalities in the so called 'risk society', his focus on the high consequence and globalised risk may underplay to some degree the significance of risk inequality and its relationship to contemporary social conflict. In this paper I discuss the concept of risk in relation to participants in environmental justice events in Scotland, reflecting on activists' narrative accounts of issues, events and action. I will explore the process by which concept of risk becomes socially meaningful for these participants and how the experience of activism may generate resistance to the individualisation and privatisation of socially generated risk inequalities through the forging of new identities and the reinvention of existing identities.

McMunn, A., Kuh, D., Bartley, M.

Department of Epidemiology & Public Health, University College London

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Life course social roles, women's health in middle age and a theory of normative identity

Giddens' theory of identity emphasises the fluidity and social change associated with late modernity. According to Giddens, social identity in a late modern society has become an on-going reflexive project in which the line of development of the self is internally referential. Rather than looking out to pre-established social norms and traditions for guidance, the late modern self turns inward. This paper applies these ideas in Longitudinal analysis of the social role histories of women from the MRC National Study of Health and Development 1946 birth cohort. The results show, contrary to what one would expect from Giddens' perspective, that women who did not follow the normative social role pattern for that cohort were more likely to report poor health at age 54 than their more normative counterparts. This relationship is not explained by health selection, early life factors or adult socio-economic circumstances. This paper argues that the social environment of 1960s Britain was relatively traditional so that structuralist theories of identity are more applicable than Giddens theory of identity in explaining life satisfaction in women in this cohort. Relationships between women's social role histories and their subjective health in middle-age is regarded as evidence of the strength and pervasiveness of traditional norms with respect to women's role in society. The next stage of this project will be to examine whether increasing diversification of family and work roles means that normative identity is no longer an important predictor of subjective health among middle-aged women in later cohorts.

McNaughton, C.

University of Glasgow

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L006

'Crossing the continuum of exclusion: The life trajectories of people experiencing homelessness

Despite concern over the increasing polarization of wealth and disadvantage in late modernity, conceptualising this inequality, and understanding how those individuals experiencing the most disadvantage, negotiate their position, remains problematic. This paper presents longitudinal qualitative research charting the life trajectories of 30 individuals, all experiencing homelessness or housing problems during the initial stage of data collection. Using these life trajectories it examines how degrees of insecurity and exclusion change over the life course, at times converging in the risk of homelessness becoming a reality. It looks at how this situation is then negotiated with by the individual and the outcome of this negotiation. The paper questions how the conceptual notion of increased individualisation, choice, and 'risk' in late modernity may impact on the narratives the research respondents present of their lives, and the extent to which they view their route into, through and out of homelessness as a product of the own 'choices' or as a process embedded in structures outside of their

McNulty, A.

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/013

"....and then I fell pregnant": "Teenage pregnancy" inn the life stories of women across three generations

The research project is part-funded by an NHS Trust, with the aim of looking behind the statistics of conceptions and births. The research area, in North-East England, is defined as socio-economically disadvantaged, with a population that is predominantly white and working-class.

A biographical-narrative approach has been used to collect 'life stories', constructed in one-to-one interviews with women in three generations within family groupings, each of whom has had her first child under the age of twenty. The method has produced data that illuminate links between changing social and economic contexts and personal transitions. The women's accounts position their 'teenage pregnancies' in relation to other events and experiences in their lives, in the same geographical area at different times.

Data analysis examines intergenerational transmission of ideas about young women's sexuality, sexual encounters, and options at the point of a positive pregnancy test. It also explores the ways in which women make sense of, and represent, their negotiation of sex, heterosexual relationships and motherhood.

Mellor, D.J.

Cardiff University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L005

"Doing it" again (but changing the covers first): The re-branding of Melvin Burgess and the troubles with teenage sexuality

Whilst the sexuality of children and young people has been closely governed for centuries in the West, the late-modern area has been characterised by intense debates about the nature and occurrence of sexual activity among the young. The passionate dispute within the popular media surrounding the suitable readership for 'Doing It', Melvin Burgess' novel about a group of teenage boys' explorations of hetero-sex and erotically active heterosexual identities, highlights the particular way that teenage sexuality is governed in contemporary Britain. This paper argues that the subsequent re-branding of the paperback edition of the novel and its positioning as an artefact of 'twentysomething' nostalgia demonstrates the manner in which 'childhood' is constantly negotiated as a period of the life course that is a-sexual (but still heterosexual). Using the moral debate surrounding 'Doing It' to frame a discussion of the positioning of sexuality in the life course of individuals, this paper explores the paradoxes regarding young people and sex as extant in the values of contemporary British culture. Panics about teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections and legislation that essentially criminalises certain forms of bodily contact between under 16s are juxtaposed with the commercialised sexualisation of young people's cultures and the voices and experiences of young people themselves, drawn from qualitative data and the author's own ethnographic research. The paper concludes by critically discussing the current ideological struggles over who can decide where, what and when young people should learn about sex in the early twentieth century.

Merryweather, D.

Liverpool Hope University College

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L005

New risks and old genders?: Risk-discourses and the construction of gendered identities amongst contemporary youth

In the risk-society processes of individualization are typically viewed as liberating men and women from traditional constraints of gender; no longer bound by the role expectations of 'femininity' and 'masculinity', individuals are increasingly responsible for the reflexive monitoring and construction of their own identities. However, in challenging this assumption in this paper I suggest that risks should not be understood as objective phenomena which exist externally to reflexive individuals, but rather constitute complex power/knowledge discourses which simultaneously construct our interpretations of risks and influence and organize our actions and identities. Drawing upon interviews conducted with groups of young men and women I begin by considering a range of activities typically viewed as preoccupying the leisure patterns of contemporary youth, drawing particular attention to the related risk-discourses mobilized by institutionalised expert systems which serve to normalize and abnormalize certain behaviours and dispositions. Moreover, I argue that such risk-discourses are articulated with specific gender discourses in ways that serve to position men and women differently; that is to say that similar risk-behaviours are understood, regulated and monitored in a manner that serves to dichotomize and naturalize gendered identity positions. Finally, subjecting interview texts to a discourse analysis, I argue that individuals practice various 'technologies of the self' by way of constructing themselves as men and women who correspond to the gender positions made available by such discourses, but that they do so in ways that highlight the inherently fluid, malleable and unstable character of gendered identities.

Milne, A., Hatzidimitriadou, E., Chryssanthopoulou, C

University of Kent

Caring

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/002

Continuing to care: The needs and roles of older carers of people with dementia

One characteristic of an ageing population is the increasing number of people with dementia. The vast majority are supported by family carers at home; this population is itself ageing and older carers constitute as ever larger proportion of the total number. Despite shifts in patterns of traditional reciprocity, intensive care is predominantly provided by spouses on a co-resident basis and daughters or sons on an extra resident basis. Care-giving for a PWD is widely evidenced as complex, stressful and demanding. Research identifies two broad categories of challenge: primary problems relating directly to the symptoms of dementia; and secondary problems related to the consequences of caring. Certainly dementia carers are at enhanced risk of experiencing poverty, social isolation, stress and a number of physical problems. Whilst research strongly suggests that carers actively benefit from a number of respite and specialist services, it is the oldest carers who provide the most intensive levels of care who receive the least. Developing responses which support caring dyads and are flexible are current deficits; narrow conceptualisations of 'need' and pathological constructions of caring also undermine the potential of the care system to offer effective support. Ethnic minority carers of PWD, carers of people with learning disabilities and dementia, and carers of relatives in long term care are particularly invisible subgroups of dementia caregivers increasing in both number and need.

Misoch, S.

University of Potsdam, Germany

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L001

"Are authentic self-presentations on the web consequences of fragmentation and disembedding?"

Everyday life of people in the 21st century is characterized by fragmentation, transformation, individualisation, over-stimulation and processes of disembedding. Due to these tendencies the lives of people get more and more incoherent and seem unpredictable and individuals are disembedded. Against this theoretical background, it is postulated that self-presentations get an increasing importance in post-modern societies, because they show clearly the decisions of the individual and their identity, which are the prerequisites to guarantee social interaction.

If we take a look at self-presentations, we can notice that the Internet offers new opportunities for these processes: individuals can portray themselves by self-presentation in chats, emails, by mudding or by the creation of a personal home page. Personal home pages are stages for self-presentations and it is to be studied how people present themselves by personal web sites. To achieve this, an internet-survey of personal web sites was realized in 2003, in which the self-presentations of 88 (German) owners of personal home pages were analysed. On the basis of the results of this survey, it was shown that the majority of people presented themselves in an authentic way on their sites - and that in spite of the ease with which it is possible to be experimental and unauthentic in cyberspace. But how can this result be interpreted? It is presumed that authentic self-presentations on personal home pages are connected with the daily experience of fragmentation and transformation in post-modern societies and that they are an attempt to self-stabilize and re-embed oneself.

Mitchell, J., Draper, A., Green, J., Thorogood, N., Gustafsson, U.

University of Westminster

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.05 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/X001

All the nuts in one basket: Participatory research and unexpected ethics

A study examining the efficacy and viability of participatory methods for involving hard-to-reach people in food policy-making does not immediately suggest an ethical minefield for the well-prepared researcher. In practice our study gave rise to ethical considerations that were almost entirely missed by the ethical framework set down at the start of research.

During two years of study, over 300 secondary school students and approximately 250 low-waged adults were involved in discussions on school food and food labelling respectively in four London boroughs. During research in classrooms researchers witnessed incidences of teachers insulting and bullying students, for example calling them stupid and nuts, and in small group work learned information from students about their home life that was some cause for concern. During research with low-waged workers, evidence was uncovered of the following: sub-minimum wage, illegal training certification, crime and non-payment of tax. Information was volunteered freely from participants and bullying behaviour happened openly in front of researchers, but the information has not been released into official reports despite having relevance to conclusions.

The relationship between the participatory researcher and the researched is complex and the sensitivity of information uncovered during longterm research with the hard-to-reach requires consideration of how such information is used as researchers have responsibility to participants but also to broader concepts of ethics. The issue of ethics in research is moving up the agenda but conventional frameworks are suited for clinical work and need adaption to capture the range of issues raised by participatory research.

Mitchell, J., Draper, A., Green, J., Thorogood, N., Gustafsson, U.

University of Westminster

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.05 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Engaging the hard-to-reach: an evaluation of participatory methods used in research with secondary school students

Objective

To investigate the viability and efficacy of participatory methods in the context of action research as a means of involving young people in policy agenda setting on school food and nutrition issues and in implementation of such policies at school level.

Design

Secondary school students were initially involved in classroom-based participatory appraisal type activities and then in small group work outside the classroom using deliberative methods to progress development of student-authored whole school food policy documents and student-led school nutrition action groups (SNAGs).

Subjects

Approximately 300 students have been involved at two state secondaries in London each with more than triple the UK average free school meal provision.

Results

Students were engaged by participatory methods and rated them highly, in contrast to negative opinions expressed about traditional methods such as questionnaires. Students appreciated the variety of methods and the overall friendly approach. Whole classroom work was less effective than small groups as it was resource intensive and difficult to reconcile participatory methods with classroom control. Small groups worked effectively and delivered food policy documents and SNAGs. However, the implementation of policies at school level is proceeding slowly.

Conclusions

Participatory methods are an effective means of engaging young people in the development of food policies; small group work is most effective at encouraging deliberation on policy issues; implementation of policy changes can be slow and requires committed adult stakeholders; schools are an effective site for consulting with young people, but it is important to tie issues to the curriculum.

Monro, S.

Leeds Metropolitan University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Fragmented genders: Theoretical explorations and practical implications

What happens to gender theory when we consider gender categories to be more diverse than simply 'female' and 'male'? In what ways are the sexual orientation categories that we take for granted destabilized by sex and gender fluidity? What does the fragmentation of discrete sexual and gender identities imply for policy making and activism?

This paper aims to develop gender theory regarding transgender and to apply trans/gender theory to two specific areas: social policy and activism. It begins by briefly reviewing and critiquing existing theoretical approaches in relation to trans, including feminist and poststructuralist accounts, before exploring and evaluating three strands of trans/gender theory: [i] The broadening of male/female categorization; [ii] Degendering; [iii] Gender pluralism. The paper then discusses these theoretical approaches with regards to the related areas of social policy and activism. There is a tendency for gender diversity to be marginalized by both policy makers and activists, and the inclusion of gender diversity and fluidity may destabilize the categorization systems on which policy makers and activists rely. The three theoretical approaches described earlier are relevant to these processes in different, sometimes conflicting ways. Overall, the inclusion of gender diversity provokes calls for the development of more finely grained approaches to praxis and policy making, whilst important questions concerning fragmentation, alliances, and the tension between universalist and particularist approaches, remain. The paper is based on empirical findings from four research projects.

Moore, S.E.H.

University of Kent

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/010

"Thinking pink": A critical look at the breast cancer awareness campaign

The contemporary breast cancer awareness campaign has played a central role in constructing our understanding of illness, victimhood and femininity. This paper seeks to critically assess this campaign, examining its aims, the language and imagery used, and its origins. I argue that the pink ribbon campaign frequently promotes a heightened sense of risk and feelings of anxiety in women, making women acutely aware of breast cancer, but not necessarily more informed about the illness or well-equipped to deal with it. This paper calls into question the supposed empowerment achieved through personal awareness. Moreover, the way in which breast cancer is represented in the campaign reflects how we more generally view the female body and femininity. I point out that the ways in which the campaign asks us to think about women - as potential victims, as distinct from and unknowable to men, as caring and body-conscious - tend to be decidedly retrograde and essentialist. Whilst these ideas about women form part of the wider notions of femininity endorsed by glossy women's magazines, the discourse encapsulated in the pink ribbon ironically stems from the language used in second wave feminism (and the Women's Health Movement more particularly). My work is based on analysis of literature produced by charities involved in the campaign, products launched by companies and charities to raise awareness of breast cancer, and interviews carried out with women who wear pink awareness ribbons.

Murphy, E.

University of Nottingham

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Contemporary constructions of childhood identity in relation to mundane family practices

This paper examines how mothers constitute childhood in and through their talk about mundane child-rearing practices. It relates to a growing body of scholarship, from both social historians and sociologists, which is concerned with the social construction and historical variability of childhood. Although there have been some attempts to identify the images of childhood that underpin contemporary social and public policy, there is relatively little empirical work examining how parents constitute the children they rear or the ways in which images of childhood inform the mundane daily practices that make up contemporary child-care. This paper addresses that gap using data from a longitudinal qualitative interview study of mothers' practices around feeding their young children. A sample of 36 women, stratified by age and occupational class, was followed from late in their first pregnancies until two years after their babies were born. Their talk about feeding their babies was embedded in broader discussion about the nature of childhood and the implications of this for child-rearing practices. The analysis presented here focuses upon:

- The images of children and childhood which underpin mothers' talk about children in general and their own children in particular;
- The extent to which the images employed by individual mothers are consistent or ambivalent and contradictory, and change over time as they move from contemplating child-rearing to actually engaging in it;
- Variability between mothers;
- The extent to which images employed are continuous or discontinuous with those identified in relation to earlier historical periods.

Myklebust, J.O.

Volda University College, Norway

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/045

Disability and economic independence

In Norway, students with special educational needs constitute nearly 10% of all who begin their first year of upper secondary school. The theme of this paper is to what extent these adolescents succeed in their transitions to adult life. This is a vulnerable process for most youth, but it is especially challenging for young people with functional difficulties who have experienced protracted and disjointed transitions throughout their educational trajectories. Special emphasis is on how these young men and women, between 23 and 25 years of age, succeed in gaining employment that allows them to become economically independent. The analyses are based on interviews conducted in 2002 with 500 adolescents who have been followed annually since their first year in upper secondary school (1996). This study has a quasi-experimental design approach, which allows comparison of outcomes for adolescents with a similar level of functional abilities schooled in different types of classes. Consequently, it is possible to evaluate whether schooling in regular or special classes is the best preparation for successful employment in adult life. The analyses reveal that support given in regular classes is more beneficial, a conclusion that obviously should have implications for educational policy.

Nazroo, J.

University College London

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Well-being in later life: Diversity and inequality in economic and social transitions

Retirement from the workforce in industrialised societies has been seen as a transition into an economically dependent situation coupled with declines in social status and health. This focus on older people as dependent, however, neglects evidence of improvements in mental health in the period around retirement age, suggesting that for some, at least, the transition into a 'retired' status is a positive experience. Indeed, there is a growing recognition that Laslett's description of the 'Third Age' as post-work life characterised by opportunity, leisure and self-fulfilment, is a reality for many. This shift in focus from dependent to wealthy and healthy agentic older people, though, neglects both the complexity of retirement trajectories and the marked inequalities between older people. The inequality faced by older people compared with younger people has been the focus of much work, but it is also appropriate to focus on inequalities within the older population.

This paper uses the first wave of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (12,000 people aged 50 and older) to model changes in markers of well-being (mental health and quality of life) across age cohorts. A particular focus will be on the improvement in well-being post state-retirement age and its subsequent decline. Explanations to be considered for these changes and inequalities in them will be framed around the possibilities that they are a product of diverse retirement trajectories carrying differing implications for post-retirement experiences, and that the cross-sectional data presented in fact reflect differences in retirement experience between cohorts.

O'Donnell, M.

Westminster University

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Now we are (nearly) 60: Reflections of radical generation

This paper is based on the reflections of the 1960s and 1970s of eight women and men who were in their twenties at the time and who then identified themselves as radicals. All respondents were students in the earlier period and most became academics. However, two non-academics are considered for comparative purchase. Some but not all respondents describe themselves as activists and some produced radical publications. The main focus is on their beliefs and values then and now. The question is raised whether youth itself and factors associated with youth (such as inexperience) affected their beliefs and behaviour. A central thrust of the paper examines how the respondents variously dealt with the problem of maintaining their radical values and commitments whilst engaging with careers and relationships, including children where relevant. Did some pay a career or personal price for their radicalism? How did anti-bureaucratic radicals deal with professional and other bureaucracy? How far have their various ideals been achieved and society changed? Which theorists - Althusser? Foucault? Giddens? - did they think then and think now best explain society and their own situation within it? Did they underestimate the strength of the system/structures? Are they more cynical now than then? Have they retained a radical orientation or become more conservative? If so why? The conclusion relates the above experience to the nature and prospects of radicalism.

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

University of Manchester

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/010

Differences in practices of consumption: Analysis of the diffusion of consumer culture using multi-national time-use data 1975-2001

Our research project overall concerns the diffusion of consumer culture across the USA, UK, and several other countries. We have compared panel data on time-use for five different countries for the years 1971 to 2002. These data make it possible to develop arguments regarding changes in the allocation of time to grouped sets of consumer practices such as reading, travel, eating, gardening, and religious activities. In this particular paper, we examine data for four countries, and we show that the heterogeneity of the USA sample is more similar to the time-use patterns of the UK, and less similar to the other countries.

The methodology used includes descriptive statistics and the analysis of patterns of time-use among both participants, and non-participants, in each set of practices. As used by Bourdieu in his book *Distinction*, people can be grouped by their of 'time use on reading' and 'time use on travelling'. The data we have allows us to distinguish male from female, and to separate levels of education, and to consider the impact of marriage and having small (or older) children in the home. Employment statuses are also contrasted, across the four countries for 3 time points each.

The paper focuses on 37 sets of practices, harmonised across countries over 1970-2000. The paper will interest those who wish to know about the changes in practices over time in the four countries (USA, UK, Norway and Netherlands).

Olsen, W.

University of Manchester

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/013

Methodological pluralism and Indian labour markets: I work but it doesn't count

In this paper methodological pluralism is illustrated using an Indian context. A literature review examines women's participation in labour markets, with special reference to unpaid rural labour. Unpaid work also encompasses some forms of micro-enterprise and informal-sector work. In 1994/5 the Indian national sample survey counted people's involvement in unpaid work, above and beyond their household work, if they didn't have a remunerated job or occupation. Using these data, along with qualitative and primary field survey data collected by the author in the same year, the following two points are established.

Firstly, women in certain cultural groups do more unpaid work than women in other cultural groups. Class and labour market factors have to be allowed for before we can ascertain the extent to which this claim is true. The epistemology underlying the claim is methodological pluralist. Institutional factors are part of the social grounding of the labour market we are examining. Labour relations are shown to extend beyond the commercialised, paid-labour market.

Secondly, exploratory statistics offer one way to discover patterns of unpaid labour and how they are associated with patterns of remunerated work. Regression analysis is contrasted with two alternatives (scale triangulation, in which local field survey data are compared with the national data; and cluster analysis). The argument is made that qualitative and quantitative research are not as far apart as they are sometimes perceived to be.

Orr, N., Ravenscroft, M.

University of Brighton

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/010

Heritage, leisure and identity in museum volunteering

Heritage as leisure has been portrayed as a consumption experience dominated by spectacle and sensation. However, the growing number of volunteers in the heritage sector indicates the emergence of a new construct of 'productive' leisure, where the desire is for a 'serious' leisure experience (after Stebbins) pursued with like-minded people. Drawing on the findings of qualitative research, this paper explores how the museum is an important setting for the volunteers' ongoing leisure practices and identity construction. From an examination of the 'leisure career' of museum volunteers two distinct volunteer profiles emerge: those who, although retired from work, are continuing their volunteering started earlier in the life course and those, who with the onset of retirement, commence museum volunteering. Although the volunteers enter a social world inhabited by those knowledgeable about heritage and history at different stages of their lives, becoming a museum volunteer requires learning and acquiring the knowledge and skills to participate in the museum social world. As serious leisure, museum volunteering means obligation and commitment, not only to the museum and the museum professionals, but also to the other museum volunteers and to the visitors. The paper concludes by arguing that work on heritage as leisure needs to go beyond the spectacle and explore how museum volunteering as a serious leisure practice offers the volunteer, at different stages of the life course, the opportunity to construct a special social identity.

Papí, N., Frau, M.J., Feliu, E.

Universidad de Alicante, Spain

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/045

Integrating newspaper and personal life: Main strategies (the standpoint of journalist women in the east of Spain)

The principal obstacles of the journalism practice are the patriarchy model of the organizational structure of media and the family demands (Ziamou, 2000; Peters, 2001). Thus, this paper aims to explore the interaction between paid work and personal life on journalism, from Spanish women experience. It focus on the local and national newspapers established of the east area of Spain (Comunidad Valenciana). The main objective of this article focuses on: to detect the main strategies and decisions to conciliate newspaper and personal life from longitudinal perspective.

The results of this article is based on two set of information: 1 statistics and documentary revision (Census- 2001, Surveys of CIS) and 2 interviews in depth to journalist women what have worked (or work) in some newspaper. The interviews had biographical questions. The work field has been doing from September to December of 2003. The analytic process of the grounded theory (Glaser & Strauss, 1967; Strauss & Corbin, 1990) assists the constant comparative analysis between interviews.

The results suggest four main strategies that represent different trajectories and situations in profession and family (that do not exclude themselves from a longitudinal perspective): 1 to dedicate the life to the profession, 2 to adapt but sacrificing the profession, 3 to establish the professional career before any other familiar project and 4 to limit the demands of the profession.

Payne, G.

University of Plymouth

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Onward and upward: Assumptions about social mobility and intergenerational life

Recent work - some as yet un-published - by social mobility analysts such as Heath and Payne, Payne and Roberts, Platt, Prandy and colleagues, and the British Social Attitudes Study in Scotland, together with others in continental Europe, has begun to show that conventional sociological wisdom about mobility rates is wrong. The 'wisdom' that relative mobility rates are more or less constant (the 'Nuffield tradition') is challenged by evidence that both absolute and relative rates tend on the whole to increase, albeit slowly. This re-opens several older issues in mobility analysis:

- How much change is enough to count as a 'real' change?
- Why do mobility rates change so slowly?
- How much mobility can citizens realistically expect?
- Is society really more open and 'socially efficient'?
- What is the salience of these changes in mobility for individual careers, life courses, and intergenerational family patterns?

In addressing these questions, this paper is less interested in the detailed statistical evidence of mobility than the way that moral and ideological assumptions have migrated into mobility analysis, and the consequences of mobility for other aspects of social life across the various social divisions. It is time to ask ourselves once again what exactly we mean by, and measure social mobility, and to think about how social mobility impinges upon the careers and life-long experiences of different groups in society.

Phellas, C.

London Southbank University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Race and ethnicity in research methods

Studying across race and ethnic lines creates many problems for the social researcher. These problems involve practical, strategic, ethical, and epistemological questions alike. Researchers of various ethnic minority backgrounds are constantly examining the array of methods used in quantitative and qualitative research to show multi-cultural sensitive research can be best carried out.

The dramatically changing world in which we live demands that we embrace the serious areas of inquiry that the ethnic and race studies present us with. We need to come up with innovative and imaginative ways of designing research projects that will provide the data necessary for the formulation of adequate explanations for the racial and ethnic dimensions of human life.

This paper draws experience from two different research projects from both the qualitative and quantitative methodological spheres:

1. Construction of Sexual and Cultural Identities Among Ethnic Minority Gay Men
2. Evaluation of National African HIV Prevention Projects

The presentation will address the traditional frameworks of methodological approaches used in these projects, discuss how these methods have been applied to race and ethnic studies, and finally suggest how the methodology of these projects could be improved.

Philip, K., Shucksmith, J., King, C.

University of Aberdeen

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Planned mentoring, vulnerable young people and social capital - fitting them in or fitting them up? Questions arising from a study of planned mentoring

The UK government has adopted planned youth mentoring as a key style of intervention in working with vulnerable young people. Much of the appeal of mentoring to policy makers lies in two assumptions: firstly that it has the potential to build social capital for disadvantaged young people and secondly that it may assist in re-integrating them into mainstream society. The building of intergenerational relationships with unrelated adults has been viewed as providing an alternative to difficult family relationships and as promoting more cohesive communities. Much effort has gone into developing planned mentoring programmes which build on the perceived benefits of 'natural' mentoring.

This paper considers planned youth mentoring in relation to 'natural' mentoring and explores dimensions of this grafting on of 'artificial' relationships to existing social networks. It examines dimensions of planned mentoring that have been overlooked, specifically the negative aspects of mentoring relationships. The notion of mentoring as a coercive set of relationships is discussed following the work of Colley (2002; 2003). Finally the paper considers the benefits of 'reciprocal' mentoring and the potential for mentoring as a form of 'critical friendship'.

Phillips, T.

University of Tasmania, Australia

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Uncivil relations with strangers: How people reflect on a commonplace experience in everyday life

The question of how we live among strangers in daily life is an established concern in sociological analysis. A key topic has been the achievements of the individual in rendering daily life among unknown others possible. Yet, questions of residual failure await full development. This study aims to describe how the individual person perceives a commonplace form of interactional breakdown: uncivil relations with strangers. Focus group methodology is used to describe common threads of understanding that individual people have developed around such events in terms of prevalence, reasons and remedies. Significant findings are (i) the manifest use of period and generational kinds of historical thinking in accounts of the state of uncivil relations (ii) the emergence of excessive individualism, runaway capitalist values and diminished community as key orientational forms held to bring about uncivil dealings, and (iii) a focus on communitarianism as an acceptable panacea to uncivil interactions.

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

University of Leicester

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Labels "R" Us? Children's consumption of fashion

Our paper draws upon some preliminary findings of an ESRC/AHRB funded project, New Consumers? Children, Fashion and Consumption, in the examination of a range of issues surrounding the 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. In this paper, we particularly focus on children's knowledge and appraisal of 'labels' and 'brands', the strategies used by children and their families for obtaining desired items of clothing and the ways children use fashion brands and labels in a range of contexts to construct their

Pilkington, H.

The University of Birmingham

Youth Study Group

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.45 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

'In good company: risk, security and choice in young people's drugs decisions'

The paper considers young people's narratives of the relationship between individual choice and peer group practices of drug use. On the basis of a three-year mixed-method study of young people's drug use in the Russian Federation - representative survey (n=2814) of 14-19 year olds, semi-structured interviews (n=95) and ethnographic studies with 19 groups of young people - the paper confirms that a number of core elements of the 'normalisation thesis' of recreational drug use hold true for young people in Russia. However, it raises questions about the degree to which young people employ individual, consumer-based 'cost-benefit' reasoning in making their drugs decisions. It shows that the key site of encounter with, and offers of, drugs for young Russians is the friendship group (kompaniia) and that friends are central to the drugs choices young people make. The paper does not suggest that young people are vulnerable to 'peer pressure'; on the contrary they make conscious individual choices. However, the friendship group is their key reference point in terms of setting boundaries of what is 'acceptable' and 'unacceptable' and is considered, by young people, to be a safe and secure context in which to make and enact their drugs decisions. In elaborating this argument particular attention will be paid to: levels of tolerance of drug use within friendship groups; correlations between personal experience of drug use and assertions that drugs choices are 'individual choices'; the significance of the type of drug used; and specific cultural practices surrounding drug offers and use.

Platt, J.

University of Sussex

Methods

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/002

Access to university: methods and conclusions of different approaches

A large literature has developed around the question of which factors promote or deter access to and attendance at university. Although this research in many ways arises from concern with current issues of British policy debate, and some has been directly commissioned by governmental bodies, it has also figured in general sociological discussion in the discipline's journals. The more immediately policy-related work has been directly concerned with alternative funding regimes and the observed or predicted response to them of different groups of potential students and their families. The more theoretically-oriented literature has its starting points in general issues of social mobility and/or rational-choice theoretical explanation, but these are brought to bear on the policy issue. A wide range of data have been collected, but these show a puzzling substantive and methodological cleavage between the more empirically oriented and the contributions from rational choice theory. This paper is concerned with the adequacy of the data each approach has brought to bear to support its conclusions, and discusses the nature of the cleavage, how it has arisen, and whether it might be transcended.

Pollock, G

Manchester Metropolitan University

Methods

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/002

Hard data, soft method: An analysis of the utility of optimal matching analysis in examining holistic life-course data

Most social science applications of sequence analysis have involved a single variable such as employment status from which a typology of experience is developed which contributes to debates over career development and employment trajectories. These studies are holistic in that each case is examined as a unified whole, their complete sequence of experiences (statuses) is compared with all other cases. The concentration on a single variable has proved to be productive in contributing to substantive debates. An important criticism of this approach is, however, that, rather than the analysis benefiting from the combination of all elements of a variable over time; it lacks relevant contextual data, itself longitudinal, which are present in most social surveys. Hence, the analysis of employment experiences without using data on changes in housing, marital and fertility data is far from holistic. This paper explores a method of combining the case by case statuses on more than one variable such that multiple statuses can be examined using sequence analysis. Optimal Matching Analysis of data from the first ten waves of the British Household Panel Study is used to test the proposed method.

Prendergast, D.

University of Sheffield

Caring

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/002

Old age, death and the modern Korean family

It is projected that the proportion of South Korea's elderly citizens will increase to almost one third of the country's population over the course of the next few decades. This paper asks the question of what provision for the economic and social needs of the elderly is currently being made in Korea and by whom? Based on detailed ethnographic fieldwork, it attempts to provide insight into the dynamic negotiations and contests between individual, family and state by looking at expectations and experiences surrounding retirement, death and inheritance.

Raisborough, J.

University of Brighton

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Contexts of choice and gender legacies: The risky business of cosmetic surgery

This paper builds upon recent critiques of the reflexive, but seemingly context- transcendent self that strongly emerges in much risk theorising. By troubling assumptions of reflexive choices that underpin biography construction in a 'risk society', this paper explores how our choices are shaped by temporal acts of investment and negotiation within new and enduring gendered processes and expectations that emerge in socio-cultural landscapes. By locating questions of risk, reflexivity and biography construction within cosmetic surgery, this paper draws critical attention to the 'context of choice' exploring not only the ways in which appearance is privileged over other sources of identity formation, but upon the lived experiences of enduring gendered norms which may encourage investments in certain, arguably, traditional femininities. Rather than follow the conclusion reached in some feminist work that cosmetic surgery represents women's self-determination and empowerment, this paper suggests that emergent possibilities of biography construction present some risks as acceptable vehicles of self-determination and empowerment while shaping the limit of identity construction and as such attempt to foreclose imagined future constructions.

Reay, D.

London Metropolitan University

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Acting against self-interest?: The white middle classes and inner city schooling

Despite a preoccupation with multiple identities, class as a key aspect of identity has been increasingly elided in academic work. This paper focuses specifically on white middle class identities and identifications in relation to urban educational markets. Bourdieu (1998) identifies 'a sort of moral Darwinism' that, with the cult of the winner...institutes the struggle of all against all and cynicism as the norm of all action and behaviour'. Against this he posits the actions and orientations of those attached to public institutions. This paper draws on case study material to examine the conundrum the middle classes are caught up in, forced to address the difficult question of how to balance ideals against tactical imperatives for educational advantage. The paper works with educational choice as a starting point for investigating moral and ethical dimensions of white middle class identity, in particular the psycho-social basis of 'principled choices'. In doing so it also attempts to understand frequently overlooked conflicts, ambivalences and tensions within middle class identities.

Reichart, E.

University of Bremen, Germany

Work, Family and Negotiation

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/045

Parents' employment arrangements under transformation - the case of East and West Germany

At the same time as social scientists diagnose the "decline of the male breadwinner" (Crompton 1999, see also Lewis 2001), political speech and welfare state restructuring call for an "adult worker model". Female labour force participation has effectively risen in all European countries, yet the degree to which the state offers support for the childcaring task (either by providing child care or supporting temporary non- or part-time employment by one partner) varies widely, resulting in different arrangements for working families.

The case of Germany offers a "quasi-experimental design" for the study of life courses under shifting labour markets and policies, as East and West Germany still differ in unemployment and child care, even as the same legislative framework now applies to unified Germany.

I focus on new parent couples (childbirth 1990-1997) and their employment constellations until their first child reaches school age. I draw on longitudinal data from the German Socio-Economic Panel and Sequence Pattern Analysis to construct a typology of employment histories. First results show that while the traditional or modernised male breadwinner model remains in West Germany, East German couples either operate as dual-earners or experience discontinuous careers. For this paper, I perform a discriminant analysis to identify factors that contribute to couples' career-typology assignment. I hypothesise that an "adult worker model" is more likely in couples with similar occupational resources, as well as in low and high income couples, and that women's full- or part-time employment varies in

Richardson, D.

University of Newcastle

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Locating sexualities: From diversity to normality

Since the 1990s, the dominant political discourse of social movements concerned with 'sexual politics' has been that of seeking access into mainstream culture through demanding equal rights of citizenship. Equality is interpreted through notions of similitude (with heterosexuals) and it is through claims to normalcy that social integration is justified. Processes of detraditionalization and pluralism have enabled lesbians and gay men to make their case for equal rights, through the inculcation of norms of respect for social diversity as part of good citizenship. Paradoxically, by drawing on respect for diversity lesbian and gay movements may further their efforts in seeking social conformity as 'normal lesbian/gays', who espouse the norms and values of the 'ordinary' citizen.

The paper examines how new forms of social inclusion/visibility of lesbians and gay men might reshape the self conceptions of hegemonic identities and aid the materialisation of heterosexual identities. Some suggest that processes of lesbian/gay normalisation are likely to lead to the deconstruction of the homosexual/heterosexual binary. However, if boundaries between self and 'other' are threatened or blurred this does not necessarily undermine the notion that 'others' exist. New conceptions of otherness and their attendant identities may be created and developed to accommodate such changes. The new story of the 'normal lesbian/ gay' has the potential to lead to both social cohesion and to 'cause trouble' through creating new social, economic and moral divisions: between lesbians and gay men, between heterosexuals and across the heterosexual/homosexual divide.

Rimmer, M.

University of Newcastle

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/020

"It depends what I'm listening to" or does it? Taste and participation in youth-based community music activities

Work in the youth arts sector is both varied and complex and young people's engagement with the arts is as wide and varied as the arts themselves. Accordingly, reports of community arts activities have tended to highlight the potential breadth of their outcomes for participants (DCMS, 1998; HDA 2000; Matarasso 1997; Williams, 1997). In this regard, community music is no exception. However, as yet there has been little elaboration of the nature of the relational dynamic between particular community arts activities, local cultural contexts (and the significance of related fields of aesthetic meaning within these) and outcomes for both participants and projects. This paper draws on four ethnographic studies in different community music settings to elaborate the mechanisms at play in the protean generation of personal and social outcomes, better placing stakeholders in community arts projects to respond to calls to 'identify best practice [and] understand processes and the type of provision best suited to achieve particular outcomes' (Coalter 1991).

The paper will consider these issues in light of the everyday cultural activities of young people (Hill 1997; Willis 1990), music's role in adolescents' experiences of identity (Frith 1996; North & Hargreaves 1999) and the perspectives of music educationalists (Ross, 1995; Stalhammar 2003; Swanwick 1994), by elaborating and correlating the key factors across case studies undertaken in collaboration with the Learning and Participation Department of The Sage Gateshead.

Ringrose, J.L.

Cardiff University, School of Social Sciences

Youth

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Goodricke College G/020

Neo liberal discourses of success and failure and the problem of girls' aggression

This paper examines a contemporary moral panic over girls as increasingly aggressive and violent. Neo liberal discourses of success and failure are discussed as an important way of making sense of anxieties over girls' increasing aggression. Girls' are now positioned in neo-liberal discourse as better able to adapt to the needs of globalizing market economies than their male counterparts, a shift said to have thrown masculinity into "crisis." I examine how girls' aggression is often depicted, however, as feminine and "indirect," with concerted attention paid to the "hidden" worlds of bullying and exclusion among girls, which is held up as evidence of inherent feminine pathology. Desires to regulate interiorized spaces of the body and the psyche - girls' "secret" selves and intimate relationships - are manifest in new educational and therapeutic interventions for managing this feminine pathology. My research illustrates, however, that these strategies are actually oriented toward regulating white and middle class girls and keeping them on track for future economic (as flexible, adaptive workers) and familial (heterosexual/maternal) success. It is racially marginalized and working class girls, in contrast, who are portrayed as increasingly aggressive in overt and violent ways - as populations in constant "risk" of deviance and delinquency and subject to increasing surveillance and disciplinary regulation. I show how isolated incidences of female violence and criminality are often held up as a dangerous consequence of failed, deviant femininity, and of the failure to appropriately adapt to neo-liberal formulas for success.

Roberts, K.

University of Liverpool

Youth

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/020

What's the point in studying youth cultures?

This paper develops a critique of recent UK studies of youth cultures, specifically those studies that have focused narrowly on young people's music, fashions and clubbing. It is argued that the narrow focus misses the point - the real sociological significance of present-day youth cultures, and the changes and continuities during the second half of the twentieth century. The paper illustrates how introducing a wider lens, plus a longitudinal biographical perspective, reveals that identities associated with youth cultures are compartmentalised and temporary, which is why they allow young people to have fun, and that a function of youth cultures continues to be nurturing the skills, interests and social relationships that allow individuals, eventually, to adopt adult class-specific lifestyles and gendered roles in their homes

Roth, S.

University of Pennsylvania, USA

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Identities, biographies; and careers of humanitarian aid workers

Using biographical methods, I am currently investigating what personal, educational, professional, and political developments lead to the involvement in the field of humanitarian aid and what impact this involvement has on aid workers' personal and professional lives. I analyze these socialization processes through the dimensions of biographical continuity, identity, interaction, resources, values, and empowerment. These overlapping dimensions include subjective and objective aspects. On the one hand, they capture the life trajectories, on the other hand they encompass how the interviewees perceive and construct these trajectories. Different paths into aid and relief work can be identified: having lived overseas during childhood, political activism, victimization experience, traveller experience, religious, social and moral motives, and an orientation phase after college, a moratorium or midlife-crisis, and other aspects of self-realization. Although there is considerable literature on the work of international non-governmental organizations and the growth of humanitarian aid, there are only few studies which address career aid workers. Whereas some recent studies address the danger and trauma with which aid workers are confronted and how to prepare for it, this career has so far been neglected by the field of human resources. My study of career aid workers addresses the development of (trans)national identities, the sex segregation of humanitarian aid work, the biographical consequences of these careers, as well as the intersection of social/political activism and professional work.

Rowlingson, K., McKay, S.

University of Bath

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/010

Who cares for inheritance?

This paper explores the links between attitudes to care, assets and inheritance. Increasing numbers of people own their own homes and so, potentially, have assets either to draw on in later life or to bequeath when they die. In some cases these assets are used to pay for care. But the majority of care is provided, unpaid, by relatives. How do people feel about using up assets to pay for care? How do they feel about providing, or receiving, unpaid care from relatives? Do they think that carers deserve a greater share of any inheritance than other relatives? How do carers, and those receiving care, feel about these issues? The paper draws on findings from a major JRF study of attitudes to inheritance which included qualitative research alongside a face-to-face, structured survey with a representative sample of 2,000 people in Britain (carried out in the summer of 2004). The paper will conclude with a discussion of how attitudes to care, assets and inheritance help us to understand broader sociological issues such as the nature of 'generational contracts' and family solidarity in contemporary society. Policy issues around the provision of, and payment for care, will also be discussed.

Rozanova, J.

University of Alberta, Canada

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The "great transformation" of welfare regimes and the diversification of social risk management: Long live welfare corporations?

By virtue of goals they pursue corporations are pictured in literature as sources of both destruction and support in re-forging welfare regimes. On the one hand, they lobby governments worldwide to deregulate, reduce taxes, and curtail welfare spending. On the other hand, they are seen as starting to accept and perform broader social functions that go beyond the immediate needs of capitalist production.

My paper will investigate the emerging mixed patterns of social risk management by empirically examining why, how and with what results three energy corporations in Canada, France and Russia (EPCOR, Gaz de France and Gazprom) participate in social policy. I will build exploratory models of how much social risk is managed at the state level, what risks are managed at the corporate level, and what risks are left unattended in each of the three cases. Conducting the cross-company and cross-country comparisons, I will pay particular attention to similarities and differences between the emerging mixed welfare models, and their social implications for various interest groups.

I will contextualize my findings within theoretical literature on welfare regimes, globalization, international political economy and corporate social responsibility. The analysis presented in the paper will address issues of lesson drawing, of convergence and divergence in comparative corporate behaviour under pressures of economic liberalization as well as the changing relations between state and enterprise over responsibility for welfare. Comparison between post-communist Russia and the established Western democracies will add

Ryan, L., Leavey, G., Golden, A., Blizard, R., King, M

Middlesex University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Risk, unplanned migration and the health of Irish migrants in Britain

Transnational migration may be viewed as a means to improve one's economic circumstances and enhance one's life chances (Castles and Miller, 2003). However, there are risks attached to migration, including discrimination, loneliness, home sickness and alienation (Stoller, 2002). Economic success may prove evasive and state policies may prevent long term settlement (Fenton and Bradley, 2002; Jordan and Duvell, 2003). However, even in situations where there are few, if any, official barriers to immigration, there are risks associated with transnational migration. Close geographical proximity, cheap travel and ease of migration may lead migrants to underestimate the need for careful planning, adequate preparation and a reliable support network.

Focusing on Irish migrants, this paper explores how a lack of planning and preparation, e.g. no pre-arranged job, accommodation or support network, may exacerbate the risks associated with migration. The paper draws upon data from a quantitative study on depression among Irish migrants. Irish-born migrants in Britain experience high levels of ill-health and levels of mortality in excess of those who remain in Ireland (Wild and McKeigue, 1997; Bracken et al 1998). The paper examines the responses of 394 Irish people, living in London, to questions about migration planning, networks, social support and health experiences. Associations between age, gender, class, levels of preparation and health outcomes will be discussed. The risks of a hurried and unplanned migration will then be examined and the implications for other migrant groups will also be considered.

Salway, S.

University of Sheffield

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/045

Young Bangladeshi men in the UK labour market: Barriers and opportunities for advancement

Integrated analyses of data from the Family Resources Survey and newly collected qualitative data are presented. Extremely high levels of economic inactivity and unemployment among young, UK Bangladeshi men are explained by the interplay of weak human, social and cultural resources. As well as low levels of formal education, many men expressed concern at their lack of language skills, inability to 'fit into' formal work environments, and lack of confidence. The hegemonic young UK Bangladeshi masculinity (emphasising territoriality, violence, designer wear and disengagement from authority) is not conducive to educational achievement. Further factors that militate against success include: interruption of studies for trips to Bangladesh and barriers to parental support. Access to good employment opportunities is hampered by ineffectual social networks. While intra-ethnic social ties remain dense, links beyond the 'community' are few. Residential and school-wise concentration, plus the experience and fear of racist discrimination, constrain opportunities for social network formation with other ethnic and social class groups. Furthermore, many young Bangladeshis reject the option of the restaurant sector, despite strong 'claims' to employment there. This, coupled with a persistent tendency to rely on personal networks, rather than more formal routes of seeking employment, severely constrain options. Despite these diverse and inter-related obstacles to labour market advancement, some avenues to improvement are suggested including: involvement in community organisations presenting an important 'second chance' for those who have done poorly at school; and conscious 'moving out' (either physically or at least socially) of the dense, inner-city communities.

Sanders, T.

University of Leeds

Open

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Goodricke College G/010

Selling sex through the Internet: New markets, communities and identities

Relying on findings from an ongoing virtual ethnography of one particular British website for men who buy and women who sell sexual services, this paper suggests the prostitution markets are undergoing a significant shift. This is taking place on four levels. First, at an economic level a market has formed specifically for independent entrepreneurs who solely use the Internet to market services and manage their business. Second, at an organisational level, the virtual arena has implications for how sexual services are regulated. Third, at a 'community' level, the Internet forums provide a space which previously did not exist where commercial sexual behaviour is considered legitimate and normalised. This is particularly important for the formation of networks between men who buy sex who previously had no way of meeting other clients. Fourth, at an individual level, those who use the Internet are involved in creating specific identities to suit the asynchronous medium, but because many of these relationships move from online to off-line interactions a process of managing different types of identities is intrinsic to the performance of personalities on message boards. The context of the rise of the Internet market will be discussed in light of the Home Office review on prostitution that has been criticised for dealing only with the extreme exploitative end of the market. By presenting an opposite view of the sex industry - those women who describe themselves as 'entrepreneurs' - I argue that a new ecology of sex work has developed through the common use of cyberspace.

Sanghera, B., Satybaldieva, E.

Kent University

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/010

Moral struggles in a post-socialist society: Kyrgyzstan's reflections on the market transition

In Kyrgyzstan, the transition from a planned economy has witnessed the expansion of monetary exchanges, accompanied by changes in property rights, public entitlements, informal rules and community norms, and so thereby re-shaping the moral economy (Hann 2003). In many ways, the complex bundles of rights, responsibilities and obligations have been altered to fit into the neo-liberal agenda of privatisation, market reforms and reduced state subsidies. Advocates of economic reforms argue that 'the market' can empower consumers and workers, liberating them from central planners' controls, managers' arbitrariness and social networks of favours. Yet, 'the market' can spur self-interest to the point of undermining social practices of friendship, education, policing, entertainment and so on (MacIntyre 1985; Walzer 1982). Furthermore, individuals can struggle to define their sense of obligations to others and enact 'virtuous lives' as market forces displace moral and traditional norms and promote instrumental reasoning (Sayer 2004). The combination of civilising and destructive effects of the market produces moral ambivalence, contributing to the uncertain transition.

The paper introduces the moral dimension into the analysis of post-communist transition by examining how Kyrgyzstanis understand the social and economic changes. In particular, we discuss how their sense of obligations to others in various social spheres such as family, health care and education have been affected by market forces. We deliberately chose 33 respondents from a broad spectrum of occupations living in Bishkek, and conducted semi-structured interviews in Russian. In this way, we make an empirically informed contribution to the emerging literature on 'moral economy'.

Scott, J.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L002

'But there's so much to see.....: the Post-boomers, existential homelessness and backpacking.'

Since the early 1990s there has been an increase in backpacking among the under-25s. The Gap Year and world travel to ever more exotic and possibly (and desirably?) dangerous locations have become an almost accepted rite of passage into early adulthood, particularly among the most affluent socio-economic classes. The motivations behind such travels contrasts sharply according to generational cohorts within the Post-Boomer category. Generation X-ers appear to view backpacking 'year outs' as opportunities to delay or postpone 'real life'. Whereas Millennium Generation-ers view the 'year out' within a leisure context, rather than as life changing, postponing or affirming. Such differences can be contextualised within contemporary social trends relating to the transition into adulthood.

Many of the socially accepted markers of adulthood, such as home ownership, a long-term job, and a family are in flux or out of reach of many Post-Boomers. But the reaction of such cohorts to this decline in adulthood markers contrasts sharply with Generation X-ers seeking to continue to travel, while Millennium Generation-ers adopt a nihilistic hedonism. This paper, based on interviews with individuals from both cohorts who have had 'year outs', suggests that these competing views of both travel and adulthood are expressions of existential homelessness, with both groups searching for meaning in what appears to be an increasingly meaningless world.

Scott, S.

University of Sussex

Social Identities and the Life Course

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Making shy identities: Self (re)presentation and or cultural creation?

The existing research into shyness, conducted by psychologists, has neglected to put the individual's 'shy mind' in its social context. Some sociologically interesting questions remain to be answered, such as how we decide what shy behaviour is and how the shy role is understood by those who perform it in their everyday lives. It is also important to explain why shyness appears to be affecting increasing numbers of people in contemporary Western societies, and why this has been depicted as a new social problem. The argument of this paper is that 'shy' selves are not born but socially made, through patterns of interaction, changing cultural values and reflexive identity work. Using data from the narratives of forty self-defined 'shy' people and a selection of documentary sources, I hope to demonstrate how some people come to think of themselves as shy and to be recognised as such by those around them. On the one hand, we can look at the way that these actors make sense of their shyness as a dimension of selfhood that is shaped by their encounters with others: labelling theories of deviance allow us to theorise shyness as a negotiated career trajectory. On the other hand, cultural representations of shyness in the mass media have created a discursive framework that both defines the new social problem of shyness and positions the shy subject. At the level of both micro interaction and wider cultural trends, therefore, shy identities can be seen as socially formed and managed.

Shaw, J.

University of Sussex

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Mannheim in Gansu: Generation, identity and social change in China

Based on a study of the life courses taken by a group of 'Urban Youth' from Tianjin who were sent during the Cultural Revolution to a farm in Gansu, North-West China, this paper discusses the concept of the generation as a driver of social change and the role of generational consciousness in the construction of social and/or individual identity for the cohort who, in their adolescence, were tasked with, and possibly paid a huge price for, accelerating and consolidating the social revolution begun in 1949 in the People's Republic of China. Now in their mid-fifties, this cohort feels itself to be the 'forgotten generation' as China has changed course. They are still known as 'The Urban Youth', but there is little local interest in them, or the revolution as it was. The paper discusses the approaches of Karl Mannheim and Christopher Bollas' to the generation and its role in shaping identity. It also touches on two methods used in the project, a modified version of the Biographic Narrative Interview Method and Carol Gilligan's 'Listening Voice'.

Shildrick, T., Hunt, G.

University of Teesside

Youth

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/020

Youth culture, subculture and youth gangs: A critical exploration

Research on gangs has tended to be confined within the discipline of Criminology and it is the deviant and delinquent aspects of gang lifestyles which have dominated the literature. Much less attention has been paid to the more normative aspects of gang members' lifestyles and gang cultures. In addition there is a British/American division in the literature where it is largely accepted that 'America owns the gang, while Britain has traditionally been the home of youth subcultures' [Muncie 1999:164]. The youth cultural experiences and identities of economically marginalized youth have all too often been ignored as studies have tended to favour more middle class young people. Moreover, the youth cultural identities of marginalised youth have tended to be submerged in studies of deviance and crime where behaviour is often argued to be a consequence of youth disaffection. This paper examines the socio-cultural features of gang life and argues that some elements of gang lifestyles can be understood as one dimension of youth cultural identity and experience for some young people. The data for this paper is drawn from both qualitative and quantitative data taken from an on-going 12 year ethnographic study on ethnic youth gangs in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Shipman, B., Smart, C.

University of Leeds

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Shared Journeys: Partnering in uncertain times?

Our starting point in this paper will be to question whether ordinary people (as opposed to social theorists) living in contemporary Britain do experience their lives as risky, uncertain and fragmented. We will raise the question of whether this inferential structure, which has come to dominate the sociological lens through which we now understand personal and intimate lives, is too narrow to grasp how real lives are currently lived. Our substantive focus will be the current interest in 'civil partnerships' and the extension of 'marriage' to same sex couples who have formerly been excluded from legal recognition. We will explore the processes that individuals and couples go through in deciding to have a (public) commitment ceremony or to register their partnerships using interview data. We ask whether the decision to hold a ceremony etc should be interpreted (in line with the risk thesis) as a protection against the uncertainties of modern life or whether it fundamentally challenges the idea of 'pure love' and the apparent shift towards transient relationships. We conclude by suggesting that we need a different (wider) lens through which to interpret these developments and will explore the significance of concepts of 'lifecourse experience' and 'trust' as necessary elements of our analysis.

Shoveller, J.A., Prkachin, K., Johnson, J.

University of British Columbia

Youth

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/020

"Around here, they roll up the sidewalks at night": A qualitative study of youth living in a rural Canadian community

This paper draws on the works of Bourdieu, Foucault, and others to explore the experiences of youth growing up in a rural community located in British Columbia, Canada. The paper, based on ethnographic fieldwork in this community, describes how social and geographical forces relate to youth's experiences of fragmentation (of families, peers, and locales) and displacement of youth through stigmatization, self-segregation, and other forms of symbolic violence. Informed by our in-depth interviews with youth, service providers, parents and community leaders, we trace how a global, neo-liberalist hegemony contributes to local communities' displacement of many young people. We argue that youth's experiences of fragmentation and displacement are shaped both by the various forms of capital available in their community (spatial effects) as well as by their social relations and practices. We examine the ways in which such socio-spatial effects imply a set of "social destinies" that are enacted in the everyday lives of youth. We provide examples of youth's stories about fragmentation and displacement within the socio-spatial context of their community, with a particular focus on stories of displacement (as being constituted mainly as a confinement or deportation of particular types of youth to positions that are not of their choosing). We explore the degree to which different forms of governmentality affect the lives of many youth living in this rural community and we conclude by drawing on Ong's notion of "variegated citizenship" to suggest that different kinds of youth enjoy different kinds of personal security and freedoms.

Skinner, C.

University of York

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Goodricke College G/045

"Lone parents" negotiated agreements over work and childcare

In late modern societies, many parents might experience a period of time as a lone parent. Lone parenthood brings with it an increased risk of poverty and challenges as reconciling paid work with family life becomes difficult. The many barriers faced by lone parents in taking up employment are well documented, but what is less well understood is how employed lone parents' actually manage work and childcare. Recent evidence demonstrates that reaching negotiated agreements with employers and childcare providers for flexible arrangements was an important aspect of managing and sustaining employment among lone parent families. This paper reports these findings from a new qualitative study on lone parents' work and childcare experiences, which involved 78 in-depth interviews and 8 focus groups across England. It will discuss the nature of lone parents' negotiated agreements both with employers over working hours and with childcare providers over children's care, education and transport needs. It will highlight the differences in the ways negotiations operated with employers and informal childcare providers (especially with grandparents) and show how they were pivotal in helping lone parents to coordinate work time with childcare/education time to ensure there were no gaps in children's care. The paper will draw out the policy implications in relation to the important roles played by employers and informal childcare providers in enabling effective coordination and thereby lone parents' employment. It will also contribute to the debate over whether the state should subsidise informal childcare, especially that provided by grandparents.

Smeaton, D.

Policy Studies Institute

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Work return rates after childbirth - Trends and causal factors

A number of studies examining work return rates post-childbirth during the 80s identified a significant growth in the proportion of women returning to work quickly, within 1 year, compared with earlier cohorts of women. It was observed however that a polarisation of opportunities was emerging with professional women the main beneficiaries of change - a trend that was predicted to accelerate during the 90s. Comparing two cohorts of women born in 1958 and 1970, re-entering the labour market after first births in the 80s and mid 90s, this paper indicates that the trend toward faster returns continued but that the experiences of professional and non-professional women converged. The predictors of return rates also changed over this period - occupational class was an important determinant of return timing in the 80s but no longer so among women giving birth during the late 90s. Instead the financial burden of mortgage debt is now pushing women into early work returns. Implications of these findings are positive in terms of equal opportunities, the gender based earnings gap and the incidence of downward occupational mobility but raise concerns relating to a care deficit, the extent to which choices are constrained and the optimal distribution of human resources between the waged and care economy.

Smith, N., Cebulla, A., Cox, L., Davis, A.

Loughborough University

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Decision-making in the face of everyday risk

Tulloch and Lipton (2003) present the issue of decision-making as a feature which distinguishes between main perspectives on risk in the social sciences. That is, they highlight the contrast between Beck's emphasis on cognitive judgement and objective evaluation, and Douglas' and Lash's emphasis on culturally, symbolically and affectively mediated judgements.

This paper is based on an ongoing study, 'Risk Perceptions and Responses, and Transitions in the Life-Course', part of the ESRC-funded research network, Social Contexts and Responses to Risk. The study's aims are to explore individuals' and families' responses to, and perceptions and experiences of risk events, and the consequences of risk events; how responses to risk might change at different points in people's lives and in different generations; and the extent to which responses to risk draw on, and are shaped by, personal networks and public institutions. The qualitative phase of this project is to examine life changes and events in people lives, particularly those associated with career change (broadly defined). A central theme in these interviews will be participants' accounts of their decision-making and of the factors which mediated their decisions.

The paper will discuss early findings from this fieldwork, and reflect on the conceptual and methodological implications of exploring decision-making. It will explore the extent to which risk is revealed (and perceived by participants) as objective evaluation or culturally/affectively mediated judgement, taking into account the retrospective re-organisation of memory associated with biographical approaches.

Smith Maguire, J., Stanway, K.

University of Leicester

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The problem of looking good: Managing appearances and negotiating the risks of self-production among British young adults

Sociological accounts of the process of individualisation draw attention to the ways in which identity has shifted from a fixed set of characteristics determined by birth and ascription, to a reflexive, ongoing project shaped by appearance and performance. The individual, free to choose his or her path towards self-realisation, is then faced with a loss of security; without fixed rules, the individual is constantly at risk of getting it wrong, and anxiety attends each choice. This paper considers the ways in which British young adults negotiate the anxieties and risks that attend self-production and, in particular, the problem of 'looking good.'

The research on which the paper is based focuses on attitudes about, and practices of, body and appearance management among British university students. Findings from 20 semi-structured interviews (10 male; 10 female) and a larger survey (n=100) suggest that 'looking good' is a problem in a double sense: it is both a technical question to be addressed through specific practices, and a matter that presents anxieties and difficulties. In general, the interviews bring to light two tensions that individuals must negotiate-between the perceived need for self-promotion and the desire for authenticity, and between the desire for belonging and the quest for uniqueness. In addition, the paper examines how the articulation and negotiation of these tensions are mediated by gender. In particular, young men face a conflict between an attention to appearance and traditional gender norms-often resolved through an insistence that appearance management is instrumental rather than pleasurable.

Smyth, L.

Queen's University Belfast

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Sex education and abortion: Cultural politics, sexuality and reproductive rights in Northern Ireland

This paper considers morally conservative political discourses in Northern Ireland on sex education and reproductive rights. It examines these discourses in two political contexts: the controversy over the opening of a Brook Advisory Service for young people in 1992; and the Northern Ireland Assembly debate on abortion law in June 2000. The paper examines the ways in which moral conservatism in the field of sexual and reproductive politics relies on a claim to a shared, cross-community 'Northern Ireland' moral culture, in seeking to justify and maintain tight restrictions on abortion access and impartial sex education. The paper points to the effects of this claim on the citizenship rights of women and young people, raising the question as to whether citizenship should be connected to

Stephenson, C., Spence, J.

The University of Northumbria

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Female survival strategies and the legacy of the miners' strike 1984-1985

The paper is based on research with women in the North East of England who were involved 1984-5 miners' strike. It refers to their experience of continuing activism. Rather than reflecting on the strike itself, our goal is to consider the impact of these women in helping to manage the post-industrial conditions of ex-mining communities. We will consider how the political experience of the strike continues to inform domestic and community activism.

We seek to challenge some of the dualistic models which are commonly used to characterise 'miners wives', 'mining communities' and 'mining life'. These models underpin much of the romanticism which besets efforts to understand the significance of mining culture, values and politics and which now promotes the history of mining as the heritage centre of all that was heroic about the British working class which culminated in the major defeat of the strike.

We suggest that this particularly female approach to political participation is neither conceived within dualistic thinking, nor can be understood through the use of such models. This implies that trade union policy relating to 'community' and government policy relating to 'regeneration' must be broadened to include the frameworks of female lives and female agency in the post industrial context if they are to succeed in their ambitions for full civic and political participation.

Strangleman, T., Henderson, B., Read, I., Tasiran, A.

London Metropolitan University

Open

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Goodricke College G/010

Work, the life course and the older male worker

This paper examines the question of work and the contemporary older worker. In the last two decades work has undergone a huge transformation with the introduction of new technology, the decline in older traditional heavy industry and the ending of the job for life. This situation has led some to describe the current condition as witnessing the 'end of work', where jobs offer little in the way of meaning and identity, where character is 'corroded'. In this paper we examine the implications of this changing pattern for work and the life course. It looks at a group of male workers in the 50+ age group who find themselves in a very different labour market now than that which they were socialised into at the beginning of their working lives. The paper will ask questions about how this group make sense of work now and in the past.

The paper is based on research funded by the ESF HE fund 'Age discrimination against older men: the experience of organisational and labour market employment barriers'. This paper will draw on a number of interviews with older male workers.

Sweetman, P., Bottero, W.

University of Southampton

Social Identities and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L002

"I like what I like": Habitus, consumption, and patterns of distinction

According to some, Bourdieu presents us with a world in which actors deliberately strive for distinction. We would argue, however, that for the most part his work presents us with a picture of social space where patterns of distinction emerge as a consequence simply of people choosing things they like. Indeed, this follows automatically from Bourdieu's understanding of the relationship between consumption and habitus, where the former is 'governed' by the latter, ensuring that our choices are broadly homologous and unconsciously reflect our overall orientation to the world.

In the main, then, Bourdieu presents us with a picture where choices reflect habitus, and distinction emerges from our choices rather than the other way around. This is not true of his analysis of fashion, however, which invokes a Simmelian version of the fashion cycle, implying that clothing choices are made with a view to setting particular groups apart. This cannot easily be squared with a view of habitus governing choices, but Bourdieu arguably adopts Simmel's model in this case as a way of explaining change, which cannot otherwise be easily accommodated by his model as a whole. One way of squaring the circle would be to argue that the increasing ubiquity of a 'reflexive habitus' means that our choices are increasingly made in a calculating and strategic way. This isn't how Bourdieu sees things, however, and there is therefore a difficulty with certain interpretations of his work, even if he sometimes contradicts his own model in an attempt to explain change.

Swift, K., Parada, H., Callahan, M.

York University, Canada

Risk

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Institutional alchemy: From social problem to individual responsibility

In the aftermath of dramatic media coverage of tragic child deaths, risk assessment was recently introduced into child welfare services in several Canadian jurisdictions. Formal risk assessment tools were presented as a way to produce more security for children through standardization of child protection practices. This shift in approach is in keeping with a social and political context that is moving away from welfare state governance, which focused to some extent on social risk, and toward a neo liberal approach that defines risk in individual terms. In this context, managerial procedures emphasizing efficiency, accountability, standardization and surveillance are favoured. These procedures, typified by risk assessment, are now widely used in human services in Canada and other English speaking countries.

In our paper, we explore the discursive practices of risk now guiding child welfare systems in two Canadian provinces, providing an in-depth illustration of the individualizing processes associated with risk as an organizing feature of human service delivery. Using the example of a well recognized shortage of affordable housing in Canada, we will demonstrate how these practices have the capacity to transform obvious social issues into the personal responsibilities of individuals, in this instance low income mothers. Our paper draws on data from an on-going study of risk assessment in child protection funded by the Social Science and Humanities Council of Canada. We argue that sociological examination of everyday institutional work practices has the capacity to illuminate social processes otherwise hidden and can help us recover and revitalize "the social".

Takhar, S.

London South Bank University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Exhibition Centre P/L005

"The sexuality taboo and South Asian women"

Despite the social and legal recognition of homosexuality in Britain through the gay movement, lesbian sexuality within South Asian communities is still regarded as 'doing the wrong thing' and a taboo subject. It is in opposition to the status that is conferred by marriage and deemed as 'doing the right thing'. Because women are regarded as the 'carriers of culture and tradition' (Gillespie, 1995), their behaviour can bring shame and dishonour to their families and communities. This is particularly crucial when they display behaviour which is contrary to the stereotypical 'squeaky clean' image.

Racialised discourses have presented South Asian women as either exotic or repellent and their sexuality regarded as either dangerous and destructive, or subservient to masculinity (Brah, 1992; Rattansi, 1994). We need to move beyond these binaries to reveal South Asian women as actively involved in their choices related to sexuality. However, when South Asian women express themselves as lesbians, their sexuality is often in conflict with preconceptions or stereotypes (Kawale, 2003). The paper argues that sexuality can be thought of as a site of agency which poses a dangerous threat to the status quo, in its challenge to the dominant narrative of South Asian culture and sexuality. The accounts of the women interviewed for this research show that although alternative forms of sexuality and femininity are thought to bring about familial and cultural fractures, oppressive practices need to be challenged.

Tang, N., Buckner, L.

Sheffield Hallam University

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/045

Gender and ethnicity in employment and unpaid care in England

This paper will report on aspects of current work on Gender and Employment in Local Labour Markets (GELLM), a three year research project with a major grant from the European Social Fund and additional resources supplied by the project's eleven local authority partners and other national agencies. GELLM is designed to explore both statistical and qualitative research evidence to uncover the characteristics of local labour markets and their gender distinctiveness. Based on the main outputs from Phase 1 of the project, which are 11 Gender Profiles of local authority labour markets (2 at county level and 9 at district/borough level), this paper will focus on issues of gender and ethnicity in relation to employment and unpaid care in specific labour markets.

The paper will first introduce the GELLM project with an outline account of the larger research project in general and the Phase 1 output - Gender Profiles in particular. The second part of the paper will examine the statistical evidence which is relevant to the detailed analysis of employment and unpaid care by gender and ethnicity in local labour markets. The characteristics of different labour markets (usually rather localised) will be compared, men and women's participation in paid employment and provision of unpaid care will be discussed, and variations in employment and unpaid care among different Black and Minority Ethnic groups will be analysed. The paper will conclude by highlighting different patterns of employment and unpaid care in local labour markets across England.

Tate, S.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Ageing, Body and Society

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 17.10

Goodricke College G/013

What's shade got to do with it? Anti-racist aesthetics and Black beauty

Within racialized contexts we face problems of recognition because discourses about who it is possible or valuable to be shape the way we look at and constitute ourselves. Within Black anti-racist aesthetics the Black beauty that is valorized and recognized is that based on 'dark skin' and 'natural afro-hair'. Shade and hair are then central in the politics of visibility, inclusion and exclusion within such aesthetics. This paper aims to look at how the discourse of dark skin= Black beauty is destabilized in the talk of 'mixed race' Black women. Skin shade and natural hair become ambiguous signifiers as the women's talk leads to a mobility of Black beauty. Their talk is thus an 'interception' in which there can never be a definitive reading of Black beauty whilst also pointing to the binaries of the Black anti-racist aesthetics on which they draw. Thus, while women are rooted in 'racialized' notions of beauty they expand the boundaries of the beautiful Black woman's body which now becomes 'a scene of writing, subject to a sentence that is never quite legible, because to read it is to write it again, yet differently' (Kirkby, 1997:56). Black beauty then becomes an undecidable which resists binaries without ever constituting a third term.

Taylor, A.

University of Alberta, Canada

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Youth transitions in the education market

Neoliberal reform discourses in Canada and other OECD countries emphasize the need for schools to be more responsive to economic changes and to better prepare students for the world of work (OECD 2000, Gaskell and Rubenson 2004). At the same time, education policies increasingly privilege market forms, for example, choice and school-based decision-making, in order to make schools more responsive to their communities-and particularly, some would argue, to middle-class parents (Ball 2003, Gewirtz, Ball, and Bowe 1995, Taylor and Woollard 2003, Waslander and Thrupp 1995). For example, the public school district in Edmonton, Alberta promotes itself as a district of choice. This paper draws primarily on interviews with secondary school principals in Edmonton to empirically explore the contradictions within neoliberal school reforms (cf. Brown and Lauder 1992, Brown 2000). Our specific research question is: What are the incentives and disincentives associated with offering courses and programs to address the needs of non-college bound students within a marketized context? Preliminary analysis suggests that several factors mitigate against schools promoting courses and programs to address the needs of these youth, including the cost of facilities, shortage of qualified teachers, lack of demand, stigma associated with course streams, and competition across schools for "high performing" students. As a result, trades facilities are being dismantled as computer labs and programs for high academic students are expanding. Given continuing concerns about low high school completion rates, we conclude that a market approach to raising the skills of "disadvantaged" young people is highly problematic.

Taylor, S.

The Open University

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Trouble and constraint in contemporary identities of residence: A narrative-discursive analysis of women's talk about where they live

Discursive and narrative theories offer an understanding of the meanings of place of residence for identity in contemporary societies characterised by increased mobility and instability of residence, in which many people no longer live where they were 'born and bred'. An analysis of interview data shows how women speakers who have lived in many places can claim alternative identities of place, for example by discursively constructing 'where I live' in terms of commodity values, choice and opportunity. This emphasis is consistent with the reflexive project to construct an individual identity of self and achievement which Rose (1996), Walkerdine (2003) and others associate with a contemporary or neo-liberal subject. The analysis indicates how larger social meanings constrain such individual identity work, evidenced by 'trouble' which occurs in talk (Gubrium and Holstein, 2001; Wetherell, 1998) when an identity is potentially challengeable as implausible or inconsistent, for example, because of already existing and conflicting positionings. Such trouble suggests the possible limits to a self-actualising identity project. The paper discusses the contemporary meanings of residence for identity and the life course (for example, to construct continuity), the implications for women who are positioned outside conventional home and family connections, and the constraints on their identity work to establish new connections to place.

Taylor, Y.

University of York/University of Huddersfield

Class

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/T007

After school detention: Class and sexuality in schools - and beyond

Using my PhD research on working-class lesbians, I will explore the class and sexual encounters, 'realisations', and resistances in education, faced by interviewees (fifty-three women in the UK). I will consider childhood understanding within schooling environments, relating these to the women's (adult) experiences during the proposed and eventual repeal of Section 2a/28. Even though Section 2a had been abolished for about a year when I conducted interviews, it was still very much present in the minds of interviewees, both the legislation and the issues and images that surrounded it. While Section 2a alerted many to the continued silencing of sexuality in schools, and in doing so formed a very vocal point of resistance, the interaction of sexuality and class within education received substantially less attention. Matters of educational inequalities were raised, the deviants were on display, teachers, parents, politicians had much to say, but discussion of sexuality can never be limited to it alone. The two are troublesome enough by themselves, so what happens when you

Thapar-Bjorkert, S., Sangehra, G., Modood, T.

University of Bristol

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Masculinities and political activism in Bradford

This paper is based on qualitative research being conducted in Bradford on a Leverhulme funded project, Gender, Social Capital and Differential Outcomes. The paper will explore the transitions in masculinity through various forms of political activism in Bradford. Masculinities in Bradford have been framed and positioned plurally through differences of gender and generation as well as the wider political context of immigration from South Asia. This paper will examine the constructions of masculinity that the older generation adhered to and whether those models (and associated norms and values) have been discounted by younger generation of men and women, as evidenced by our new data. How are these complexities reflected in political agitation on the Rushdie, Halal meat agitation's and Bradford riots?

Also, how do new models of femininity, which is more public, more educated and economically progressive frame masculinity? Are these transitions affecting the older models of masculinity, which constructed Pakistani Muslim men primarily as economic providers and women as nurturers? The paper will draw on public reports, media discourses and our qualitative data on young people to identify the transitions and their implications for political activity.

Tipper, R.V., Mason, J., Flowerdew, J.

University of Leeds

Methods

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/002

Methodologies for researching kinship in children's everyday lives

This paper draws on a current ESRC project whose aim is to explore and understand how children create kinship with others in their everyday lives. The focus is on relationships that 'matter' to children (beyond parents). The theoretical underpinning for the project is twofold. Firstly, it uses perspectives that construct knowledge about children's lives by drawing on their own perceptions and experiences, rather than by adult proxy. Secondly, it builds on approaches to kin relationships that explore how these develop and are negotiated between people in changing contexts over time, rather than seeing them as fixed structures. Although useful in exploring the character of contemporary adult and non-kin relationships, these approaches have not been fully extended to explore children's interactive agency or capacity for self-determination in relationships that 'matter', nor to incorporate their perspectives and practices into our understandings of kinship.

The paper examines how we have translated these core theoretical concerns into our research strategy, design and process. We have developed a creative repertoire of qualitative and ethnographic methods to explore the visual, cognitive, material and interactive cultures of children's kinship. We outline our main approaches, and give examples to illustrate the kind of data they have produced, and the types and quality of knowledge they potentially provide about children's kinship.

Finally, we consider how theoretically-driven empirical research such as ours can avoid becoming self-fulfilling, through a discussion of the possibilities for designing a project that has the capacity to test and challenge its own theoretical orientations.

Tulle, E.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Ageing, Body and Society

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 17.10

Goodricke College G/013

How can ageing bodies contribute to sociological theorising?

Sociologists of the body have tended to approach ageing bodies from a cultural perspective, focusing, with some justification, on the impact of visible ageing on cultural status and identity. For Turner, in a cultural context in which bodily competence reflects self-worth, bodily ageing constitutes the ontology of ageing. Featherstone argues that, as they age, people lose their capacity to convert their cultural capital into other forms of capital and thereby see their social value eroded. Class and gender mediate this relationship. I would argue that these theoretical insights, whilst broadly correct, nevertheless need further unpacking, as they may contribute to the marginalisation of agers in sociology. I will turn these insights around by showing how the relationship between social location, bodily capital and the possibility for social change can be captured by paying attention to the lived experiences of bodily management in specific social fields.

Focusing on modalities of embodiment during ageing experiences would allow us to 1. bring to light the greater complexity of late modern societies and the opportunities for distinction and fragmentation which they foster. Notably, age has become a key structure of corporeal experiences, body language and various forms of capital, including symbolic capital, 2. identify and evaluate strategies of resistance to the risks of social marginalisation, particularly as they involve the body, 3. revisit key dualisms, particularly the body mind dialectic which continues to underpin corporeal experiences and 4. expose the reinforcement of the discourse of medicine in the dispositional schema of contemporary social actors.

Vanderstraeten, R.

University of Bielefeld, Germany

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/013

Professional work in "late modern" society

If modernity is characterized by both the individualization of personal identities and the growth of uncertainty and risk, then it should not surprise that we observe an increase in the demand for 'people-changing' interventions, for 'people work'. The professions can be seen as occupational and institutionalized arrangements for dealing with these kinds of 'existential' problems. They address individualized clients, who as clients, are involved with human problems they cannot solve themselves (health, dispute resolution, negotiations with the next world, etc.).

Professions are often defined as academic occupations. But almost everyone now possesses degrees and qualifications, which not everyone else possesses - as accountants, librarians, tourist guides, etc. have tried to copy the presupposed traits of the classical professions in order to improve their social status and prestige. Using academic credentials as basic criterion is no longer very informative. It leads to the inclusion of so many utterly different occupations that it becomes hard to find a common denominator. I will instead focus on the basic characteristics of professional work in 'late modern' society, viz. the institutionalized preference for interactive face-to-face contact, the reflection of the problem of mistakes and failures in the esprit de corps, the active role of the profession in creating the environment that then becomes the relevant environment of the profession. I will especially draw on analyses of professional work in education - both to analyze general characteristics and to highlight the paradoxical foundation of this particular form of 'people

Vass, J.

University of Southampton

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Saving grace: the changing resources of life-course coherence

Recent EU and UK social policy employs definitions of citizenship that appear to take the individual's management of 'the life-course' as an object. Governmental anxiety, for example, is directed towards the financial shortfalls that will result in a failure to sustain the infrastructure of the life-course (savings, pensions etc.) over the course of a life. The citizen is faced with a problem of life-course intelligibility and extraordinary feats of problem-solving if s/he is to be successful 'managerially' in the 'right conduct' of the life-course.

This paper explores the characteristics of contemporary life-course intelligibility and their inter-relationship. It will focus on the social processes, everyday techniques, strategies and practices of intelligibility in the context of the rapidly changing resources of intelligibility. Examples will be drawn from case studies in how the life-course is approached and life contingencies analysed by informants in relation to financial matters.

The paper will argue that the conditions of the social intelligibility of the life-course are no longer, in a simple way, geared to the rational requirements of available resources such as planning instruments, savings vehicles etc. in a way that the social theories of, say, Parsons or Schutz would recognise. Indeed, such approaches depend on the a priori coherence of the subject. Nor do these conditions necessarily favour the citizen of the 'network society' in Castells' sense where the subject's coherence lay in a network trajectory (work, life, learning...). An altogether different view of the resources of intelligibility needs to be elaborated.

Venn, S., Meadows, R., Hislop, J., Arber, S.

University of Surrey

Caring

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/002

A gendered exploration of night time caring within couples across the life course

Developments in the sociological understanding of sleep are demonstrating the influence that social roles have on sleep. This paper will continue these discussions by suggesting that the approach to sleep and sleep disruption in couples is influenced by gendered attitudes to caring. However, these attitudes change over the life course as couples are subject to changes in status, such as having children or returning to paid employment.

Findings from the qualitative data from an ESRC funded multi-disciplinary project on couples' sleep will be presented. In-depth interviews with 40 couples (aged 20-59) were conducted and one week's audio sleep diaries were obtained. Follow-up interviews were undertaken with each partner on an individual basis. All interviews were recorded and transcribed.

Results indicate that the caring activities women undertake during the day continue into the night time and that this is consistent across the life course. For men, however, the involvement in caring activities varies across the life course according to the different stages that accompany that life course. For example, where couples have young children it is the female whose sleep is more likely to be disrupted. However, when the children are young independent adults, often staying out late at night, both men and women demonstrated their involvement in caring for their children. Yet this caring activity at night not only has a detrimental effect on the men's sleep, but also on the sleep of their female partners who are kept awake by concerns for their children and by their partner's disrupted sleep.

Wadsworth, M., Butterworth, S., Grundy, E., Tomassini, C.

University College London

Social Identities and the Life Course

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 15.15 - 16.15

Exhibition Centre P/L002

Socioeconomic and health risks of early motherhood

Early motherhood, by age 20 years, is shown in many studies to have an adverse and long-term effect on the health and socio-economic circumstances of mother and child. That may be the result of the psychological, biological and socioeconomic stresses associated with early motherhood, or of factors associated with the likelihood of becoming a mother before age 20 years.

These questions have been addressed in an analysis of data from 2 national longitudinal studies. The ONS Longitudinal study data allowed us to see how likelihood of early motherhood varied across cohorts born at different social times, and how far the apparent health and socio-economic outcomes varied across cohorts. Life course data from the 1946 national birth cohort were used to ask how far the generally adverse childhood circumstances of women who subsequently became mothers by age 20 years accounted for the adverse differences, compared with other mothers, in health and socio-economic circumstances of their adulthood. Findings from these 2 analyses will be summarised.

The findings raise questions for discussion of whether, in later born cohorts, this social differentiation of early motherhood will diminish as a result of changes in attitudes to early motherhood, and increased opportunities for good health, own control of fertility, educational attainment and socioeconomic independence.

Wahidin, A.

University of Kent at Canterbury

Ageing, Body and Society

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 17.10

Goodricke College G/013

Reclaiming Agency - Managing Ageing Bodies in Prison

The central focus of the paper is to demonstrate how female elders who are in prison negotiate and resist the omnipresent power of the disciplinary gaze. It is by engaging with Foucauldian thought that one is able to illustrate how elders in prison transgress ageist and gendered discourses. Moreover, it is through a discussion of the body and the role of time-discipline that we can come to understand how the 'old body' is performed in prison. The work of Foucault is crucial in understanding the nature of power in prisons and how it affects the identities of elders in prison.

The spaces occupied by older women in prison demonstrate how time, space and techniques of punishment in the ordering of prison life are disrupted, destabilised and transformed. The elders demonstrate how the use of power and how the capillaries of punishment in prison are directed in a specific way at the female body. They choreograph their own bodies by transgressing or reinforcing typifications of age and femininity and in turn the elders thwart the process of institutionalisation. It is the ability to resist and reclaim aspects of their outside self which enables elders to survive prison life.

Walby, S.

University of Leeds

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L001

The risk of domestic violence: Interpreting the patterns and perceptions found in the British Crime Survey

Who is at risk of inter-personal violence? Inter-personal violence is endemic, in that many people have some experience of it, but its more severe forms are clustered among smaller groups. Risk is a matter of perception as well as of measurable occurrence. Thus it is important to investigate both the relationship between reported incidence and social characteristics and circumstances, and also the varied perceptions as to what constitutes domestic violence. The paper addresses the risk of three major forms of inter-personal violence, domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, presenting an analysis of the findings from the British Crime Survey self-completion module on domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking, a nationally representative survey of 22,463 women and men. It considers the implications of different concepts and measurements of domestic violence for reported rates of domestic violence among different social categories (e.g. the different levels of gender asymmetry produced by different definitions of severity). It investigates the reasons for the variations in meaning (e.g. whether they are named as domestic violence or crime) given to these acts by survivors. It investigates the circumstances under which outside help was sought as well as the reasons given for not seeking this, including if the survivor thought that it was too risky. The extent of this gendered violence challenges the conceptualisation of the UK state as 'modern', since it does not have a monopoly on legitimate violence.

Walker, J.C.

Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 16.20 - 17.20

Goodricke College G/045

Structures, support systems and strategies: Negotiating the transition to adulthood in post-Soviet Russia

Over recent years western sociologists have increasingly portrayed the transition from school to work as a process characterised by 'risk' and 'individualisation'. The present paper explores the ways in which these processes have emerged amongst young people in Russia, whose catastrophic socio-economic collapse has rendered an extreme version of the shift to a 'fragmented' late-modernity observed in the west. Whereas school to work transitions during the Soviet period were heavily state-managed, the post-Soviet 'youth transition infrastructure' is undeveloped and problematic, young people often facing a great deal of uncertainty upon entering the labour market.

While most Russian youth research is heavily structural-functionalist in approach, generally highlighting the multitude of barriers which stand in front of the 'integration' of youth, the present paper is based on qualitative research emphasising the ways in which young people graduating from colleges of primary vocational education negotiate these barriers. The young people in the research draw upon a number of resources in order to overcome real and imagined obstacles in their education and labour market transitions, negotiating the latter through both action and reason, as well as drawing increasingly upon extended networks of kinship. In addition, while research and policy are fixed on the maintenance of old routes from school to factory, young people themselves tend to be questioning these. While the research, like most qualitative work, has been interested primarily in the 'agency' of the individuals in the study, the paper also highlights the often immense importance of institutional interventions in the educational sphere, citing the crucial role played by 'learner identities'.

Warner, J.N.

The Open University

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Locating risk in mental health

The concept of risk is now central to all areas of health and social welfare but in the mental health field it has received particularly close attention, especially since the implementation of community care policies in the 1990s. The meaning of risk in mental health has been characterised by a preoccupation with the perceived risk of violence to others posed by those experiencing mental distress, with scant attention paid to the risks they overwhelmingly face. This paper draws upon data from semi-structured interviews with 39 social workers in England and develops a theoretical framework from which to view risk in the context of mental health. It is argued that these data demonstrate the significance for policy and professional practices of the location of risk in one of three different sites: dangerous individuals, within-subject entities such as psychotic illness, and social context. Firstly, professionals located risk in the dangerous individual, where the concept 'high-risk' was closely identified with the diagnostic category of 'personality disorder'. The 'whole person' was regarded as disordered and could therefore be held morally accountable for dangerous conduct. Secondly, professionals located risk in within-subject entities such as active psychotic illness, when it was the symptom rather than 'the person' which was subject to surveillance and control. Thirdly, professionals located risk in social context and the particular circumstances that might give rise to high-risk behaviour. The paper concludes by highlighting the ways in which this theoretical framework could be usefully applied in other contexts.

Warren, T.

University of Newcastle

Class

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 10.30 - 11.30

Exhibition Centre P/T007

Financial risk and wellbeing in Europe: The impact of occupational class, gender and work time

The lived experience of work-life balancing involves the juggling of a number of key life domains. It is argued here that the financial domain is pivotal in the achievement of a stable and secure life, and that financial wellbeing can vary enormously according to occupational class, gender and work time. We know that women in lower level occupational classes in the UK, particularly those working part-time hours, dominate some of the riskiest financial locations. They are extremely low waged, possess desperately low independent financial assets, have lives that are marked by persistent financial worries and are likely to experience a more intense degree of financial dependency (on men and/or the state) in both the short and longer terms than are women and men in higher level occupations. Yet, the financial problems that women at the bottom of the occupational hierarchy face are likely to differ, and display varying degrees of intensity, depending on the societal context. Accordingly, the paper examines how occupational class and work time impact on the objective and subjective financial wellbeing of women and men in different European countries using data from the European Community Household Panel Survey. It concludes that it is vital to incorporate the financial domain to inform our analysis of the lived experience of class and gender in diverse European societies.

Wattis, L., Blinkhorn, L., Standing, K.

John Moores University

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/045

Exploring the work-life balance issue: From legislation to lived experience

Both the state and the market have failed to adapt adequately to women's increased labour market participation. As a consequence the care issue remains a matter to be resolved within the family and women continue to take primary responsibility for caring (Charles, 2000), often working part-time to manage this situation (Purcell et al., 1999). Furthermore, the lack of value afforded to care (Lewis, 2001), and the fact that women may want to care is overlooked in policy (Duncan et al, 2002), which now expects women's labour market participation but does not accommodate it adequately.

The post 1997 government has taken measures to address the lack of state childcare and the conflict of reconciling work and family via the National Childcare Strategy, the Work Life Balance Campaign, family friendly employment legislation and tax benefits for working families. However, family friendly legislation has been criticised as ineffective due to its voluntaristic nature and a demonstrable lack of understanding of the differential circumstances and needs of all working parents.

Drawing upon findings from an ESF project exploring the issue of work life balance in terms of both policy and women's lived experience, this paper aims to assess the extent to which recent family friendly legislation may alleviate the demands of work and caring responsibilities in any real sense. In addition, the paper will also consider the potential of the legislation for promoting gender equity and removing some of the barriers to women's employment progression.

West, A., Allin, L.

St Martin's College

Risk

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 14.05 - 15.05

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Chancing your arm: The meaning of risk in rock climbing

"If you can see the danger how can it be risky? Its 60' high and you fall off. It's not risk, it's sheer carelessness." (Austin, male climber, aged 70)

Since the publication of Beck's seminal text, Risk Society in 1986 there has been a proliferation of research on risk in the social sciences. One of the many areas of interest within the social sciences has been so-called 'risky sports'. However, within this literature there remains no commonly accepted definition of risk itself. In this paper, we provide a conceptual review of risk by examining the literature that has sought to explain participation in so-called 'risky sports'. We argue that much of the literature in this area has been based on the uncritical assumption that activities such as rock-climbing, scuba-diving, mountain-biking or skydiving are in themselves 'risky'. We begin by critiquing approaches that deal inadequately with the multiple meanings participants may give to participation in 'risky sports'. We then explore the explanatory potential of ethnographic accounts that focus on participant experiences and the risk-taking cultures of such sports. We conclude by arguing for an approach that acknowledges both the existence of 'real' risks in the form of objective danger, but which recognises the way in which participants in such sports construct the notion of risk in their lives and in their sporting activity. We support our arguments with preliminary findings from a study exploring participants' constructions of risk in rock-climbing.

Wiggins, R.D., Netuveli, G., Montgomery, S., Hildon, Z., Blane, D.

City University, London

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Quality of Life in the third age: Key predictors of CASP-19 for sample members aged 50 years and above in the British household survey

This paper explores the lifecourse and contextual factors that influence the quality of life in early old age for 7480 members of the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS). We conceptualise quality of life as distinct from the factors, which influence it, and employ a model of the quality of life that is derived from an explicit theory of human need. Our measure, CASP-19, consists of 19 Likert-scaled items, which cover four theoretical domains: control, autonomy, self-realisation and pleasure. Respondents provided information on a number of contextual influences on their quality of life in early old age, notably social support and participation, the quality and quantity of social contact, feelings of trust and reciprocity about the local neighbourhood, health and financial security. Using earlier waves of BHPS we will present findings, which include distinct markers of physical and psychological well being as well as employment, housing and partnership histories. Our preliminary analyses will consist of a series of multilevel regression analyses, which take account of the clustering in BHPS to allow a characterisation of both household and neighbourhood. The work is funded under the Economic and Social Research Council's Priority Network on Human Capability and Resilience (Grant No. L326253061).

Wild, L.J.

University of Bath

Risk

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 15.00

Exhibition Centre P/L001

Transgressive terrain. Nomadism, otherness and risk identity

Through an analysis of representations of 'New-Age' Travellers this paper examines ascribed identities of otherness that are inextricably linked to notions of risk. These notions of risk are partly engendered by Traveller's continual transgressions of material and symbolic boundaries. It their otherness and risky status that, in part, consolidates and binds this highly heterogeneous group, providing them with strength and a shared identity. Media moral panics help to fuel notions of risk, presenting Travellers as a group with an explicit and coherent political agenda. This is a notion that many Travellers contest, suggesting instead, that their desire for escape and their elected otherness are what positions them as so 'opposite' to the state. Traveller's otherness is not passive acquiescence to the very real exclusion that they face, nor are they 'victims'. Rather many Travellers view their own exteriority in quite positive terms. In the context of Travellers' experiences there is a basis for a reconceptualisation of otherness. In attempting to undertake this task one must be mindful of the very real disadvantages that all nomadic communities face. This paper is not an attempt to deny the existence of exclusion and material disadvantage, nor is it a direct challenge to otherness as a category of exclusion. Rather it illustrates the ways in which labels can be subverted by those at the margins and the way that elected otherness can be used to cross material and symbolic thresholds in order to reach those margins.

Wilkinson, I.

University of Kent

Open

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/010

The new cultural politics of compassion: An agenda for sociological debate

The emotional experience of modernity is largely debated in terms of the pathologies of self and society, rather than its significance for the development of a cultural politics of compassion and discourse on human rights. In this paper I argue that some of the most interesting sociological questions arise when we focus attention upon the possibility that it may be as an unintended consequence of the intensifying force of market relations, individualization, rationalisation and state control upon our lives, that we are prone to develop humanitarian sensibilities that have the potential to become an active force in the public domain. This is not to deny or defend the cruelty, moral indifference and injustice that can be attributed to egoism, authoritarianism and the pursuit of profit; but it is to have us recognise the potential within conditions of modernity for people to acquire humanitarian sentiments of compassion. Drawing on the work of writers such as Martha Nussbaum, Richard Rorty, Bryan Turner and Natan Sznaider, I chart the development of a renewed interest in the social constitution of moral sensibility, and the possibilities that exist for this to be enlisted in efforts to build more humane forms of society. Drawing on my recent work in *Suffering: A Sociological Introduction*, (Polity 2004), I outline an agenda for sociological research aimed at understanding the social and political dynamics of compassion, and the potential for this to serve as the basis for inter-communal solidarity and understanding.

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

University of Hertfordshire

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Exhibition Centre P/X001

The 'use' and negotiation of family food rules and meal times by young teenagers living in deprived parts of Scotland

The early teenage years are a period of the life course when young people often start to seek privacy and autonomy, away from the parental gaze. Whereas younger children may accept familial rules about food and eating, young teenagers perhaps question, and seek to override, parental boundaries about what is, and what is not, considered acceptable at the metaphorical dinner table.

This paper will draw on data from in-depth interviews with 36 13/14 year olds living in socio-economically deprived parts of Scotland. These data suggest that families are required to accommodate fragmented requests for food and meals from young teenagers and from other child and adult members of the family. Some young teenagers frequently prepare food for themselves at home, whereas others perceive that parents do not trust them to use appliances in the kitchen. Parents are often in a position to encourage young teenagers to eat what they consider to be the 'right' foods and often, young people seem to expect this kind of parental encouragement. The advice, however, is rarely followed.

Young teenagers frequently feel left out of decisions about what food is available and eaten within the family home. This issue seemed particularly salient for young people experiencing complex arrangements relating to food and eating with resident, and non-resident, parents, grandparents and other family members.

When considered from a life course perspective, this paper indicates that food and eating practices and expectations have to be negotiated on an ongoing basis by teenagers and other family members.

Wilson, C.

Coventry University

Gender, Race and Sexuality

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/L005

Straight talking sex: Reflections of fieldwork with young people

In 1999, the Social Exclusion Unit published its report on Teenage Pregnancy. Within this report, while not attributing 'high' rates of teenage pregnancy in England and Wales to a single cause, three 'significant' factors were identified. These three factors, ignorance, mixed messages and low aspirations, informed the basis of an eight-week fieldwork project with eight young people aged between 12-15 years. As part of my ongoing doctoral research exploring the tensions between prevention/support discourses in relation to teenage pregnancy, I wanted to explore the three factors in relation to the reality of young peoples lives.

In this paper I focus on the perspectives and experiences of the young people who attended the workshop. Drawing on Foucault and contemporary critiques of Foucault I consider the influence of dominant discourses on the experiences and attitudes of these young people. Choices, options, barriers, resistance were all discussed in the six weeks and I reflect on the influence of the discursive and the extra-discursive in relation to this. The research process itself is also significant, as it became a 'safe space' in which to voice alternative and challenging views. Thus I reflect on the process as well as the substantive context of this aspect of my fieldwork.

Social Exclusion Unit (1999) Teenage Pregnancy London: HMSO

Wood, J.J.

De Montfort University

Youth

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 09.00 - 10.00

Goodricke College G/020

Young people and active citizenship: Attending to the fragmentation of youth

The concept of citizenship has gained a prominent place in social policy and as such, young people are increasingly subject to a raft of measures that attempt to engage them to become active citizens. Whilst declining voting behaviour and poor political literacy are cited as the principle motivators, it can be argued that the citizenship agenda is more concerned with addressing the moral behaviour of young people as members of a community - and ultimately, as another step towards what Rose (1996; 2000) has called the 'responsibilisation' of individuals for addressing social problems. Perhaps because of previous failure to address social problems, the communitarian orthodoxy and its political guise - the 'third way' - are now employed to address the continuing moral panics about youth, with citizenship at its heart.

This article considers the problems of the active citizenship agenda arguing that young people are already engaged in a variety of activities that address their everyday social and political problems. Drawing on research that has considered young people's real world experiences first, a counter argument to the prevailing citizenship orthodoxy is presented.

Woodcock, A.D.

Royal Dundee Liff Hospital

Food, Eating and the Life Course

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 14.05 - 16.10

Exhibition Centre P/X001

Nutrition and malnutrition in hospital in-patient wards for older people - a study to examine communication about and provision of food choices to patients

To reduce the levels of malnutrition among elderly in-patients, NHS Tayside set up a Nutrition Standards Project to review the food chain in hospital and its impact on patients and to make improvements as necessary. This study forms part of the wider project, and looks specifically at the use of different methodologies when interfacing with patients about their food and eating experiences in hospitals. The results of the various surveys will enable us to change the hospital menus to match patients' general likes and dislikes, and to provide a more individualised service. By discussing their preferences and including patients in decision-making processes we will have created a higher level of nutritional adequacy, reduced malnutrition as measured by the MUST tool, reduced food waste, and improved patient satisfaction. A more focussed catering service will be more economically efficient and savings will enable us to provide extra nutritious snacks and drinks over and above the menu to benefit patients.

Woodfield, R.

University of Sussex

Work, Family and Negotiation

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/045

Female conceptualisations of work in the fire service versus work in preferred occupations: Ambition, family and risk

The paper presents some of the findings of a survey of career expectations, aspirations and/or experiences of women and girls (N=600). The quantitative findings are supplemented with some related findings derived from 12 focus groups conducted with a subsample of the survey participants. The paper's focus will be the conceptualisations of a gender-atypical career choice (Firefighting) versus conceptualisations of more gender-typical and 'preferred' career choices (teaching, media work, childcare, psychologist/counsellor, marketing etc.), which emerged, from the data. In particular, it will focus on the conceptualisations of comfort, safety and risk that emerged in relation to both gender-typical and gender-atypical career choices, and from both data sources, and, and how these were mediated by conceptualisations of female lifecourse trajectories, especially in the context of family commitments and career ambitions. Highlighted findings include the fact that participants held very exaggerated beliefs about the relative physical and psychological dangers of working in some gender-atypical as opposed to gender-typical careers, saw some gender-atypical careers as a career choice for women who were unlikely to have, or to want to have children and a 'home-life', and expressed conceptualisations of their personal ambitions that linked academic and career attainment with working environments that were clean, comfortable, safe and comparatively risk-free.

Wray, S.

University of Huddersfield

Making Sense of Life Trajectories

Wednesday the 23 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Exhibition Centre P/L006

Making sense of mid-life: Women, ethnicity and culture

Middle age, with its connotations of decline and disengagement, is often referred to as 'mid-life', a shifting category that is not simply defined by chronological age. It has been argued that individual perceptions and experiences of mid-life are influenced by the growth of a new consumerism specifically targeting this age group (Featherstone and Hepworth, 1991). This is evident in the proliferation of consumer products that claim to 'fight' the ageing process through diet, cosmetics, exercise and other forms of intervention. It is often assumed that those defined as mid-life have a strong desire to remain 'youthful' in outlook and /or appearance and avoid growing older. Although this may be the case for some individuals, it is equally likely that what is prioritised during this life stage will differ according to previous life events, class position and cultural and ethnic affiliation. Hence an argument of this paper is that instead of celebrating ideologies of difference, such a position tends to overlook the complex meanings attached to mid-life and how these are often bound up with past, current and future ethnic and cultural belief systems and values. Based on empirical research, with mid-life women from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, this paper seeks to examine the different meanings women attach to mid-life and how these are connected to previous life events and differences in ethnic and cultural background.

Yerkes, M.

University of Amsterdam

Work, Family and Negotiation

Tuesday the 22 March 2005 at 11.40 - 12.40

Goodricke College G/045

Hanging in the balance: Women and work life family balance policies in the Netherlands, Germany and the UK

In today's labour market, women are faced with numerous choices and constraints. As western governments continually aim to increase women's labour market participation, women are left to negotiate the boundaries among employment, family and social life. It is no surprise then that research efforts in the area of women's employment now focus on work life family balance. But what is work life family balance? How do national governments define this platform and what are their policy goals? Are the policies created truly effective in helping women to negotiate work, family and social life? This paper addresses the work life family balance platforms of the Netherlands, Germany and the UK.

The majority of policies in these countries focus on reduced working hours and leave arrangements, policies that, without a strong legal framework, do little to reduce the risks faced by employees, particularly women. Considering the recent legislation on the reduction of working hours, while these policies now exist in both the UK and Germany, complementary legislation protecting employees who choose to reduce working hours remains absent. The Netherlands is unique in its approach to the legalization of part-time work and anti-discrimination legislation protecting part-time workers. Yet what risks remain? This paper attempts to define work life family balance, considering the goals of each government and the future policies necessary to help reduce the risks women face as they 'balance' work,

Young, H., Grundy, E., Jitlal, M.

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

Caring

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 15.10 - 16.10

Goodricke College G/002

Who becomes an informal caregiver? A life course perspective

Although much is known about differences between carers and non-carers in terms of characteristics, less is known about how life histories of carers diverge from those who don't have this role. Surveys collecting information on caregiving to date have small sample sizes, and most are cross-sectional. Many of the debates about characteristics associated with being a carer or consequences of caregiving cannot be disentangled without a longitudinal perspective. To take one example, there is a debate as to whether differences in the employment profile of care givers compared to non caregivers reflect prior characteristics or role changes brought about by assumption of the carer role.

Unfortunately, British longitudinal sources including caregiving information are sparse. The British Household Panel Study has caregiving data, however this study is constrained by small sample size. There are some surveys including retrospective data which have been used to examine pathways to becoming a caregiver, although these sources are restricted to particular age groups.

Here we use newly available data from the Office of National Statistics Longitudinal Study (ONS LS), a nationally representative record linkage study for England and Wales containing, to date, Census and event data from 1971 to 2001. The 2001 UK Census included a question on informal caregiving for the first time. We use the ONS LS to compare the previous life course trajectory of care providers in 2001 compared to non-caregivers, focusing on differential marital status and fertility histories, employment histories and socio-economic

Yuill, C., Goringe, H., Haddow, G., Rafanell, I., Tulle, E.

Robert Gordon University

Ageing, Body and Society

Monday the 21 March 2005 at 14.00 - 17.10

Goodricke College G/013

Embodying Sociology: The significance of the body for sociological inquiry

Over the last few decades a new sociology of the body has emerged which takes up 'the problem of the body' with the specific theoretical intention of dealing with key traditional sociological tensions between individual subjective experiences and structural arrangements, as well as nature and society. We would argue that the sociology of the body, in its attempts to focus on and establish the social and experiential nature of the body has not been sufficiently used to inform wider sociological debates. We contend that the insights of this stream of sociological thought can influence the theoretical frameworks and foundations which have traditionally supported mainstream sociology. We are therefore arguing for the 'embodiment of sociology', by which we mean the introduction of the body into understandings of social dynamics in general. Almost by definition this implies profound methodological transformations and an expansion of the epistemological basis of sociological thought.

It is thus, our firm belief that the new sociology of the body has wider implications for sociological enquiry in general but also for political debates. The 'body', as we see it, should be seen as a reshaping force, not as a 'sub-field' but as a new way of 'doing' sociology which produces a shift in crucial core areas of mainstream sociology.

It is our aim to expand on this by offering concrete examples from areas as diverse as protest, social movements, sport, ageing, medicine and sex/gender identity construction.