



BRITISH
SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

BSA Auto/Biography
Study Group
Centre for Biography
and Education
University of
Southampton

BSA Auto/Biography Summer Conference Dartington Hall, 19-21 July 2017

Gender and Auto/Biography



Dear Friend,

Welcome to the 26th Auto/Biography Summer Conference Programme. I think you will agree that we have a programme that looks exciting, varied and interesting. Thanks to all of you for your support and assistance in putting the programme together. Apart from the presentations you will also see that we have good opportunities to socialise, enjoy food and wine in the pleasant ambience of Dartington Hall and its grounds.

Very best wishes,

Jenny and Michael

Forthcoming Attractions

Your New Yearbook should be with you by the end of
June/beginning of July

2017 Christmas Conference, Friends House, 173-77 Euston Road,
London NW1 2BJ, 8th December (Topic: *Private and Public Lives*)

2018 Summer Conference will be held at Wolfson College, Oxford,
19-21st July (Topic: *Family and Auto/Biography*)

Delegate information

Contact details

The Gate House, Dartington Hall, Totnes, TQ9 6EL

Tel: 01803 847147

01803 847150 (evenings and weekends)

Email: bookings@dartingtonhall.com

Web: www.dartingtonhall.com (route planner on website)

Directions to Dartington Hall

Dartington Hall is located 1½ miles from Totnes in the heart of South Devon known as the South Hams.

25 miles from Plymouth and 26 miles from Exeter (both these cities have airports with international connections). Three hours by car from both central London and Birmingham with the M5's link into Devon (the A38) just ten minutes drive away. The nearest railway station is Totnes.

The beaches of South Devon and Torbay are within easy reach, with Dartmoor just 20 minutes away by car.

South Devon is renowned for its beautiful countryside, picturesque villages and mild climate.

FROM LONDON & THE NORTH

The M5 becomes the A38 at Exeter. Follow the signs for Plymouth and take the exit signed Buckfastleigh, Totnes and Dartmouth. Head south towards Totnes on the A384. After approximately 5 miles when you pass the Dartington village sign, turn left immediately past the church, onto the Dartington Hall Estate and follow the drive to the crest of the hill. 200yds ahead you will find the main car parks on your left, adjacent to the main courtyard entrance on your right.

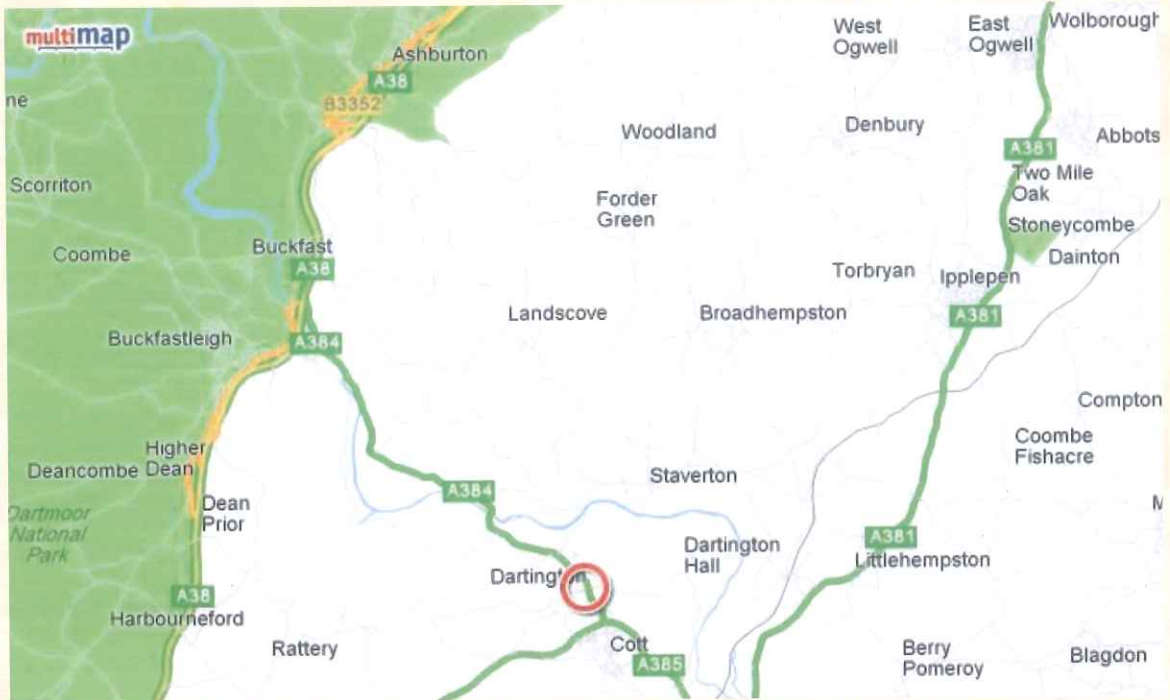
FROM THE WEST

Take the A38 from Plymouth, the A385 from Marley Head. Upon reaching the roundabout at Dartington village, turn left at the next roundabout go straight over and then turn right before the church, onto the Dartington Hall Estate and follow the drive to the crest of the hill where 200yds ahead you will find the main car parks on your left, adjacent to the main courtyard entrance on your right.

HOW TO FIND US BY RAIL

The main railway station is located 1.5 miles away in Totnes. Approximate journey time is 3hrs from London Paddington or Birmingham. Taxis are readily available.

Location of Dartington Hall



Finding your way around Dartington Hall and grounds

On arrival

By car: Please park in the carpark opposite the main gatehouse and place the supplied parking permit **in the dashboard of your car so that it is clearly visible**. Go straight across the road and enter Dartington Hall via the main gatehouse to reception (see map below).

There is disabled car parking space next to reception.

By public transport: Enter Dartington Hall via the main gatehouse to reception (see map below).

Check-in is from **2.00 p.m.** but if you arrive earlier your luggage can be stored safely at reception.

On departure

Check-out is at **10.30 a.m.** and your luggage can be stored safely in The East Wing Lounge.

Your accommodation

All delegates will have a room in either the East or West Wing (see map). Rooms have ensuite or a private bathroom, a television, a telephone, tea and coffee making facilities and access to WIFI. Your bedroom is supplied with towels and toiletries and is serviced daily.

Welcome to Dartington Hall

Public Spaces

- A** Visitor Centre
- B** Guest Reception
- C** Box Office
- D** The Barn Theatre & Cinema
- E** The Roundhouse Café
- J** White Hart Bar
- L** White Hart Restaurant
- N** Great Hall
(when not in use)

Function Rooms Lower Floor*

- G** East Wing Lounge
- H** Griffiths Room
- P** Green Room
- T** Holand Room
- V** West Wing Lounge

Function Rooms Upper Floor*

- I** Upper Gate House
- K** Comfort Dining Room
- M** Solar & Upper Solar
- O** Elmhirst Centre
- Q** Dukes Room
- R** Pontin Room
- S** Tagore Room
- U** Lane Room
- X** Ship Studio

➡ Easy Access (disabled)

* We apologise that public access is not available to these rooms

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➡ VISITOR CENTRE

Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EL

Estate Map



Telephone: 01803 847000
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Map Key

Garden

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Twelve Apostles
(Irish Yew) | 10. Japanese Garden |
| 2. Monterey Pine
(<i>Pinus radiata</i>) | 11. Swamp Cypress
(<i>Taxodium distichum</i>) |
| 3. Spanish Chestnuts | 12. Flowering Cherry
(<i>Pai Haku</i>) |
| 4. London Planes | 13. Turkey Oak
(<i>Quercus cerris</i>) |
| 5. Flowering Crab Apple
(<i>Malus hupehensis</i>) | 14. Crocus Ring
(<i>Crocus vernus</i>) |
| 6. Azalea Dell | |
| 7. Handkerchief Tree
(<i>Davidia</i>) | |
| 8. Lucombe Oak | |
| 9. Ancient Yew Tree | |

Sculptures & Statues

- | |
|---|
| 15. Jacob's Pillow:
Peter Randall-Page |
| 16. Donkey:
Willi Soukop |
| 17. Memorial Figure:
Henry Moore |
| 18. Flora Sculpture |
| 19. Swan Fountain:
Willi Soukop |
| 20. The Bridge:
Peter Randall-Page |

Access

- | | |
|--|---|
| | Road |
| | Easy Access
(wheelchair/
pushchair) |
| | Rough Path |
| | Path
(with Steps) |
| | Steps |

Buildings

- | |
|--|
| 20. Old St Mary's
Church Tower |
| 21. Great Hall |
| 22. The White Hart Bar
& Restaurant |
| 23. Barn Theatre &
Cinema |
| 24. Roundhouse Café |
| 25. Box Office |
| 26. Granary |
| 27. Print Workshops &
Bindery |
| 28. Visitor Centre |
| 29. Higher Close |

Facilities

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| | Toilets |
| | Disabled Toilets |
| | Food & Drink |
| | Picnic Area |
| | Visitor Information &
Donation Box |
| | Parking |
| | Disabled Parking |

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IT facilities and notes for audio-visual presentations

Each presentation room has full IT facilities for PowerPoint and access to the internet. If you are a MAC user you will need to bring your own cables.

There is WIFI internet access in all bedrooms and meeting rooms. A username and password will be provided for each guest on arrival that will last for the duration of your stay.



The Upper Gate House

The programme at a glance

ABBREVIATIONS: Griffiths Room (GR); Upper Gate House (UGH)

There is disabled access to the Upper Gate House on the opposite side of the building to the stairs

Wednesday 19th July	
Delegates arrive from 3pm	Collect room keys from reception
4.20 to 5.10	Registration in East Wing Lounge with tea and homemade cake
5.15 to 6.30	Welcome to Guest of Honour and Keynote Lecture (UGH)
6.30 to 7.30	Pre-dinner drinks in White Hart Bar (self-pay)
7.30 to 9.00	Dinner in Solar Room
9.00 to 11.00	Drinks in White Hart Bar (self-pay)
Thursday 20th July	
8.00 to 9.00	Breakfast in White Hart Restaurant
9.00 to 9.50	Academic Presentations (GR; UGH)
10.00 to 10.50	Academic Presentations (GR; UGH)
10.50 to 11.10	Morning coffee and pastries in East Wing Lounge
11.10 to 12.00	Academic Presentation (GR;UGH)
12.10 to 1.00	Academic Presentation (GR;UGH)
1.00 to 1.45	Buffet Lunch in Solar Room
1.45 to 2.35	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
2.45 to 3.35	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
3.35 to 4.00	Afternoon tea and homemade cake in East Wing Lounge
4.00 to 4.50	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
5.00 to 5.50	Single Session Academic Presentation (UGH)
7.00 to 7.30	Pre-dinner drinks in White Hart Bar (self-pay)
7.30 to 9.00	Gala Dinner in The Great Hall (wine included)
9.30 to 11.00	Drinks in White Hart Bar (self-pay)
Friday 21st July	
8.00 to 9.00	Breakfast in White Hart Restaurant
9.00 to 9.50	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
10.00 to 10.50	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
10.50 to 11.10	Morning Coffee and pastries in East Wing Lounge
11.10 to 12.00	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
12.10 to 1.00	Academic Presentations (GR, UGH)
1.00 to 1.45	Hot and Cold Buffet Lunch in Solar room. Delegates depart

Overview of Academic Presentations

Wednesday 19th July

Wednesday 19th July 5.15 - 6.30	
Upper Gate House	
Welcome to the Conference and to Professor Gayle Letherby, Guest of Honour 5.15 (Upper Gate House)	
Chair: Jenny Byrne	
Keynote Lecture 5.30 - 6.30	
Agneta Rahikainen	
<i>"We'll be ruthless with one another and sharp as diamonds". Reflections on Sisterhood, Real and Invented</i>	
Chair: Michael Erben	

Welcome Dinner

Thursday 20th July

Parallel sessions 9.00 - 9.50	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
* Annastasai Maksymlyuk and Diane Galpin <i>Bras, make-up and houses; exploring the inter-relationship between gender and objects in forming social identities</i> Chair: Julie Parsons	Karen Fowler-Watt <i>Women War Correspondents: from the frontline, with empathy</i> Chair: Michael Erben

Parallel sessions 10.00 - 10.50	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Robin Hadley <i>Cudda, wudda, shudda-be Dads: The lived experience of older involuntarily childless men</i> Chair: Gayle Letherby	* Geeta Ludhra and Deborah Jones <i>What does it take to be a head girl and head teacher?: leadership 'success' across two generations</i> Chair: David Morgan

Morning Coffee

Parallel sessions 11.10 - 12.00	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Michael Erben <i>The Erotics of Mrs Lloyd and Lily Bart: integrating real and fictional selfhoods</i> Chair: Jenny Byrne	* Debra Laxton <i>"Teaching the refuge of unsaleable men" or a haven for male early years teachers seeking social justice?</i> Chair: Anne Chappell

Parallel sessions 12.10 - 1.00	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
<p>* Richard Waller <i>Degrees of gendered distinction: Young male undergraduates and their complex and classed negotiations of masculinity</i> Chair: Chrissie Rogers</p>	<p>Jenny Byrne <i>"Madam Geneva" and the Gendering of Gin</i> Chair: Michael Erben</p>

Lunch

Parallel sessions 1.45 - 2.35	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
<p>Julie Parsons <i>"Interacting with women has probably helped as well": on 'doing' gender, gender responses and gender performances in the field</i> Chair: Geraldine Brown</p>	<p>* Ally Day <i>Stigmatizing Narrative: Women, HIV, and Constructions of Medical Citizenship</i> Chair: Saffron Scott</p>

Parallel sessions 2.45 - 3.35	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
<p>Barbara Myers <i>Becoming a Grandmother: an autoethnographic study on professional and personal identity</i> Chair: Josie Abbott</p>	<p>* Viv Martin <i>Patriarchy, medical culture and professional identity</i> Chair: Jonathan Harvey</p>

Afternoon Tea

Parallel sessions 4.00 - 4.50	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
<p>* Sara Louise Wheeler <i>Becoming Dodo: experiencing and discussing 'aunting' in a Welsh koine dialect context</i> Chair: Jeni Nicholson</p>	<p>Jonathan Harvey <i>The (re)construction of identity after brain injury: gendered imaginings</i> Chair: Viv Martin</p>

Single session 5.00 - 5.50	
Upper Gate House	
<p>Thom Boulton <i>Poetry Reading - Blaidh's Tales: Folk and Fairy</i> Chair: Gayle Letherby</p> <p>Thom is Plymouth Poet Laureate and that he is sponsored by the Centre for Methodological Innovations, Institute of Health and Community, Plymouth University</p>	

Gala Dinner

Friday 21st July

Parallel sessions 9.00 - 9.50	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Chrissie Rogers <i>Mothers and their sons: life stories beyond the criminal justice system</i> Chair: Robin Hadley	Saffron Scott <i>Exploring biographies of women in academia through the lens of Bildung</i> Chair: Michaela Brockmann

Parallel sessions 10.00 - 10.50	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Kitrina Douglas <i>We crossed the Tamar: exploring the use of film making in the life history of women over 55</i> Chair: Ronda Gowland-Pryde	Froukje Pistra <i>"To her my salute of honour". Why the first Dutch female church minister really needed to write this autobiography</i> Chair: Agneta Rahikainen

Morning Coffee

Parallel sessions 11.10 - 12.00	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Karen Stockham <i>"A familiar and mysterious interaction": Gender in Mountaineering Biography - I. A. Richards and Dorothy Pilley Richards</i> Chair: Yvonne Anderson	Geraldine Brown <i>Black Motherhood and Mothering: nurture, care and resistance</i> Chair: Julie Greer

Parallel sessions 12.10 - 1.00	
Upper Gate House	Griffiths Room
Dennis Smith <i>Life, Love and Lawrence in the Erewash Valley</i> Chair: Michael Erben	Michaela Brockmann <i>The role of gender in career decision-making – the story of a woman computing student</i> Chair: Mary McKeever

Lunch and depart (1.00 - 1.45)



Abstracts

Phil Salmon Memorial Lecture

Agneta Rahikainen

"We'll be ruthless with one another and sharp as diamonds". Reflections on Sisterhood, Real and Invented

There is a great fascination for films, TV series, novels or dramas based on a writer's life. The feeling is amplified when the subject is an artist that has lead an extraordinary life, especially if the life was shortened by suicide or tuberculosis, the most poetical deaths there can be. Equally fascinating are the narratives of sisterhood; the magical and intimate relationship between two women; either involving real sisters or a bonding creation of like-minds. In Finnish literature we have the poet Edith Södergran whose life embraced both the tragedy of early death and the enigmatic influences of sisterhood. She was a lonely child who died early of TB and who with the help of her friend, the writer Hagar Olsson created an imaginary sisterhood that has been the basis of several later narratives. Similarities can be drawn with another, real sisterhood, the one between Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell; this too equally used in many dramatic productions. The common element of early death is the driving force behind both narratives and the fiction that flows from it. But there are also other similarities; shared love and artistic understanding often tempered by intellectual rivalry and jealousy. Add to these envy, eroticism, mental health and, of course, the pain of loss. My paper will discuss these sides of sisterhood from a gender perspective and whether there is a certain stereotypical way we like to see the relationship between two women who become creative sisters.

The role of gender in career decision-making – the story of a woman computing student

Michaela Brockmann

The proportion of girls and women taking up male-dominated subjects and careers has remained low, despite a wealth of policy initiatives. Information Technology (IT) is a case in point. In the context of an acute skills shortage in the IT sector, there has been growing concern with the low and highly gendered take-up of computing as a school subject and subsequent career choice. Research suggests the critical role of gender in career decision-making, with girls and women resisting the masculine culture of male-dominated subjects and occupations (e.g. Archer et al., 2013). Yet, little is known about the (co)construction of these identities, both biographically and within the male-dominated culture of educational pathways and workplace. The paper is based on a pilot for a study on young people's transition into IT-related careers and explores the career decision-making of one female student on a Computer Science degree course. Based on an in-depth biographical interview (Wengraf, 2001), it explores the formation and intertwining of the student's learner, gender and class identities in a variety of settings during childhood, adolescence and adulthood. The study builds on previous research by the author on learner identities and the power of discursive regimes.

Black Motherhood and Mothering: nurture, care and resistance

Geraldine Brown

Research in the USA and the UK demonstrates that racialisation and ethnicisation impact on everyday practices of parenting, not least because parents try to protect their children from racism (Phoenix and Hussain, 2007). In both Britain and the USA, there has long been concern about outcomes for black children. However, in the UK, there common tendency continues to be for the lives of Caribbean mothers to be viewed in isolation from the myriad of ways in which 'race' racialisation and racism structures and shapes their experiences of motherhood and mothering. This is despite research showing the impact on the daily lives of Caribbean mothers —first, second and third generation from having to mother and being mothered in a racialised society (Reynolds, 2005). In this paper, I share the experiences of Caribbean mothers who participated in my doctoral research in which I explored the conceptualisation and responses to 'urban gun crime' by African Caribbean communities in the Midlands. My research provided space for Black women to share experiences of motherhood and /or mothering. Their narratives offering a normative view of mothering and/ or motherhood in which they talk about issues such as nurture, care, hope and fears and the importance supporting child/ ren's in a '*successful transition to adulthood.*' However, there stories include acts that can be identified as 'resistance' in which instilling confidence, self-belief, racial and cultural pride is all part of a strategy to prepare and equip child/ren with tools to navigate UK's raciiialised society and racism.

"Madam Geneva" and the Gendering of Gin

Jenny Byrne

The first half of the 18th Century saw gin consumption in England and particularly London rise rapidly and worryingly. From a little known and uncommon drink, the Dutch drink, Jenever, or Gin, became the favourite strong drink, tippale and snifter of the English from the highest - Queen Anne was known to favour gin - to the lowest. These unfortunate latter being memorably portrayed by William Hogarth in his *Gin Lane* (1751). The drunkenness with which the Gin was associated led to a moral panic that mainly focused on the poor and resulted in Parliament legislating to curb what had become universally known as the Gin Craze. The consumption of gin was specifically demarcated as a particular activity of females. I will describe and discuss this feminine identity of gin and its embodiment in the character of Madame Geneva.



Stigmatizing Narrative: Women, HIV, and Constructions of Medical Citizenship

Ally Day

This paper draws upon original research in two reading groups who read several disability and HIV memoirs written by women: one group was composed of women living with HIV and the other with AIDS Service Workers. This research revealed that both groups' understandings of stigma and illness hinged on conceptualizations of labor and medical citizenship. For the women living with HIV in my first group, they dis-identified with disability while simultaneously claiming HIV as central to their identity; at the same time, their negotiations of neglectful and abusive medical systems served as a source of solidarity and identification with disability activists. Contrastingly, AIDS Service workers in my second reading group reinforced neoliberal models of self and other, doctor/patient, in their reimagining of themselves through medical labor. As a result, while some memoirs were highly valued by women living with HIV, AIDS Service workers found these same memoirs unpalatable precisely because of their close attention to intersectional oppressions. These divergent receptions highlights just how narrative circulates within medicine itself, leading to narrative appropriation and medical abuse.

We crossed the Tamar: exploring the use of film making in the life history of women over 55

Kitrina Douglas

As part of a larger study exploring the physical activity, wellbeing and ageing experiences of women over 55 in a rural area, the ongoing field-work of myself and my co-researcher David Carless includes formal and informal life history interviews, observation, focus groups and feedback sessions. In trying to analyze, understand and communicate we have drawn on an arts-based methodology as a way to convey aspects of this research that can be missed with more traditional analysis and reporting strategies. In this presentation there is exploration of one aspect of this arts based practice, namely, the potential of filmmaking and the importance of communicating a visual landscape.

The Erotics of Mrs Lloyd and Lily Bart: integrating real and fictional selfhoods

Michael Erben

Mrs Lloyd is the title of a painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds exhibited at the Royal Academy Summer exhibition of 1776. It depicts Mrs Richard Bennett Lloyd (née Joanna Leigh), at the age of seventeen, inscribing upon the trunk of a tree the name of her recent husband. In the not unusual practice of the time the subject is presented in an imagined setting wearing imagined classical drapery. The painting was much admired and considered a work that did its sitter (who was regarded as a particularly beautiful woman) the credit she deserved. One hundred and thirty-five years later in 1905 Edith Wharton published her remarkable novel *The House of Mirth*, the central protagonist of which, Lily Bart, assumes (in the pivotal scene of the novel) the part of Reynolds' Mrs Lloyd in a *tableau vivant*. This paper will consider why Edith Wharton chose *Mrs Lloyd* – what the painting and the real Mrs Lloyd meant to her, what its connection to Dartington Hall is and how it led to the downfall of the beautiful Lily Bart.



Women War Correspondents: from the frontline, with empathy

Karen Fowler-Watt

This paper explores the role played by women in reporting compelling narratives from the frontline in a 'post-truth' era. In January 2017, Clare Hollingworth died, aged 106: the first war correspondent to report on the outbreak of WWII. Her American counterpart, Martha Gelhorn (1908-1998), was described as 'that special breed of women who never had problems identifying both as a woman and with men at war' (Sigal, 1986). Their lives provide a context for this paper, which will examine narratives of conflict, written by women and focused on human suffering (der Lippe & Ottossen, 2016). It will posit that an empathetic approach to the stories of others resonates in an 'autobiographical age' (Plummer, 2001), whilst also informing geo-political debate. Time for a 'non-dramatic' journalism of compassion, shining light into dark corners? The conflict in Syria offers a case study to examine the writing of two modern day female war correspondents – the late Marie Colvin and Janine di Giovanni – this paper considers how notions of empathy are reconciled with the shibboleth of impartiality and the role of literary, auto/biographical accounts. Colvin postulated that 'I feel strongly that we have to include these stories of the suffering of civilians to get the point across' (Swain in Colvin, 2012:534). In 2012, staying in Homs when others had left, she lost her own life. Does looking at war through the dispatches of female war correspondents tell us anything about 'truth'? Does it enhance our emotional and media literacy? And should we expect it to?

Bras, make-up and houses; exploring the inter-relationship between gender and objects in forming social identities

Diane Galpin and Anastasia Maksymluk

This presentation will take the form of an informal conversation between three female academics engaged in discussion about the interrelationship between their gender and specific objects they identify as playing an important part in the formation of their social identities. Drawing on Bochner and Ellis (2000) the participants will focus 'outward on the social and cultural aspects of their personal experience; then look inward, exposing a vulnerable self that is moved by and may move through, refract, and resist cultural interpretations' (p.739). The participants will analyze, compare and contrast their individual experiences of objects in their lives to render visible their relationship to their gendered identities. Within each of their accounts they will act as a cartographer, mapping their individual journey through life, highlighting important co-ordinates extracted from their connections to, and relationships with, objects in their material and historical worlds. The presentation will present data in visual form alongside oral and textual.

Cudda, wudda, shudda-be Dads: The lived experience of older involuntarily childless men

Robin Hadley

The global trend of a declining fertility rate and an increasingly ageing population has been extensively reported. Childless men are, compared to women, absent from geographical, gerontological, masculinities, psychological, reproductive, and sociological research. These fields have mainly focussed on fatherhood, family and women, with the fertility intentions, history and experience of older men being discounted. The failure to fulfil the status of parenthood may lead to a complex form of bereavement and a significant challenge to individual and cultural identity. This auto/biographical qualitative study used a pluralistic framework drawn from the biographical, feminist, gerontological, and life course approaches. A thematic analysis was applied to the semi-structured interviews conducted with 14 men aged between 49 and 82 years. The analysis highlighted the complex intersections between involuntary childlessness and agency, biology, relationships, and socio-cultural structures. This study challenges the stereotype that the social, emotional and relational aspects of involuntary childlessness do not affect men. The men's attitude to fatherhood changed with age and centred on the theme of the '*social clock*' that revealed the synergy between an individual and societal morès surrounding parenthood. The participants' narratives demonstrated the diverse elements that affected the men's experience of involuntary childlessness: upbringing, economics, timing of events, interpersonal skills, sexual orientation, partner selection, relationship formation and dissolution, bereavement, and the assumption of fertility. The importance of relationship quality was highlighted in the social networks of both those with and without partners. Awareness of '*outsiderness*' and a fear of being viewed a paedophile were widely reported.

The (re)construction of identity after brain injury: gendered imaginings

Jonathan Harvey

In this paper I draw on data from recent research which sought to understand the process of identity (re)construction after brain injury. I carried out semi-structured interviews with six brain injury survivors who were all male and between the ages of 18 and 35. In addition, I included my own experiences of identity (re)construction after brain injury in the study and sought to tease out the implications of this. Upon analysis, I found that reconstruction of identity after brain injury is far more than simply a time-limited, medical issue. Furthermore, identity (re)construction after brain injury occurs not in isolation, rather it is an active and reciprocal process which requires the help of friends and family. In future work I intend to continue to explore the gendered implications of the study. In keeping with the collaborative nature of the auto/biography study group I would like to garner the thoughts of my peers...

'Teaching the refuge of unsaleable men' or a haven for male early years teachers seeking social justice?

Debra Laxton

Over the past twenty years, governments within the United Kingdom have demonstrated a commitment to upskilling the early years workforce with a slow move towards a graduate led sector. Research has highlighted the development of professionalism and the positive impact of children's outcomes stemming from these highly qualified practitioners (Sylva et al., 2004; Mathers, et al., 2011). In 2013 Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) was introduced, without qualified teacher status, causing controversy because of the lack of parity with other initial teacher training programmes. Despite the developments in status and professionalisation, men working in early years remain the exception rather than the rule with 98% of the workforce still being women. This paper explores the biographical journeys of two men, from early childhood through to adulthood, culminating in the conscious decision they both make to become early years' teachers. The narratives uncover very different childhood experiences that result in a significant desire and drive of both participants to do 'something that makes a wider difference within the community and society generally'.

What does it take to be a head girl and head teacher?: leadership 'success' across two generations

Geeta Ludhra and Deborah Jones

"Since I've been elected people have started to call me 'Head Girl', rather than using my actual name- it's really bizarre!" This short extract comes from Arti, one of the twelve academically 'successful' South-Asian girls in Geeta's study. It illustrates Arti's recognition of how other students re-identified with her as she moved into her prestigious leadership role. With the 'Head Girl' title comes significant responsibility (and 'celebrity' status), as well as fame, power and long hours of work. Juggle the latter with striving for grade As for a top university, and there is little space for rest. Geeta interviewed two Head Girls as part of her study, and she will discuss how both performed their leadership roles in very different ways. Deborah, in contrast, interviewed South-Asian, female headteachers, and explored their narratives of 'juggling' - across their professional and personal lives.

In this paper, we will draw on Black feminist and leadership theory, to compare the narratives across head girls and head teachers - girls and women leading in schools. We will discuss ways in which they 'juggle' their personal, professional, and academic lives, and the costs of leadership behind the scenes. By drawing on two empirical studies, we explore gendered experiences across generations.

Patriarchy, medical culture and professional identity

Viv Martin

A core principle of the NHS is that it be free at the point of delivery and meet the needs of everyone 'irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion, belief, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity or marital or civil partnership status.' However, this does not mean it is free of gender issues (nor indeed of issues of race, disability, social class, etc.) Such issues clearly affect all dimensions of society and healthcare is no exception to this. Healthcare provision, medical culture, medical research, education and practice are all affected by issues of gender as any other sphere of human life. The patriarchal nature of medicine, historically formed and culturally embedded, embodies values traditionally seen as masculine, such as reason, objectivity, cognitive intelligence, and abstract propositional knowledge, and places them in opposition, creating binaries in which, for example, objectivity is valued over subjectivity, certainty over uncertainty, and intellect over feeling. In this paper, I consider the experiences of healthcare practitioner-patients within patriarchal medical culture, and the issues this raises in relation to gender and identity.

[The terms 'patriarchy' and 'masculine' do not, in the above, refer only to men but to a dominant cultural context with particular values.]

Becoming a Grandmother: an autoethnographic study on professional and personal identity.

Barbara Myers

"Anna's gran is so nice, I wish I had a granny like that..."

"Yeah...it would be good just to get ten bucks in the mail on my birthday..."

"Tom's grandpa gives him a dollar every time he scores a goal. Man I'd be rich..."

(1995. A conversation between my children)

Grandparents have always been somewhat enigmatic and elusive in my life experience. I never knew my grandparents and when I was pregnant with my first child I felt saddened that my children would also never experience a grandparent's special love. Recently my interest in 'grandparenting' has re-ignited through my research on women, work and the intensification of mothering and grandmothering roles in contemporary society. Secondly one of my own children and his partner announced that 'we' will soon be 'three'. I was overwhelmingly happy but I also became increasingly curious about how grandmothering might impact on my professional and personal identity. I drew on autoethnography as a way to engage in a reflexive research process on grandmothering and present for discussion the emerging issues, challenges and insights arising from engaging in a method that Ellis, Adams and Bochner (2010) note is both the process and product of research.

"Interacting with women has probably helped as well"; on 'doing' gender, gender responses and gender performances in the field

Julie Parsons

In this paper, I reflect upon the intersectionalities of gender with age and class when 'doing' gender in the field, based on eighteen months of work with an all-male cohort of offenders and prisoners released on temporary licence (referred to as trainees) at a rural land-based resettlement scheme (RS). I draw upon data gathered during two funded research fellowships, a Sociology of Health and Illness (SHI) Mildred Blaxter fellowship (2015-16) and an Independent Social Research Foundation (ISRF) fellowship (2016-17). The data includes field notes, interviews, a photo-dialogue focus group, blog posts, results from an online supporters' survey, as well as photographs taken by trainees for the PeN (Photographic e-Narrative) project hosted at the Resettlement Scheme. All trainees at the RS (to date) have been men, some have not interacted with women (whilst in prison) for some time, whilst others are forced to negotiate a shift in gender relations (past and/or present) due to becoming an offender and/or a prisoner. For this cohort of men their criminal activity and/or convictions have practical implications in terms of employment, accommodation, mental health and/or fathering, as well as raising questions concerning contemporary masculinities. Further, because gender is relational, my role as a middle-aged female researcher is also subject to interrogation, drawing as it does on popular gender tropes.

'To her my salute of honour'. Why the first Dutch female church minister really needed to write this autobiography

Froukje Pistra

The autobiography of Dr Anne Zernike (1887-1972), the first female church minister of the Netherlands, is at first glance nothing more than a retrospect on her professional life. It is the life story of a woman who at the early age of fifteen told her parents she wanted to be a church minister – a position not open to women at that time. Determined as she was she became the first Dutch woman in the pulpit in 1911. Her autobiography, *A woman in the wondrous office. Memories of a female church minister*, which was published at the end of a long career (1956), mainly seems written as a tribute to and motivation for other women to become church ministers. Knowing something was 'off' I started analysing this autobiography next to secondary sources, focussing on the various themes the author discusses in direct relation to the 'self' she puts forward. A new image of Anne Zernike surfaced. In this paper I will elaborate on why Anne Zernike needed to write her autobiography in the way that she did. I will highlight certain choices she made and discuss its link with the extraordinary position the author had in the gender debate which took place during the first wave of feminism in The Netherlands.

Mothers and their sons: life stories beyond the criminal justice system

Chrissie Rogers

My 80-year-old mother would probably say that she has never stopped mothering my sisters and I, however, my experience as a mother with 30-year-old intellectually disabled daughter is different. Arguably no mothering story is the same. Yet, the mothers in my current research have experienced a life that is unimaginably challenging, as stories about their sons who have offended and been in prison unfold. Narratives via life story data, pictures and letters tell us about suicide attempts, drug and alcohol use, violence, criminalised sexual activity as well as systemic abuse. Nevertheless, they also give a care-full portrait of love that perhaps is unknowable, inconceivable even, for the recipient of that love and care. This mothering paper, is drawn from the wider project based on research with adults who have been through the criminal justice system (CJS), and have a learning difficulty or challenging behaviours/mental health issues, mothers of such 'children' and professionals who play a key role in learning disability services within the forensic setting. As it is, this paper illustrates the human and ordinary life that is not ordinary at all, and is sometimes inhumane. By exploring narratives, photos taken by research participants and letters to and from home, we can begin to see inside a window of social justice and injustice, care-lessness and care-fullness, and success and failure. All things considered the CJS need re-humanising and mothers need to be supported and heard. Therefore, rather than a blame narrative, whether it is the 'dysfunctional family' or the 'deficit child' we require ethically just practices and caring, as a fundamental part of a re-humanising the socio-political sphere.

Exploring biographies of women in academia through the lens of Bildung

Saffron Scott

This paper explores the biography of Barbara Chumbley, my late maternal grandmother born between the first and second world wars in 1927. Against the odds she freed herself from family constraints and the social expectations of the time to pursue a successful career working with children from deprived backgrounds. Beginning in residential care services, she gained her social work qualification at the age of 40 and went on to become one of the early female lecturers at Trent Polytechnique leading the social work course. The generation of this biography was achieved through the exploration of family archive materials and memories. Reflecting on my grandmother's life story revealed the impact of her legacy and its contribution to my own personal life and academic career. The critical reflection required in *Bildung* has the potential to facilitate greater levels of understanding and consciousness (Biesta 2002, Gadamer 2004). These interrelated and generational biographies will be explored through this lens.

Life, Love and Lawrence in the Erewash Valley

Dennis Smith

The young D H Lawrence had a bit of a local reputation round Eastwood and Kimberley as a sauce-box with a prurient mind. I know because my mother-in-law, who lived in Kimberley, about four miles down the road from Eastwood, used to say this, if prompted. She reckons she met him once as a young girl on a day out with a rambling club. I mention this because Lawrence's stamping ground as a youth, or at least part of it around Kimberley, Babbington and Strelley, was also my own at a similar period of my life. Like Lawrence, I had a pushbike. I would regularly cycle from Wilford in South Nottingham round the city's stylish boulevards to Kimberley in the north where my girlfriend lived. I mention this to explain my curiosity, successfully restrained till now, about what made the young Lawrence tick. I'm assuming the answer is not simple even though my maternal uncle, for a while the Catholic priest at Eastwood, used to refer to the local public urinal as the Lawrence Memorial. This was wildly unfair, of course. Lawrence had a lot about him, and soon found his way to the local metropolis, entering Nottingham High School on a scholarship, and later attending the University College. The time is now ripe for me to inquire further and ask how has Lawrence's encounter with, and conception of, gender relations fared historically (specifically locally but also generally) since his astonishing entry into intellectual life of the early 20th-century.

"A familiar and mysterious interaction": Gender in Mountaineering Biography - I. A. Richards and Dorothy Pilley Richards

Karen Stockham

In his introduction to the *Selected Letters of I A Richards*, Richard Lockett, a long-time friend and confidante of the literary critic I A Richards and his wife Dorothea (Dorothy) Pilley Richards, remarks that the relationship of these individuals, two of the most significant contributors to twentieth-century mountaineering and its biographical literature, was both "familiar and mysterious". Lockett further noted that it was difficult to find two people less suited to the candidature of what was to eventually become a close and happy 53-year marriage. Drawing on their very different contributions to mountaineering biography and mountaineering's wider literature, this presentation considers their separate and joint contributions to the development of gendered relations and mountaineering biography in the twentieth century.

Degrees of gendered distinction: Young male undergraduates and their complex and classed negotiations of masculinity

Richard Waller

Against the backdrop of a perceived contemporary 'crisis of masculinity', this paper explores how both working- and middle-class young male undergraduates maintained, enhanced, and, in some cases, distanced themselves from the expected gendered-class identities. These identities include those aligned with the apparently contradictory behaviours associated with academic success and with 'laddism', especially for the working-class young men. The maintenance of these contrasting identities was often against dominant societal pressures, and frequently at some personal and/or social cost. Drawing on longitudinal data from biographical interviews and focus group discussions, I show how the young men's 'performance' of gender varied according to social contexts. I also examine the men's ideas concerning contemporary depictions of masculinity through its embodiment by public figures, and suggest what this tells us about the continuing classed nature of gendered roles and behaviours. This paper critiques current theories of masculinity including Connell's *hegemonic masculinity* and the *inclusive masculinity thesis* of Anderson and McCormack, and concludes with proposing a modified version of the former would best account for the opinions of the undergraduate participants and their experiences of contemporary youthful masculinities.

Becoming Dodo: experiencing and discussing 'aunting' in a Welsh koine dialect context

Sara Louise Wheeler

My paternal ancestors lived in Rhosllannerchrugog, a Welsh mining village renowned for its highly distinctive Welsh koine dialect and 'y gymuned glos' (close-knit community). I grew up delighting in stories about 'Dodo-Nain', my paternal great-grandmother, and the centrality of her 'globyn o cegin' (big kitchen) to family and village life. When my eldest niece was born I began exploring my new role as an 'aunt', within the context of my family heritage and my own twenty-first century lifeworld. In the process, I uncovered some interesting family, community, and linguistic history, which led to an explanation of the unusual moniker 'Dodo-Nain' (Aunty-Grandmother). This developed into some fascinating intergenerational auto/biographical research regarding gendered roles and their appellations, in place and through time. Various methods have been deployed, including oral history, poetics, and creative fiction and non-fiction. With regards to my own 'aunting', I resolved to have my nieces call me 'Dodo', thus taking some responsibility for reversing the obsolescence of this familial dialectal moniker, within the wider picture of language attrition and revitalization of my mother tongue. My exploration of the complex social and relational aspects of 'aunting' are ongoing.

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