



2022 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
Wednesday 20 to Friday 22 April

# Building Equality and Justice Now



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Pei-Chia Lan - National Taiwan University  
Nasar Meer - University of Edinburgh

## PLENARY PANEL

### Sociology Under Threat: International Solidarity:

Gargi Bhattacharyya - University of East London

Mariangela Graciano - Federal University of Sao Paulo, UNIFESP

Susan Halford (Chair) - University of Bristol

Iulius Rostas - National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Bucharest, Romania)

Spyros Themelis - University of East Anglia

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# Building Equality and Justice Now

BSA Annual Conference 2022  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

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## In this Programme

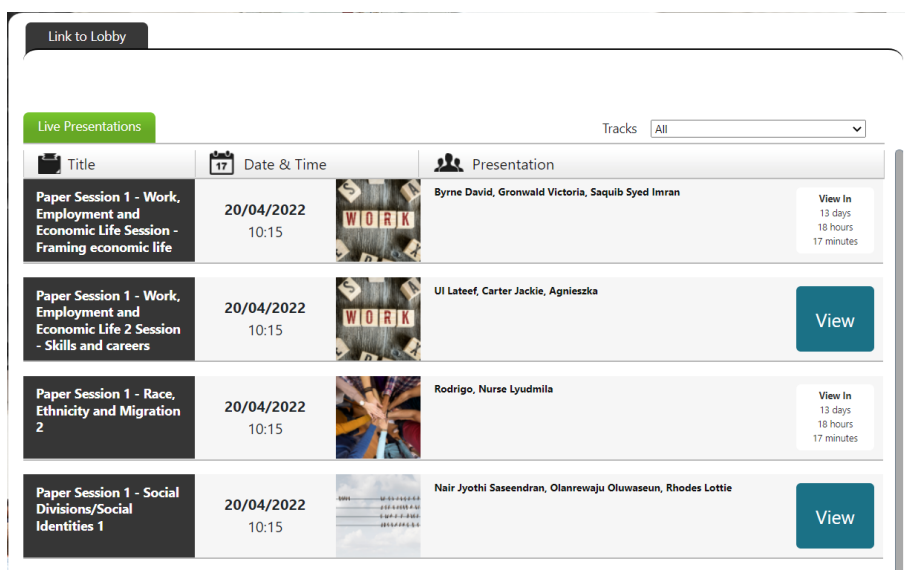
In this document, you will find the full abstracts for every session for the day. You may save a copy of this PDF document to your desktop or device for reference throughout the day. You can also use the search function (CONTROL+F) to search within this document for names, subjects and titles.

The link to the Conference Programme in the BSA Conference Lobby will update each morning to show the events of that day. To view abstracts for the full conference, please visit either *Conference Programme* or the *Resource Centre*.

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The screenshot shows a web interface for the BSA Conference Lobby. At the top, there is a 'Link to Lobby' button. Below it, a 'Live Presentations' section is displayed with a 'Tracks' dropdown menu set to 'All'. The main content is a table of presentations with columns for Title, Date & Time, Presentation, and a 'View' button. The table lists four sessions for 20/04/2022 at 10:15.

| Title  | Date & Time         | Presentation  | View   |
|--|---------------------|---|--|
| Paper Session 1 - Work, Employment and Economic Life Session - Framing economic life | 20/04/2022<br>10:15 | Byrne David, Gronwald Victoria, Saqib Syed Imran            | View In<br>13 days<br>18 hours<br>17 minutes |
| Paper Session 1 - Work, Employment and Economic Life 2 Session - Skills and careers  | 20/04/2022<br>10:15 | Ul Lateef, Carter Jackie, Agnieszka                         | View   |
| Paper Session 1 - Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2                                    | 20/04/2022<br>10:15 | Rodrigo, Nurse Lyudmila                                     | View In<br>13 days<br>18 hours<br>17 minutes |
| Paper Session 1 - Social Divisions/Social Identities 1                               | 20/04/2022<br>10:15 | Nair Jyothi Saseendran, Olanrewaju Oluwaseun, Rhodes Lottie | View   |

# Welcome

Welcome to the second Virtual British Sociological Association Annual Conference. The conference theme of **Building Equality and Justice Now** was chosen to encourage thinking about how sociology can contribute to working towards equality and justice as a post pandemic future began to seem possible. Since then the pandemic remains with us, particularly if we look globally, the invasion of Ukraine has occurred and other global conflicts remain. While this can feel overwhelming, it necessitates even more the need for dialogue and solidarity.

Our plenary speakers and panels are as follows:

- Nasar Meer (Edinburgh University)
- Pei-Chia Lan (National Taiwan University)
- Plenary Panel - Sociology under Threat: International Solidarity
  - Gargi Bhattacharyya, University of East London
  - Mariângela Graciano, Federal University of Sao Paulo, UNIFESP
  - Iulius Rostas, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, (Bucharest, Romania)
  - Spyros Themelis, University of East Anglia

In addition to these keynotes, delegates have the opportunity to view and discuss presentations on a wide range of topics. The conference is organised into different streams, each designed to represent one of the major areas of research sociologists are currently exploring. Each stream is open to any topic, enabling delegates to engage with colleagues in their areas of interest and expertise whilst also exploring a variety of other topics. Stream Plenaries bring key speakers together to reflect on the conference theme; there are also a number of open streams providing a forum for new, innovative and multidisciplinary work.

Thank you to everyone for contributing.

*Mark Doidge, Janice McLaughlin, Rima Saini and Chris Yuill*

BSA Annual Conference Organising Committee



# Programme at a Glance

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Day 1

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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>10:15 - 11:30</b> | <b>Paper Session 1</b> with live Q&A to follow each session  |
| 11:30 - 11:45        | Break  |
| <b>11:45 - 13:00</b> | <b>Paper Session 2</b> with live Q&A to follow each session  |
| 13:00 - 14:00        | Lunch  |
| 13:00 - 13:30        | <b>Open Forum</b> – Facilitated by The Trustees  |
| 13:55                | <b>PAM PRIZE AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT</b>  |
| <b>14:00 - 15:00</b> | <b>PLENARY KEYNOTE</b><br><br><b>Nasar Meer</b><br><b>Rima Saini (Chair)</b>   |
| 15:00 - 15:15        | Break  |
| <b>15:15 - 16:30</b> | <b>Paper Session 3</b> with live Q&A to follow each session<br><br><b>Race Report Special Event</b>  |
| 16:30 - 16:45        | Break  |
| <b>16:45 - 17:45</b> | <b>Stream Plenaries &amp; Special Activities</b><br><br>Medicine Health and Illness<br><br>Sociology of Religion<br><br>Work, Employment and Economic Life<br><br>Environment and Society<br><br><b>Presidential Panel Session – Gurminder Bhambra</b> |

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - Day 2

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|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>09:30 - 10:30</b> | <b>Stream Plenaries &amp; Special Activities</b><br><br>Rights, Violence and Crime<br><br><b>Cultural Sociology Journal Session</b><br><br><b>Raewyn Connell</b><br><b>Marcus Morgan (Chair)</b> |
| 10:30 - 10:45        | Break  |

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>10:45 - 12:00</b> | <b>Paper Session 4</b> with live Q&A to follow each session                              |
| 12:00 - 13:00        | Lunch  |
|                      | <b>MAXQDA WORKSHOP</b>   |
| <b>13:00 - 14:15</b> | <b>Paper Session 5</b> with live Q&A to follow each session                              |
|                      | <b>Official Book Launch: <i>The Cruel Optimism of Racial Injustice</i> by Nasar Meer</b> |
| 14:15 - 14:30        | Break  |
| <b>14:30 - 15:45</b> | <b>Paper Session 6</b> with live Q&A to follow each session                              |
| 15:45 - 16:00        | Break  |
| <b>16:00 - 16:40</b> | <b>PLENARY KEYNOTE</b>   |
|                      | <b>Pei-Chai Lan</b><br><b>Janice McLaughlin (Chair)</b>                                  |

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## Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022 - Day 3

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>09:30 - 10:45</b> | <b>Paper Session 7</b> with live Q&A to follow Each Session   |
| 10:45 - 11:00        | Break   |
| <b>11:00 - 12:15</b> | <b>Paper Session 8</b> with live Q&A to follow Each Session   |
|                      | <b>CITIES STREAM SOCIAL</b>   |
| 12:15 - 13:15        | Lunch   |
| 12:15 – 12:45        | <b>Open Forum</b> – Facilitated by Trustees   |
| <b>13:15 – 14:15</b> | <b>PLENARY KEYNOTE – Sociology Under Threat Panel</b><br><b>Gargi Bhattacharyya   Mariangela Graciano   Iulius Rostas   Spyros Themelis</b><br><b>Susan Halford (Chair)</b> |
| 14:15 - 14:30        | Break   |
| <b>14:30 - 15:45</b> | <b>Paper Session 9</b> with live Q&A to follow each session   |
| 15:45 - 16:00        | Break   |
| <b>16:00 - 17:00</b> | <b>Stream Plenaries &amp; Special Activities</b>  |
|                      | Families and Relationships  |
|                      | Theory  |
|                      | Science, Technology and Digital Studies   |

Race, Ethnicity and Migration

**17:05**                    **Closing remarks**

**17:15**                    **Conference Closes**

# Paper Session 7

## Friday, 22 April 2022

### 09:30 - 10:45

## Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

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### **“You always think about what other people be thinking”: Black Men and Barriers to Cycling in London**

*Rachel Aldred, Akwesi Osei*

(University of Westminster)

The climate crisis and coronavirus pandemic have highlighted the need and potential to increase cycling, alongside inequalities in current cycling levels. This includes London, UK, where groups including women, ethnic minority communities, and disabled people continue to be under-represented. Although gender-based marginalisation within cycling is widely discussed, racial exclusions remain under-researched. This article focuses on Black male Londoners, whose cycling rates remain low compared to White men. Drawing on interview research with Black men living in London, this presentation explores their experiences of and feelings about cycling, and the intersecting barriers that prevent them cycling more and which may prevent other Black men from cycling at all. Some of these barriers are also likely to be experienced by other groups and others may more specifically dissuade Black men from riding. They include issues of affordability and access to infrastructure; as well as racism, stop and search, and representation. The talk concludes by reflecting on some interviewees' suggestions that a Black cycling eco-system is needed to address a problematic dynamic of invisibility/visibility among Black men with respect to cycling.

### **Car Wars? Demographic Differences in Attitudes to Different Transport Modes in a Time of Rapid Change**

*Jamie Furlong, Rachel Aldred*

(Westminster University)

As more people took to walking and cycling during the Covid-19 pandemic, this exposed the unequal allocation of space in Britain's towns and cities. Private automobiles were seen to dominate with limited space for walking and cycling. As elsewhere, the UK government created an Active Travel Fund to support local authorities to produce cycling and walking facilities. Schemes built have included protected cycle lanes, pavement extensions and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods which remove motor traffic on residential streets. Many, however, have been controversial and some have been removed following vocal opposition. Low Traffic Neighbourhoods have been the subject of sustained campaigns in the right-wing press, which has drawn on a popular 'culture war' framing to attack these schemes.

This research attempts to understand the extent to which attitudes towards active travel and other transport funding in London vary across the city's diverse demography and geography. From applying multi-level regression analyses to Travel & Places TfL survey data (June-July 2021, N=12,470), it answers the following questions: what demographic characteristics are associated with positive or negative attitudes to funding cycling, walking and driving infrastructure? How does this vary across inner and outer London? Are attitudes to active travel funding significantly different amongst respondents living in or near new active travel schemes? Results show for instance the importance of age in shaping transport attitudes, paralleling generational gaps around other political and social issues. Beyond this, our analysis of attitudinal clusters highlights complex and contested attachments to driving, alongside a large minority challenging car dominance.

### **A Spatial Analysis of School Streets in London: Creating Equitable Streets but are they Equitably Distributed?**

*Jamie Furlong, Asa Thomas*

(Westminster University)

Despite legal requirements to improve air quality, UK towns and cities continue to be blighted by high levels of air pollution. The short and longterm effects on children's health have been well documented and, since 2017, have led to the creation and proliferation of School Streets – where motorised traffic is temporarily restricted on the roads outside of schools at pick-up and drop-off times. With over 400 schemes installed in London to date, the aim has been to create safe and pleasant environments for children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Little is known about the geographical distribution of School Streets or who is likely benefitting most from their implementation. Given the significant health benefits, School Streets could contribute to a rebalancing of physical and mental health inequalities in children. This research asks to what extent School Streets have been equitably distributed in London. By combining school-level and area-level data on free school meals, deprivation and ethnicity, the following questions are answered: to what extent

are children from more deprived families or living in more deprived areas more or less likely to go to such a school? How does this vary by the ethnic background of the child or the ethnic makeup of their local area? How does this vary across inner and outer London and within specific local authorities? Early conclusions suggest that, much like Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, School Streets have been broadly equitably distributed at the wider London-level, with a much less clear picture within local authorities.

### **Activating the Platform City through Labour on the Last Mile: The Infrastructuring Work of Baemin Food Delivery app in Seoul**

*E/ No*

(University of Cambridge)

Digital platforms have embedded themselves in many aspects of urban life. Most visibly, food delivery platforms are flooding streets with delivery riders and rapidly changing the way urbanites eat, work, and move. Food platforms and the associated labour are primarily discussed in the framework of platform capitalism, the latest form of a capitalist project that extracts value through labour exploitation. Whilst this line of research is valid and helpful, it does not sufficiently capture the indeterminate transformations taking place at the platform/city interface. In the cities where platforms create new and prevailing forms of urban mobility and navigation, these transformations actualise through everyday interactions rather than pre-planned grand initiatives. This understanding allows for grasping what platforms do to the city and in what ways they configure urban conditions.

This paper explores how platforms structure urban mobilities through continuous infrastructuring work using the example of Baemin, the South Korean food delivery platform and their couriers in Seoul. It approaches the app-enabled delivery as a moving assemblage of humans and nonhumans that forms a larger if fluid infrastructure. Through the sociomaterial analysis of the Baemin app, it illustrates how Baemin enrolls couriers and various urban resources into their configuration to regulate physical and virtual urban flows. Furthermore, it highlights that the active embodied practices and knowledges of human couriers on the last mile are significant in platforms' infrastructural realisation. Employing the infrastructural attentiveness, the paper offers a means to recognise less visible labour and efforts upon which smart urban life often depends.

## **Emerging Themes Special Event**

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### **Interrogating Intersectional Social Justice through Power, Mobilities and Activism**

This Special collection brings forth five papers to reflect, problematise and interrogate the notions of 'equality' and 'justice' through the intersectional framing of social divisions and hierarchies. Here we present the broader social landscape of power and hierarchy (following Anthias 2013), to go beyond a focus on intersectional categories and look at conceptions of status and class, and identities in precarious, structural/spatial and material contexts to look at how social categories operate within societal arenas, so that intersectional processes go beyond narrations of belonging and social identities. We also ask how can activism be fostered through research and solidarity? Often intimate or sexual citizenship hinges upon the logic of rights and/or identity politics, but also linked with gender, race and class and ecological justice. Through precariat work in the gig economy, we think creatively on the intersectional issues to give voice to those for whom social justice and equality is far more than rhetoric. Further the role of historicity and geography is central to building social justice, and at play in advancing racial and gendered social justice as we see in two contrasting contexts of South Africa. Exploring the role of children in educational settings through a sociology of childhood approach, we look at how age and generation intersect in educational spaces through addressing power structures and building activism. Thus we speak to the theme of problematising equality and justice and aim to interrogate limits to, and potential for social justice through axes of power, intersectionality, activism and difference.

### **Building Social Justice through Child-centric Approaches in Education**

*Shoba Arun, Jessica Ozan, Gary Pollock, Haridhan Goswami, Aleksandra Szymczyk Farwa Batool*  
(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Increasingly children are becoming active agents of research projects in social sciences, with new ways to engage children through a sociology of childhood approach to validate their right to participate in decisions that concern them. Drawing on examples from three European projects focusing on children (MyWeb, ECDP, MiCreate), the authors consider different ways of engaging children and argue that researchers need to move beyond consulting children to gain insights into their perspective and start engaging them as participants, co-producers and advisors. Whilst this child-centric approach comes with its challenges, it has the potential to improve research design, data quality, and the overall research impact. More importantly, it empowers children and is one of the rare research approaches that actually complies with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is also critical for the growing number of migrant children's agency and integration, where migrant integration is more related to deficit models of educational integration with more focus on barriers to attainment, cultural practices, language gaps etc. Hence their diversity is never accounted for, rather often homogenised and problematized. We look at how age intersects in educational spaces through



addressing power structures and building activism, articulating their diversity, voice and participation, and set out to explore how children could be advisers/shapers of integration practices in educational settings.

**‘My story will make me a hero’: Individual Aspirations, Cruel Intersections and the Search for Social Justice among Higher Education Students Growing up in Single-headed Households**

*Benedicte Brahic, Shoba Arun, Aradhana Mansingh, Khayaat Fakier, Kim Heyes, Nicola Ingram, Mariam Seedat-Khan*  
(Manchester Metropolitan University)

The paper examines access and attainment of young people from lone parent and migrant households in Higher Education in two contrasting South African provinces (KwaZulu-Natal and Western Cape), to explore the nexus of race, gender and inequalities in Urban South Africa. In its National Development Plan: Vision 2030, the South African government recognizes the scope and seriousness of poverty in single-mother households (Borgen Project, 2019) with children of lone parents (47 % of households) in experiencing significantly worse educational outcomes than any other demographic (Statistics South Africa, 2018). By focusing on an understudied population and exploring for the first time the impact of growing up in a single-headed household on access to and success in Higher Education, the project has shed light on some of the lesser-known, yet critical dynamics at play in advancing two important sustainable development goals in South Africa: Quality Education for all (SDG 4) and Gendered Inequalities (SDG 5), and identifying their needs, barriers, strengths, and aspirations. Through an intersectional analysis and inter-generational cultural capital accumulation approach, we explore for the first time the impact of growing up in a single-headed household on access to and success in Higher Education, to sheds light on some of the lesser-known, yet critical dynamics at play in advancing social justice in South Africa.

**“We are talking about a branch of the tree” – Contemporary Activism around Consensual Non-monogamy in Europe and Intersectional Conceptualisation of Social Justice**

*Christian Klesse* (Department of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University), *Daniel Cardoso* (Department of Sociology, Manchester Metropolitan University; ECATI, Lusófona University)

CNM activism is often framed as a matter of either intimate or sexual citizenship (which in turn hinges upon the logic of rights and/or identity politics). Drawing on individual interviews and focus groups with CNM activists, and an analysis of materials produced by activist groups in Portugal and the UK, this paper documents the multiplicity and complexity of contemporary CNM politics. We argue that there is no singular template that can account for the manifold articulations of political and cultural CNM activism. CNM activism engages with social justice in ways that avoid a singular focus on sexual politics, often advocating intersectional agendas, at times within more ‘holistic’ political frameworks. On the more conventional side, activist voices seem to wish for a *normalization* of CNM as an ultimately unremarkable element within a wider frame of *relational and sexual diversity*. This approach resonates to a with mainstream LGBT and other identity-based citizenship-focused approaches. Yet at the same time, there are also CNM activists that frame their issues within a much wider system of power imbalances/injustices, which are seen as intrinsically connected. Intimacy and sexuality tends to be linked here with gender, race and class and also ecological and environmental justice. In these cases, CNM activism is heavily reliant on an intersectional framework that encompasses the human and the non-human in imagining possible new worlds, inscribing itself into broader counterhegemonic struggles for social justice rather than emphasizing its own autonomous importance. Here we see a potential of CNM activism to bring to the fore new alliances that destabilize identity-based conceptualisations of the sexual and the political.

**Researching Gig Work and Activism**

*Cosmin Popan* (Manchester Metropolitan University), *José Sherwood González* (Manchester Metropolitan University)

The generalised precarisation brought about in the last decade by the gig economy has sparked substantial activist research. Scholars have expressed their concern not only with unpacking the deteriorating working conditions on digital platforms, but also with assisting workers with improving their livelihoods. A great deal of academic interest in the gig economy has sought to adopt a Marxist lens which uses workers inquiries and action research as a theory and method to research working conditions drawing on workers’ lived and intersectional experience and organise this force as a movement against work (Woodcock, 2021; see also Briziarelli, 2018; Cant, 2020; Tassinari & Maccarrone, 2020). But what role is there left for activist research when the workers’ organisation against platform capitalism fails to materialise? Drawing on empirical work, spanning one year and a half, with platform food couriers in Manchester (UK) and Cluj-Napoca (Romania), we problematise the romanticised idea of collective organisation in the gig economy as a given and ask what other venues there are for activist research. In this presentation we reflect on our use of multimodal methods involving (mobile) ethnographic work, alongside other creative methods comprised of illustrations, audio diaries and digital mapping, to engage platform workers in the research process, while also reaching non-academic audiences.

## **Nursing, Class, and Gender: the Limits of Social Mobility**

*Helene Snee*

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Critical sociological work on the rhetoric of social mobility has problematised 'more mobility' as a solution to inequalities. This presentation engages with these ideas by exploring the complex relationship between class and gender in the occupation of nursing. On one hand, nursing is relatively accessible to women from working class backgrounds compared to other professions; and recent educational reforms have aimed to provide new training routes to enable upward social mobility. On the other, gendered discourses of nursing as 'women's work' endure, with the profession under-valued and under-rewarded; while the Registered Nurse role has become professionalised, hand-on care provided in poorly paid support roles is undertaken by working class and Black and Minority Ethnic women; and although it is a feminised occupation dominated by women, men are over-represented in senior nursing positions. Drawing on a feminist critical policy analysis and data on the 'class ceiling' in nursing, I consider the limits of social mobility as a means of achieving social justice.

## **Environment and Society**

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### **The Intersectionality of Grassroots Innovations for Sustainable Consumption**

*Cat Acheson*

(University of East Anglia)

Can Grassroots Innovations offer sustainable consumption solutions, whilst actively pursuing intersectional social and political justice goals? To date, research on sustainable consumption has neglected the issues of social injustice and oppression embedded in mainstream consumption systems. This presentation will develop a new framework to explore the intersections between environmental goals and social justice in sustainable consumption, to address this gap in the literature. The presentation will focus on Grassroots Innovation projects designed to prevent resources from going to waste – for example, surplus food redistribution projects, and digital device repair projects. The presentation will examine the ways in which these waste prevention goals overlap and intersect with social and political goals, such as democratising access to resources, empowering marginalised communities, and creating new infrastructures of provision based on anti-capitalist principles. It asks how these intersectional goals develop and are enacted, what factors enable or constrain them, and how we can use this to support the development of an intersectional, justice-focused approach to addressing the sustainable consumption challenge.

### **Slow Violence, Environmental Governance, and Social Movement Outcomes in a Hybrid Regime**

*M. Omar Faruque*

(Queen's University)

This paper analyzes recent environmental conflicts in Bangladesh to examine the nature, dynamics, and outcomes of social movements contesting environmentally destructive energy and resource development projects. During 2005-2020, these conflicts have generated widespread mobilizations against a planned coal mine in a densely populated agricultural region and a coal-fired power plant near the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Drawing on social movement studies and the political economy perspective in environmental sociology, this paper focuses on two interrelated issues: the role of various actors in shaping policies and actions in Bangladesh's energy and resource development sector to advance their interests and the tactics and discourses of challengers contesting these projects. It then assesses the outcomes of both mobilizations in the context of environmental governance in a hybrid political regime. It argues that, notwithstanding their broad public support, the outcomes of these movements are mixed. Political and bureaucratic elites offer piecemeal changes in government's actions without committing to major public policy changes. In a hybrid political regime characterized by authoritarianism, top-down public policymaking, and lack of meaningful public consultation, powerful actors with entrenched interests violate relevant laws and policies and suppress the grievances of social movements concerned with the slow violence of environmentally sensitive energy and resource development projects. The mixed outcomes of both mobilizations also demonstrate the power of elites within the ruling regime who can be either allies or enemies of social movements.

### **'If you think this is only a local issue, then nobody in the world can object to anything except what is on their doorstep': Digital Environmental Campaigns and the Problem of Community**

*Audrey Verma*

(Newcastle University, UK)

This paper considers the ways in which digitisation problematises the already fraught notion of community, meshing the lines between local, national, regional and global in ways that are salient for environmental justice. Drawing on ethnographic research with three grassroots environmental campaigns that have distinct digital-social lives, this paper

makes three related observations. First, digital participation blurs the already unclear boundaries of 'community'. Communities of interest e.g., those who signed campaign e-petitions, invoked ideas of global interconnections and shared responsibilities. Communities of interest may thus be conceived of as communities of place wrought at larger scales, brought together under an environmental concern, able to coalesce visibly and vocally given the affordances of digital platforms. Second, where online platforms hold the capacity to expand and mobilise communities of interest and knowledge, digitally-facilitated inclusion and participation of these groups creates discernible tensions with and for those who identify in terms of communities of place. Challenges and contradictions around whose voices and opinions (should) matter emerge time and again. Third, digital campaigns raise questions around the validity of digital participation as a form of 'care' and 'caring' for the environment, and how partisanship over substantive matters of care play out discursively online, often in reductive ways.

## Families and Relationships

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### **Extraordinary Mundanity: Understanding Different-sex Civil Partnerships**

*Julia Carter, Nikki Hayfield*

(University of the West of England)

Different-sex civil partnerships (DSCPs) were legalised in England and Wales in December 2019 and in Scotland in June 2021. This was considered a significant win for the Equal Civil Partnerships campaign, who suggest that civil partnerships offer 'a more modern, equal and feminist alternative to marriage' (<http://equalcivilpartnerships.org.uk/>). Yet with growing gender equality, looser social norms around parenting and cohabitation, and greater choice and flexibility around partnering and re-partnering, the campaign for DSCPs and increased formalisation of relationships seems out of step with contemporary trends. While marriage continues to operate for many as a pinnacle point within a 'normal' lifecourse (Carter 2019; Heaphy 2018), cohabitation and living apart together offer more flexible arrangements for accomplishing the lived reality of intimacies. So what do legalised mixed-sex civil partnerships offer? We set out to explore this question using a small qualitative sample of 21 participants representing 15 relationships (some couples were interviewed together). We found that while for some, DSCP did represent an 'equal' and 'feminist' alternative to marriage, it was more than an alternative- many cited a rejection of marriage traditions and of (big, white) weddings in particular. Ceremonies ranged from very low-key and as part of a long list of chores, to events which emulated some aspects of traditional weddings. Thus, DSCPs offer choice- the choice to reject or adapt traditional weddings, the choice to pick and choose, change and redefine their partnerships and their ceremonies through a process of 'bricolage'.

### **'An emotional stalemate': Emotionality in Heterosexual Young People's Dating Practices**

*Alicia Denby, Jenny Van-Hooff*

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

In this paper we consider the ways in which heterosexual young people navigate emotionality in their early dating practices. We draw on the 'cold intimacy' thesis (Illouz, 2012, 2017, 2020; Hochschild, 1994) which has explored the intersection of neoliberalism, feminism, technology and therapeutic culture and their impact on personal life to argue that within intimate relationships emotions have increasingly become things to be evaluated, measured, quantified and categorized. Within the context of young people's relationships, research suggests that while they are often open about the physical aspects of casual sex, they are reluctant to demonstrate emotional attachment, with emotional vulnerability deemed shameful (Wade, 2018). We draw on 16 in-depth interviews with young people (aged 18-25) who are dating app users. The accounts that the participants offer suggests that emotional attachment is rarely articulated, and is seen as a sign of weakness in the early stages of a relationship. In the arena of dating, emotions thus become bargaining chips, with the 'winner' being the party with the least to lose, the least invested and the least emotionally attached. However, the irony in this logic is that, if intimacy is the prize, then neither party will win as neither are willing to 'put themselves on the line' (Glenn and Marquadt, 2001:38). While this is true for both the young men and women interviewed, our findings demonstrate the gendered imbalance of power in intimate relationships, distinguished by those who "wait" for emotional commitment, and those who are "waited for" (Lahad, 2012).

### **Emotion Work in Displaying Family**

*Daniela Pirani, Vera Hoelscher, Ratna Khanijou*

(University of Liverpool)

This paper expands the concept of displaying family by looking at how emotion affects display work. Although intense and unconventional family display has been observed in the context of same-sex couples (e.g. Almack, 2008), this has not been explored in heteronormative institutions such as wedding rituals, of which proposals are a prominent outpost. Drawing on the experiences of 21 women proposing to their male partners, this paper analyses the intense display work that deviates from normative ideals of gender performances. In doing so, we bridge the scholarship of displaying family (Finch, 2007; Almack 2008; Harman and Cappellini, 2015) with the one of emotion work in intimate relationships

(Hochschild 1979; DeVault, 1999) by focusing on the emotional reactions exchanged in displaying family across different audiences.

We offer three insights from our research. Our first finding is that emotional reactions contribute to the effectiveness of display work. Secondly, we observe how emotional reactions nuance the intensity through which family is displayed but also recognised, which hinders or motivates further display. Finally, we observe that audiences actively participate in the undoing and redoing of display work, problematizing the idea that the displayer conveys and the audience receives the meanings of family display work. This research suggests that the validation of family meanings relies on affective acceptance, which also depends on emotional competence and rules, suggesting the need for further enquiry on how emotions concur to legitimise unconventional family displaying.

## Medicine, Health and Illness

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### **Exploring Equality of Access to Yoga for Minorities in Northern UK Cities**

*Sally SJ Brown*

(Leeds Beckett University School of Health)

Minorities of all kinds in the UK are significantly under-represented in the activity of yoga. Over 70% of British yoga teachers and students are white, female and university educated. Participating in yoga offers well-documented physical, mental, social and emotional benefits. Barriers to yoga access therefore represent health inequality for minorities who experience poorer than average levels of health and wellbeing.

Emerging findings from this qualitative study in northern UK cities confirm that barriers to yoga access are experienced by minorities. The first of its kind to focus on the UK, and on a broad range of minority groups, the study explores yoga access experiences of people from seven identified groups and 12 sub-groups marginalised in society and under-represented in yoga, including ethnic and religious minorities. The data confirms minority access barriers identified in previous studies in the US and Australia and categorises these into two groups - Practical and Perceived. Further barrier factors are identified, via analysis of yoga's underlying processes and participation dynamics using Critical Race and Disability theories, Intersectionality and Bourdieu's Habitus and Field. These include yoga's increased commercialisation, behavioural group dynamics and potential cultural appropriation.

The researcher is a white, CIS female, neuroatypical (autistic) yoga practitioner and accessible yoga teacher based in northern UK. Her position as a Participant Observer is acknowledged as offering potential for both study richness and unconscious bias - self-reflexivity and member checking are therefore employed. It is hoped findings from this study will enable greater equality of yoga accessibility for minorities.

### **Preparing to Care for a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse UK Patient Population: An Ethnographic Investigation of How Medical Students Develop their Cultural Competence**

*Jia Liu, Heidi Lempp, Shuangyu Li*

(King's College London)

The importance of cultural competence (CC) education has been largely recognised by medical schools globally, but training remains fragmented with a lack of consistency in structure, content, and process. Little is known about how students develop their CC in Higher Education and extracurricular components. This study provided an in-depth exploration of students' views and experiences in developing CC. Ethnography was adopted as an overarching approach to include a range of research methods, including document review (24 posters and 9 websites), participant observation (109 hours), individual in-depth interviews (n=25), and focus groups (n=3). The results show that students develop their CC both consciously and unconsciously in classroom-based formal teaching, clinical placements, and through extracurricular activities. Their learning experiences in each setting are interrelated and constantly interact with each other. Some aspects of the learning are more apparent and easier for students to internalise; others remain hidden even if they are evidently absorbed. This requires medical educators to identify, and then integrate and holistically balance, resources that can contribute to students' CC development. Integration and discussions of the results generated a theoretical model that conceptualises medical students' CC development. In addition, the EDUCATIONIST guide, which consists of 12 educational tips, was proposed to inform a novel pedagogical development on CC education in medicine. An increased understanding of students' development of CC in different learning settings contributed to its curriculum development in medicine and healthcare. Universal themes can be contextualised culturally as an important addition to the field.

### **Donation, Mediatized: Exploring the Interface between Contemporary Media and Donation Systems/Practices**

*Ros Williams*

(University of Sheffield)

This intervention highlights the important role contemporary media and mediatization (see Couldry & Hepp 2013) play in biomedical projects of tissue donation in the UK. Whilst publicity has long been of interest in the field (e.g. Cohen

1999; Simpson 2011; Kierans & Cooper 2011), broader consideration of media's role is needed: from social media advertising to 'raise awareness' of organ donor 'opt-out' law changes, to digital apps to book donation sessions, media are an underacknowledged, though arguably increasingly important, component of both increasing and maintaining donorship, that stand to shape future donation. In this paper, I explore this through the context of stem cell (or bone marrow) donor recruitment, where social media join traditional mass media as key conduits through which donation is normalised. I present analysis of social/traditional media activity of various appeals from racially minoritised patients to encourage donor recruitment, along with interviews with 17 stakeholders collected in a Wellcome Trust-funded research project. I explore how patient narrative is mobilised to increase participation, and how this is often undertaken by those affected by 'shortages' of donors (i.e., racially minoritised patients) thereby placing the onus of recruitment onto minoritised individuals themselves, rather than funded statutory systems. Moreover, I interrogate how notions of 'deservingness' in media representations further complicate donation's moral economy. The paper thus flags some key sociological modalities of the media/donation interface, arguing for the sociology of donation to pay increased attention to the relationship between media and donation systems/practices.

## **Organ Donation in Turkey from the Perspective of the Risk and Uncertainty Society**

*Betul Durmaz Yurt*

The need for organ donation and transplantation is increasing day by day around the world. The vitality of this demand necessitated studies on the subject. This presentation aimed to measure the attitude and perception towards organ donation with a survey conducted with a sample of 603 people in Turkey.

According to the International Registry of Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT, 2019) data, while the country where cadaver organ transplantation is seen the highest is Spain with 49.61 people per million, Turkey's rate is 7.54 people per million. According to the survey results, only 6.1% (n=37) of the participants donated organs. The reasons for not wanting to donate organs are social uncertainties and risks as well as religious factors. For this reason, the issue is explained by Beck's "risk society" and Bauman's "uncertainty society" theories.

Participants who did not want to donate organs, on the one hand, stated that brain death may not be real; on the other hand, they did not trust the system enough and stated that they were worried that organs could be given to status holders. Also, when they are donors, they consider the risk that no effort will be made for their survival in the event of an accident.

In this presentation, it is aimed to present the results of a field study on organ donation in Turkey. And the factors that obstruct organ donation are discussed.

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# Methodological Innovations

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## **The Ethics of Ethnodrama as Representation in Research**

*Rhi Harvey Humphrey*

(University of Strathclyde)

This presentation considers the use of ethnodrama and composite characters which speaks to work on the ethics of creative methods and forms of representations of participant data. Within this research study example, the use of ethnodrama as a form of fictionalised representation of participants' data was utilised to preserve anonymity through composite characters to voice the words of multiple participants. This protected participants' ongoing relationships with each other. This allowed for discussion of the study (international trans and intersex activist relationships including group and organisational conflicts) without compromising these relationships. This work considers the benefits of protecting participants' ongoing relationships with each other while addressing risks of subsuming participants into homogenous identities to offer a practical consideration of ethnodrama production. This methodological contribution speaks to the development of ethnodrama as a research tool. Moving from ethnodrama to ethnotheatre this article considers the recruitment of actors to inhabit these participant composite characters and the ethical implications of this dissemination. Ethical research requires a commitment to cause no harm at all stages of research including dissemination. Ethical research also requires engagement with current contexts in which research is conducted and findings are disseminated. This has particular relevance for a research project addressing trans and intersex activist relationships at a time of rising transphobia across the UK and within academia.

## **When the Light is Eclipsing - Developing a "grid" in the Field of Millennial Activism**

*Milena Stateva, Stanislav Dodov*

(Orion Grid for Leadership and Authority)

The focus of this paper is on the concept and methodology of a grid, which we flesh out with case vignettes from the practice with activists of the Orion Grid ([www.orion-grid.org](http://www.orion-grid.org)).

We build on previously existing concepts related to group dynamics and facilitation, such as network, space, matrix, movement etc. but explicitly focus on the power aspects of the social world by taking power as ontology: power is always

present between people and even animals; it is the power imbalances that constitute a problem: oppression, violence, exploitation.

We build on Mary Douglas (1970) grid/group analysis, the concept and design of a referent organisation (Trist, 1968) and the understanding of the grid as unconscious dynamics in the work of Wilfred Bion (1977). While the grid/group analysis is well established in anthropology and sociology to explore ideology in communities (Caulkins, 1999), the very idea and concept of the grid itself as a power field is poorly explored, developed and deployed methodologically.

Elaborating the concept of a grid to upgrade existing notions in sociology, anthropology, political science and organisational studies introduces dimensions of power, the workings of the unconscious at the microlevels in groups as well as the role of skillful facilitation. Facilitation, we argue, is essential to build up a more potent model of collaboration and mutual ignition of individuals, groups, communities and movements. As a competence it derives from leadership and authority, and distributes power through well established methodologies and techniques of practical applications.

### **Co-creating with Young Men: Producing Community Informed Knowledge and Outputs to Foster more Inclusive Support Environments for Young Minoritised Fathers**

*Laura Way, Linzi Ladlow, Anna Tarrant*

(University of Lincoln)

This paper presents insights from a collaborative project called 'Diverse Dads' which ran between October 2020 and April 2021, during the 2020 -21 COVID-19 pandemic. 'Diverse Dads' sought to identify and address gaps in service provision for young minoritised dads in the North East, and to promote cross-sector conversations concerning inclusive support for young dads from diverse communities. With support provided remotely by the Following Young Fathers Further (FYFF) team, peer research was undertaken by three young men from the North East Young Dads and Lads Project (NEYDL) with input from advisors from national support organisations that champion inclusivity for young fathers and minoritised communities. We consider the design and conduct of methods of coproduction and cocreation and how these were achieved at a distance during the pandemic and introduce the creative, digital outputs (a set of training videos developed to inform professional practice) which were produced by the peer research team with partners DigiDAD. Our creative collaboration demonstrates the continued value of coproduction and cocreation with multiply marginalised young people, providing an opportunity for empowerment, as well as an important avenue for the acquisition of confidence and new skills through targeted support. We conclude with reflections on how creative, digital methods can support more productive discussions between young fathers, professionals and researchers that are premised on democratic principles.

### **In Conversation with the Empty Shelves of Time - Publishing an Anthology of Women's Prison Writing**

*Rosalchen Whitecross*

(University of Sussex)

The steep rise in the female prison population over the last three decades worldwide, as well as in the UK, has increased the urgency for a critical concern with the experiences of women in prison, and their representations thereof in life writing and prison narratives. Scheffler (2002, p. xvi) argues that to publish women's prison writing is to raise awareness around women's imprisonment. Carlen and Tchaikovsky (1996, p. 211) similarly argue that in order to keep the "endemic secrecy" of the carceral machine in check, its inner workings should be opened up to the public gaze, in particular to monitor its tendencies to revert from progressive to regressive practices. In the UK, the narratives of lived experience written by women in prison are underrepresented in the cultural, academic and social spheres. Scheffler (1984, p. 65; 2002, p. xv) writes of women's prison literature as marginal texts lost within the "marginal literature of the prison" depicting facets of women's experience deemed too unpleasant to warrant attention. In this paper, I explore how publishing women's prison writing in the anthology *How Bleak is the Crow's Nest*, is one method of reminding society that incarcerated women exist (Scheffler, 2002, p. xxi) from the perspective of epistemic justice through the prisoner viewpoint, imprisoned women writing their lived experiences. Women's prison writing is a rich storehouse of records, both empirical and practical, of the physical surroundings, attitudes, people and events that make an impression on the woman as writer in prison (Scheffler, 1984, p. 65).

## **Race, Ethnicity and Migration**

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### **Revisiting French Migrants in London: Using Longitudinal Research to Study the Impact of Brexit on Differentiated Embedding over Time**

*Jon Mulholland, Louise Ryan*

(University of the West of England, Bristol)

There has been exponential growth in research about the impact of Brexit on the plans and projects of EU migrants in the UK. Much research focuses on highly visible migrants, such as the Poles. By focusing on French highly skilled migrants in London, our paper offers the perspectives of those who, prior to the referendum, were relatively invisible,

and largely absent from anti-immigration discourses. In so doing, we consider how the shock of Brexit exposed but also threatened the previously taken for granted privileges enjoyed by this capital-rich migrant population.

Moreover, our longitudinal data, gathered through repeated interviews over seven years (2011-18), enables analysis of how participants' experiences and evaluations of life and work in the UK changed, over time, in response to Brexit. In analysing these longitudinal qualitative data from an under-researched migrant group, this paper also aims to advance our concept of embedding, in its differentiation across political, economic and relational domains, to understand change over time. Specifically, this paper advances understanding of how processes of embedding, both in their reflexive and tacit forms, frame the complex and nuanced ways in which our French highly skilled participants have experienced, made sense of, and responded to, Brexit.

### **Studying the Emotional Costs of Integration at Times of Change: the Case of EU Migrants in Brexit Britain**

*Elisabetta Zontini, Elena Genova*

(University of Nottingham)

Events such as Brexit have drawn attention to the precarity of contemporary migrants' settlement rights and reopened the debate on the nature of integration and assimilation processes. Drawing on participant observation and interviews with Italian and Bulgarian migrants in Brexit Britain, this paper presents a novel approach for understanding migrants' changing relationships with their countries of settlement and their current and future practices. Until recently, migration studies have privileged the structural and cultural dimensions of integration. However, the recent literature on Brexit clearly signals a change of direction, bringing to the fore the affective side of integration as a process, while continuing to treat emotions as the object of analysis.

The aim of this paper is to advance these debates by considering emotions as a tool for understanding wider processes concerning the relationships between individuals and society. This approach builds on the sociology of emotions, which it extends to migration and diversity with a transnational sensibility. The approach is then applied to explain the different displays of emotion undertaken by our participants and their consequences. Our case-study shows that some migrants are involved in 'emotional labour' trying to master the 'correct' feelings to successfully integrate in a rapidly changing British society and polity, while others express a sense of betrayal and some of indifference. Overall, the paper presents a new way to examine the subjective experiences of integration at times of change, one that offers important insights into the emotional costs of the neo-assimilationist climate characterising several Western societies.

## **Rights, Violence and Crime 1**

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### **Building Equality and Justice for who?**

*Lara Maclachlan*

(University of Liverpool)

We live in a 'law-thick' world where much of the routine elements of everyday life have been institutionalised through civil law. Law arguably evolved due to our society deeming certain activities so fundamental that we should all have a collective stake in the outcomes. Law often appears as inevitable facts of everyday life. We respect others property, we follow traffic rules and we pay our debts. Civil legal issues touch on almost all aspects of social life; they range from housing, to family, to consumer and employment problems. Despite this prevalence, research has consistently highlighted that people fail to identify their problems as having legal dimensions.

Law and society research has repeatedly found a gap between legal ideals and people's everyday experience of law. Traditional sociolegal scholarship has typically examined people's relationship to law from the assumption that law is dominant in people's minds. However, studies indicate nothing close to unconditional faith in law and legal institutions. To address this, we must shift from exploring what to how people think about law. The ability to engage with the civil justice system is not merely a method of dealing with personal problems, it is a form of participation in one of the most prominent social institutions in modern society.

This presentation will explore the need to better understand how people are excluded from our civil justice system, how people experience law in everyday life and how these experiences impact accessing justice.

### **The Paradox of Equality: Sexual Violence in HE**

*Melanie McCarry*

(University of Strathclyde)

The incremental progression of women into academia, as both students and staff, has disrupted, but not dismantled, cultures and practices of gender inequality. The #MeToo and other movements have identified the prevalence, and normalisation, of sexual violence, and other forms of gender based violence, on campus. To date, most UK studies focus on intra-student or staff-student experiences which constructs it as either a student issue or individualised transgressions. In this paper we draw on data from a convergent mix-methods study from four UK universities where we surveyed staff and students on their views and experiences of gender based violence and perceptions of gender

inequality. We also conducted follow up interviews and focus groups. We apply Kelly's (2007) 'conducive context' analysis to argue that a cultural practice of gender inequality within the institution is the scaffold for sexual harassment. This invidious circle (Burri and Timmer, 2017) of gender inequality and sexual harassment is mutually supportive and sustaining. We argue that for women in academia parity in entry has not equated to parity of experience – with women having to navigate the paradox of the academy as an ostensibly welcoming, yet hostile, environment.

### **'It's not as traumatising if you're a guy': Situating Men's Unwanted Sexual Experiences and Help Seeking in Feminist Care Ethics**

*Kirsty Mcgregor, Carl Bonner-Thompson*

(University of Brighton)

Men's unwanted sexual experiences (MUSE) – or sexual violence and harassment towards men - are receiving growing attention from academics and policy makers. A recent survey by the Male Survivor Partnership (MSP) highlighted that 42% of men have experienced at least one form of unwanted sexual contact in their lives. This paper is based on a research project that explored men's unwanted sexual experiences, with a focus on help seeking. We conducted and analysed semi-structured interviews and arts-based workshops with 18 men from the Southeast of England who have had unwanted sexual experiences. In this paper, we situate their experiences of help seeking in a feminist ethics of care enabling us to examine the structural and embodied barriers for men who are survivors of unwanted sexual experiences. We explore the ways that normative understandings of gender and sexuality - that are entangled in institutions, everyday encounters and selves - emerge as barriers for help seeking. In particular, the myths and norms around masculinity and sexual violence, that become careless in supposedly caring spaces, institutions and contexts. To conclude, we contribute to understandings, and complicate ideas of, justice from the perspective of men who are survivors. We argue that feminist ethics of care provides a useful framework to analyse the care and carelessness involved in help seeking pathways for men who have had unwanted sexual experiences.

## **Rights, Violence and Crime 2 Special Event**

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### **Entrenched Inequalities of Alcohol Harm: the Social Justice Challenge of Alcohol-related Violence**

*Lucy Bryant*

(University of Liverpool, Institute of Alcohol Studies, Singapore Institute of Technology)

As many as two in every five violent incidents occurring in England and Wales each year are alcohol-related, representing half a million violent incidents every year (497,000 reported in Crime Survey for England and Wales 2019/20). Yet, the socioeconomic distribution of alcohol-related violence – particularly sub-types such as domestic violence – remains under-examined. Do lower socioeconomic groups disproportionately experience this? If they do, is this pattern explained by some other risk factor for violence – such as age, where people live, or attendance of licensed premises? To examine this, data were drawn from the Crime Survey for England and Wales, from years 2013/2014 to 2017/2018. Socioeconomic status specific incidence and prevalence rates for alcohol-related violence (including sub-types domestic, stranger, and acquaintance violence) were created. Multinomial logistic regression was used to test whether the likelihood of ever experiencing these incidents was affected by socioeconomic status when controlling for several pre-established violence risk factors. Findings show lower socioeconomic groups experience higher incidence and prevalence rates of alcohol-related violence, including domestic and acquaintance violence. Regression results show that likelihood of experiencing these types of violence is affected by a person's socioeconomic status – even when other known violence risks factors are held constant. Along with action to address environmental and economic drivers of socioeconomic inequality, population level alcohol policy action should be investigated for its potential to disproportionately benefit lower SES groups and address this unequal burden of alcohol harm.

### **Entre Entrenched Inequalities of Alcohol Harm: the Social Justice Challenge of Alcohol-related Violence**

*Carly Lightowers*

(University of Liverpool, Institute of Alcohol Studies, Singapore Institute of Technology)

Whilst general trends point to reduced alcohol consumption and a decrease in crime, alcohol-related violence represents a significant social harm which does not fall evenly. In order to unravel this inequality, it is essential we understand whether the impact of alcohol accessibility on violent crime is experienced uniformly by more or less deprived areas. Based on insights from the alcohol-harm paradox, it is hypothesised that rates of change will be steeper and affected more so by alcohol availability in deprived areas. Dr Carly Lightowers presents a detailed investigation of alcohol availability, violent crime and deprivation combining data from several sources (open police data, consumer data on licensed premises and deprivation scores) confirming a recent upward trend in recorded violence in England and Wales between 2011 and 2018. Rates of change in deprived areas are steeper and affected more so by alcohol availability, especially in the form of on-licensed premises. Moreover, deprivation amplified the impact of on-licence alcohol availability on violent crime, suggesting a need to respond to the disproportionate impact of violence on areas with



higher levels of deprivation and availability of on-licensed premises with relevance for criminal justice, licensing, and public health policy. These trends are likely to have been further influenced by the changing alcohol consumption trends and availability through the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Alcohol-related domestic violence: an oversight in COVID-19 research and policy, or a longstanding blind-spot revealed?**

*Ingrid Wilson*

(Singapore Institute of Technology)

The COVID-19 pandemic and public health responses, such as forced lockdowns, has brought a hidden pandemic of domestic violence to public attention. While alcohol has long been recognised as a risk factor, curiously there has been limited research and policy focus on alcohol-related domestic violence.

While a few governments have placed temporary bans on alcohol during the pandemic, violence towards women and alcohol consumption remains largely absent in public health decisions. This is despite the closure of public drinking venues, concerns about home drinking and distress arising from the ongoing pandemic and the more permissive nature of off-premises alcohol trade. We argue that the discourse around COVID-19 has magnified existing silences and tensions between the alcohol and domestic violence fields, resulting in missed opportunities for intervention.

The pandemic context offers an opportunity for dialogue between the alcohol and domestic violence sectors to jointly produce research and interventions that aim to reduce alcohol's role as a risk factor in violence and keep families safer both during and beyond the current crisis.

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## Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

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### **“Dosti, Gandu, Looti, and Khusra”: An Intersectional Overview on British Pakistani Muslim Non-heterosexual Males Identities**

*Muhammed Ali*

(University of Huddersfield)

British Pakistani Non-heterosexual Muslim Males (BPNMM) are largely omitted from research populations, with majoritarian Caucasian Gay Males forming most of the participants in this area. This intersectional work led me to a critical discursive methodology to explore peoples' use of language in relation to wider discourses and psycho-social implications of BPNMM's language. Of particular interest is how BPNMM use language to discuss social identities in relation to wider discourses and societal systems, structures, and values, such as the concept of izzat (honour). Current understandings illustrate potential 'identity conflicts' between their Pakistani socio-culture and religion (Islam) on one hand, and non-heterosexuality and British nationality on the other. Some BPNMM face strategic acceptance from their families, meaning their sexuality remains hidden within the confines of a spatial 'closet', avoiding sharam (shame) to their izzat. This altered presentation may result in identity threat and psychological incoherence between their ideal and presented self through compartmentalisation as a coping strategy. In adapting to COVID-19, virtual, semi-structured interviews were conducted. This enabled those shielding to participate, but impeded those 'closeted'. Findings illustrate participants find belonging challenging on all fronts, which is prevented by conditional acceptance both from their in and outgroups (anti-Muslim, homophobia, and racism), reflecting multiple injustices. The pandemic contributed towards heightened stressors due to reduced options for safe identity expression, further marginalising BPNMM. This presentation also proposes future directions, such as calls for critical discussions to be had within BPNMM's communities and a return to the literature.

### **LGBTQ+ Cares in Higher Education**

*Maddie Breeze, Yvette Taylor, Sophie Saunders*

(University of Strathclyde)

Care is subject to heightened attention and contestation in contemporary UK universities, including during Covid-19. Feminist research and activism have long demonstrated how gender and sexuality contour care-giving, including in (mis)recognitions of care needs, and the

(re)constitution of normative cares and caring subjectivities. In this context queer cares are subject to celebration and erasure, while LGBTQ+ people continue to negotiate care crises including but not limited to the Covid-19 pandemic. We discuss our qualitative research with LGBTQ+ people working in UK universities, tracing the distribution and social negotiations of care within, at the edges of, and beyond the institution, welfare state and family. We analyse how care norms are reproduced and transformed, questioning: which queers cares are recognised, who is re-positioned as careless or care-free, and whose care is taken-for-granted. We contribute to contemporary debates on the distribution and work of care in universities, re-thinking care in and with queer experiences.

## **Struggling with Feelings: Mapping Insta-emotions among Hong Kong Trans Men**

*Denise Tse-Shang Tang*

(Lingnan University)

Digital media is often understood as the primary platform to open up new social worlds for transgender men. The plethora of information from DIY videos on testosterone injections to daily transition vlogs, has seen transgender men, transmasculine and non-binary individuals creating, developing and curating themselves on digital platforms. Hong Kong transgender men, transmasculine and non-binary persons have also put into digital practice, an “inter-Asian referencing of” queer codes, processes and meanings of being trans by following key opinion leaders in Taiwan and Thailand (Iwabuchi 2013). In recent years, politics and tensions within Hong Kong transgender communities have been rife in online and offline settings. These tensions take on a different set of meanings when the wider societal environment is also laden with uncertainties ranging from the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, political instability and social discontents. Under this larger context, I draw upon McKenzie and Patulny's (2021) notion of dystopia as “a process, a practice, a method of understanding and critiquing” to examine dystopian emotions among twenty Hong Kong transgender men, transmasculine and non-binary persons through a combination of methods including digital ethnographic fieldwork and face-to-face in-depth interviews from 2020-2021. I contend that queering dystopia and dystopian emotions is useful to understanding the complications of everyday life as represented on social media. This paper proposes to explore selfrepresentations of transmen on Instagram and to examine conflicting themes of frustration, anxiety and fear embedded within visual images, captions, handles and hashtags.

## **Social Divisions/Social Identities 2**

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### **Who is Included and Why: Hukou Hierarchy and Household Financial Inclusion in Urban China**

*Aihong Li*

(University of Cambridge)

In China, hukou, as an essential social system of social divisions and social redistribution dividing the rural and the urban, has experienced a series of reforms to cease its 'extra' political, social, and economic functions. However, studies have reported that hukou has strengthened the rural-urban dual segregation. This segregation, however, has become less helpful in understanding the hierarchical structure of hukou due to the internal migration and the socio-economic development differentiation of cities. Meanwhile, the Chinese central government uses financial inclusion as one of the strategies to increase social inclusion and accelerate urbanization. However, little is known about the association between the hierarchical hukou system and financial inclusion. Neither has been studied whether the socio-economic development cities can modify the hukou division effects on financial inclusion.

This study used China Household Financial Studies (2013) to explore household financial inclusion in urban China regarding access to banking services, financial investment, insurance, formal credit, and informal credit. Although there were differences between the six financial indicators, significant gaps in financial inclusion levels were found between rural native and urban native households and between rural floating and urban floating households but not between the urban native and urban floating households. Also, urban hukou holders were more financially included in cities of higher urbanization levels. These findings indicate that rural-urban segregation also exists in financial inclusion in urban China and advocate policymakers to provide greater consumer protection and regulation of the financial services market and increase financial literacy to improve financial inclusion.

### **NGOs, Advocacy Communications and Use of New Technologies for Gender Equality and Reproductive Health**

*Carolina Matos*

(City, University of London)

Funded by the GCRF, Gender, health communications and online activism in the digital age seeks to advance research on the use of advocacy communications by a total of 52 feminist and health NGOs and networks located in both the North and the South, who work in Latin America and in large democracies such as India, but also in the US and Europe, including organisations from Care International UK to CREA India and Anis, Brazil. This multidisciplinary project aims to contribute to theoretical and empirical research in the fields of gender development, media and sexuality (Harcourt, 2017; Cornwall et al, 2015; Butler, 2020; Gill and Orgad, 2018), health communications and reproductive health (Obregon and Waisbord, 2012; Tufte, 2012; Correa and Petchesky, 1994) as well as the use of advocacy communications by NGOs for social change (Wilkins, 2016).

This research adopted a mixed methods approach. In depth interviews with CEOs from the organizations was combined with a questionnaire applied to the communication heads of these NGOs. This was combined with content and discourse analysis (CDA) of the websites of the organizations, as well as their social media engagement. Core research questions are: How are health and feminist NGOs making use of communication tools on gender equality and reproductive health?

How do communication strategies reflect on daily activities, and in the use of online networks? What are also some of the challenges that NGOs encounter in advocacy communications around sexuality and reproductive health?

# Sociology of Education 1

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## HIGHER EDUCATION INEQUALITIES

### **British Universities and Knowledge Regimes: Thinking about Knowledge Production**

*Martin Aidnik*

(Nottingham University)

This presentation deals with knowledge regimes and British universities since the Second World War. I focus on two ideal-typical knowledge regimes: social democratic (the period from 1945 to 1979) and neoliberal (the period from 1980 to the present). The social democratic knowledge regime is characterized by a social mission of the university, consisting of a societal process of democratic inclusion and narrowing of economic inequalities. The neoliberal knowledge regime is characterized by marketization – the presentation of higher education as solely a private benefit to individuals. Thus, public service in a positive sense disappears. There is a re-orientation away from public benefit objectives and reduction of universities to private training providers with no interest in promoting public goods. I thereafter link actual historical developments to these two ideal types to assess changes in knowledge production and in the relationship between the university and society. Doing so, I revisit two documents in which the different knowledge regimes crystallize: the Robbins Report from 1963 and the Browne Review from 2010. I conclude by preliminary analysis of the impact of Covid-19 and Brexit on the neoliberal knowledge regime.

### **Unlocking Opportunity: Exploring the Impact of a Criminal Record on Access to Higher Education in the UK**

*Charlotte Brooks*

(University of Nottingham)

In England and Wales over 11.8 million people have a criminal record. Under current rules, over 7,000 people each year receive a criminal that will have to be declared for the rest of their life. Thus, a criminal record can have a devastating and lifelong impact on a person's ability to access civic opportunities such as employment or education (Henley, 2018). The impact of a criminal record on university admissions is of particular concern given that the literature indicates that coming into contact with the criminal justice system is a gendered, classist and racialised experience (Lammy, 2017). From 2018, applicants to non-regulated UK degrees (i.e. degrees that do not involve contact with vulnerable children or adults), are no longer required to disclose their criminal records on their university application. Yet little is known about if, and how, criminal records information is being collected and used at a later stage of the admissions process.

This paper introduces mixed methods PhD research which focuses on examining the policies and practices of UK universities for applicants with criminal records. This paper will outline the importance of fair admissions to university for people with criminal records and highlight how questions about criminal records can create barriers to inclusion. The paper will present preliminary findings from the analysis of 143 UK universities' criminal record policies, which reveals that in many instances, a criminal record continues to present a significant barrier to access to higher education in the UK.

### **Feminist Becomings: A Cartography of Girls Transition from School to Higher and Further Education**

*Abigail Wells*

(University of Sussex)

This paper addresses the limited research on girl's engagement with their future selves in a time of heightened global unrest due to the covid 19 pandemic, climate change crisis, as well as the more localised events of sexual violence against women. Drawing on ongoing research, I examine

- 1) How do students engage with feminism as part of their future selves?
- 2) How is this embodied and shaped by affect?
- 3) How is this dependent and contextualised?

To explore these questions I draw on data from a qualitative study of four 18 year old girls who completed their A-levels in the summer of 2021. The students participated in a four part creative workshop, where they completed an arts based task around different social themes, which was later discussed in four follow up focus groups. The students were then interviewed four months later at their university or further education institution. The findings suggest that despite global unrest students were finding numerous ways to engage with feminism, not as individualised version of 'themselves', but as a part of wider assemblage of community, belonging and shared experience. Students embodied notions of change through a multitude of affective capabilities or becomings, including strong notions of wonder about how their future might unfold. The findings shed light on an often turbulent time in young people's lives and how they find a sense of collaborative belonging in an increasingly individualised, unstable world.

## **From Field to Games - Students and the Relationship to their Subject**

*Tim Winzler*

(University of Glasgow)

Starting from a critique of established Sociology of Higher Education's (HE) generous use of the Bourdieusian concept of field, the article advocates to take a more systematic and serious look at the evolution of student's motivations and beliefs within HE. Combining pedagogical and game elements taken from Goffman's Sociology, HE in this sense is not a field for students, but a game that needs to be appropriated and incorporated into self. I draw on data from my research with German economics students to explore a few ways in which this can happen. Not only is there no sign for a unified adherence to a field or a game. The given game is also fanned out into other kinds of games. This gives us important clues how to conceptualise and investigate changes to habitus in HE.

# Sociology of Education 2

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## **THE STATE OF THE FIELD**

### **Public Sociology and the 'Disciplining' of Critical Service Learning**

*Sharon Hutchings, Craig Lundy*

(Nottingham Trent University)

Working towards social justice with local community partners in Nottingham is the goal of our service learning modules. Simply put this involves students working in partnership with our community on social issues for the purpose of social change. Our approach is shaped by the local political, social and economic context. We work hard to avoid being social justice dreamers and suggest situating service learning within the disciplinary home of public sociology brings a 'legitimate and longstanding academic space from which to foster a meaningful praxis of theory and practice' (Butin 2006:57). We argue this strengthens both the intellectual endeavours and actions of our students (and ourselves) in response to the most pressing of our city. These pressing issues are not inconsequential. Nottingham is ranked as the 11th most deprived district in England out of 317 (ONS 2019). Whilst beautifully diverse, culturally and historically rich, life for many in Nottingham is precarious, we want to work in solidarity with our community. By acknowledging Butin's (2006) standpoint that critical service learning is best realised within a disciplinary home rather than institutionalised by the university we seek to challenge the HE neo-liberal agenda. Students are seen as 'professional entrepreneurs and budding customers' rather than as agents of social change and we want to disrupt this neo-liberal vision. (Giroux 2014) We suggest therefore that public sociology gives a legitimate and historically informed disciplinary space to work towards social justice and social change and so set out to share our service learning practices and research.

### **"No words, just two letters 'Dr'": Working-class Early Career Researcher's Reflections on the Transition to and Through a Social-sciences PhD and into Academia**

*Carli Rowell*

(University of Sussex)

Drawing upon data generated through a SRHE funded project this paper builds upon feminist research that calls out the 'toxic impossibilities' (Pereira 2016) of neoliberal academic life (Breeze 2018; Gill and Donaghue 2016; Loveday 2018; Pereira 2017) and existing literature pertaining to working-class experiences of navigating academia (Crew 2020; Reay et al 2021). It explores how working-class ECRs navigate neoliberal academia's "intolerable demands" (Gill 2010: 237) considering their pathways and challenges of navigating the pipeline to academia. Guided by Bourdieusian theory and feminist epistemology, methodologically it draws upon the methods of one-on-one interviews and photo elicitation with UK domiciled doctoral students and ECRs including those who have left the academy.

The research interpretations make visible how class background (and it's gendered and raced intersections) impacts upon experiences of and progression through doctoral study and into academia. Attention is accorded to participants 'strategies for success' and the wider implications of these strategies in participants personal lives; their imagined futures in the academy; and upon their ties and connections with their workingclass friends and families as a result of their participation within academia. The research results recognises that academia, for working-class aspiring academics remains a seductive endeavour (Taylor 2013) as they often engage in the 'labour of love' (Cannizzo 2017) out of "an ethic of service to others less 'lucky' than them" (Mahony & Zmroczek 1997:5).

# Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

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## ATYPICAL AND PRECARIOUS WORK

### **Feeling Precarious: Comparing the Presence of Precarity in Ethnographic Research Methods and in Personal Circumstances**

*Krzysztof Jankowski*

(The University of Glasgow)

The pandemic and the responses aiming to control the outbreak have exacerbated precaritization processes for many people, this paper discusses the differing extent and form of precarity encountered through ethnographic methods and in the researcher's personal circumstances. Such a juxtaposition of ethnography with personal circumstances helps show what is emphasised by research methods while illuminating the more psychological aspects of precariousness that may be obscured. The researcher undertook ten months of ethnographic research into precarious employment during 2020-2021, which involved taking precarious jobs around London. In the first instance, fieldwork revealed difficulties with the bureaucracies of employment, which resulted in struggling to gain employment. Furthermore, frequently moving homes and jobs, and the realities of lockdown imbued precarity with loneliness. However, the circumstances of a PhD research project sheltered the researcher from feeling precarious. Reflecting on personal circumstances, firstly, feeling precarious comes in brief periods of particularly vulnerable moments. This makes feeling precarious difficult to isolate for research examination in ethnography, in-depth interviews, and surveys. Secondly, the true complexity of securely assembling employment, housing, and personal relationships was only revealed after undergoing this exercise upon the researcher's personal, non-ethnographic circumstances. Such differences between fieldwork and personal circumstances partially illuminate on the effects that the sociological imagination, sociology literature, and the practicalities of field work have on revealing or obscuring the nature of equality and justice in post-Covid societies.

### **Politics of Volunteering in Times of Crisis**

*Kathia Serrano*

(Heidelberg University)

Volunteering one's time and effort to a cause is considered the outmost expression of solidarity. Even though scientific accounts regarding the motivation to volunteer have stressed the partially instrumental nature of individual action, volunteering is a powerful societal resource. For instance, research in social sciences provide ample evidence for the correlation between volunteering, social cohesion and the democratic culture of nation states. In light of these considerations, it does not come as a surprise that we witness the expansion of national and transnational policy instruments that further this type of activity (Eliasoph 2014; Van Dyck 2018). Although critical voices have raised concerns about the political instrumentalization of volunteering (De Waele/Hustinx 2019), we know little about the way volunteer work is embedded - both politically and historically - in the political economy of a nation state.

We present the findings of a qualitative comparative study of two state voluntary services, the French "service civique" and the German "Bundesfreiwilligendienst". Drawing on Elisabeth Clemens concept of "civic gifts", the paper provides a longitudinal study that maps how voluntary work is "harnessed" (Clemens 2015) and embedded into state action through the means of a "service". By marshalling evidence from primary documents and over 40 interviews with policy makers, ministerial staff, civil society organizations and stakeholders in both countries, we show how and why the voluntary service is considered an education programme in Germany while the French "service civique" has become a major instrument to combat youth unemployment in times of economic recession.

### **Job Quality and the Experience of Work in Employee-owned Organisations**

*Dimitrinka Stoyanova Russell, Jonathan Preminger*

(Cardiff University)

Job quality has become a key concern in many Western countries, yet assessment of how job quality is impacted by different kinds of ownership structures is only just beginning. In light of the recent rapid growth of employee-owned businesses, as well as interest more generally in alternative organisations following the financial crisis of 2008, this paper examines the nature of workers' experiences within employee owned and/or controlled businesses.

Based on a comparison of case studies in the UK, drawing on interviews and secondary sources from the organisations under study, we assess how issues of ownership and control help us to explain job quality. In particular, the Covid-19 pandemic enables us to investigate the impact of employee ownership and/or control on organisational processes associated with the crisis, to examine the resilience and efficacy of employee-oriented or employee-focussed arrangements.

# Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

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## COVID

### **Paid Work Time in COVID-19 Pandemic and its Implications for the other Aspects of Life: a Systematic Literature Review**

*Silvana Bobarnat, Florin Lazăr*

(University of Bucharest, Romania; National Scientific Research Institute of Labour and Social Protection, Bucharest, Romania)

The purpose of this systematic literature review is to answer four research questions regarding how time spent on paid work changes in pandemic comparative to pre-pandemic times, what are the significant variables studied in relation to the subject, who are the most vulnerable social groups and what role technology plays on time spent on the labour market in pandemic.

The systematic review of the literature was based on the methodology recommended by Snyder (2019) and includes only quantitative research articles. Three databases were used - Web of Science, ProQuest, and Wiley Online Library, and articles were searched using 27 relevant keywords. Out of a total of 283 unique articles identified on September 17th, 2021, 28 articles were selected for analysis.

Gender gaps in paid work, but also in unpaid work were identified. For women, parental status was a great burden during the pandemic, but fathers' involvement in childcare increased the chances for mothers to remain in the labour market. Lower earning groups and BAME were disproportionately exposed to economic hardship and mental stress. People in telecommuting-capable occupations faced a lower risk of unemployment than the others. But telecommuting also has its risks, like prolonged and atypical working hours, reduction in organizational meaningfulness and work-related well-being and increase in work-family conflict.

### **The Impact of the Covid-19 on Gender Equality: A Case Study of Japan**

*Kuniko Ishiguro*

(Tokyo International University)

This presentation will analyze the changes brought about by Covid-19 since the beginning of 2020, especially the impacts affecting women in the workplace and at home. After almost two years since the outbreak of the pandemic, data and analyses of the influences of the pandemic have been extensively studied. International organizations have found that the pandemic has greatly affected women both in their work and private lives. The issues they face include the precarious situation of women in non-regular employment, especially in the retail, food and accommodation industries. Women in the medical industry have not only been greatly affected in terms of their working patterns, they also face serious life risks. In addition, already widening economic gaps between the haves and the have nots and between men and women seem to have been exacerbated. In the private sphere, changing working patterns represented by stay-at-home work and schooling have put another burden on women. The number of suicides among young women has also risen in Japan. By presenting various data prepared by the government and researchers, as well as the testimonies of some women, this presentation argues that this unprecedented pandemic has highlighted the vulnerabilities stemming from current gender relations in society and proposes that all parties, including central and local governments, companies and communities need to confront these problems in order to stem the widening gender gap, to prepare for the recovery of the economy, and to prepare for possible natural disasters, economic downturns, and pandemics in the future.

### **Dilemma of Salaried Employees in Post Covid-19 Era in Nigeria: Bridging the Socio-Economic Gap through Income Adjustment**

*Winifred Kanu, Obasi Oko*

(Imo State University)

COVID-19 pandemic has ravaged the economies of nations, with Nigerian economy as no exception. The related developments such as lockdowns, restriction of movements and eventual fall in oil prices, have unleashed tremendous social, economic and political hardship on individuals, communities and nations. As private business owners are constrained by their declining economic fortunes to raise the prices of food stuffs, other goods and services as a means of coping with the situation, salaried employees become more helpless than ever, especially because of their static income which is hardly enough to provide the basic necessities of life. The situation has diminished the socio-economic status of Nigerian salaried employees and is likely to widen the gap between them and private business owners. Although literature abounds on the impact of Covid-19, its socioeconomic impacts on public salaried workers especially of the middle and low categories remain largely unexplored in Imo State Nigeria. This study therefore aims to close this research gap. The specific objectives of the study include, among others, to: i. examine the pre Covid-19 socio-economic status of households relying on monthly earning in Imo State, ii. examine the changes in the socio-economic condition

of the population and the extent to which covid-19 is implicated iii. ascertain measures employed by this income category to cope with the changing socio-economic condition vi. Make policy recommendations based on the findings to enhance income equity and justice in the state. The study is a cross-sectional research. The data will be analysed using appropriate statistical techniques.

### **Employment and Well-being Before and During the Corona Crisis**

*Deniz Yucel*

(William Paterson University of New Jersey)

This study contributes to the existing literature by testing the effects of employment situation on well-being before and during the Corona Crisis. Using data from wave 12 from the German Family Panel (pairfam) and its supplementary COVID-19 web-survey, the analyses are estimated using path analysis as parts of Structural Equation Modeling (SEM). The results suggest no effect of work hours but positive effect of working from home on well-being before the Corona Crisis. On the other hand, the results show a different pattern for the period after the Corona Crisis. The results show that both work hours and working from home negatively impact well-being during the Corona Crisis. Finally, this study explores whether there are any gender differences in these effects. While there were no gender differences in the effects before the Corona Crisis, the negative effect of working from home on well-being was significantly higher among women than men during the Corona Crisis.

# Paper Session 8

## Friday, 22 April 2022

### 11:00 – 12:15

## Environment and Society

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### **What Social Justice in an Energy Transition? The Case of Initiatives Aimed at Households in Geneva, Switzerland**

*Garance Clement, Marlyne Sahakian, Sharayu Shejale, Mallory Zhan*  
(Geneva University)

Citizen's active participation in the transition towards a low carbon energy system is one of the central goals of the European Energy Union strategy. Operationalising participation however remains a challenge for national, regional and local energy actors, who often try to "define a priori what it means to participate in transitions" (Chilvers et Longhurst 2016, 589). This can lead to narrow conceptions of energy justice, mostly focused on distributional and procedural dimensions and failing to address the structural obstacles to a more democratic system (Levenda, Behrsin, et Disano 2021). Feminist scholars in particular insist on the fact that fostering women's participation in the energy transition is not sufficient to tackle unjust energy cultures and practices, embedded in power dynamics that go beyond gender inequalities (Bell, Daggett, et Labuski 2020). This paper intends to investigate how actors involved in actively supporting an energy transition ('energy experts') acknowledge and navigate through the potential contradictions between the short-term participative goals included in energy policies, and the alternative energy futures promoted by feminists. It will rely on two sets of empirical material collected in Switzerland, with a focus on the Geneva region. The analysis will draw on semi-structured interviews conducted with various "energy experts" (members of the public and private sector, utility companies, as well as community associations and NGOs, n=12), and a database on energy regional and local initiatives (including 11 projects in Geneva), both investigating how gender and other social justice issues have been included in project design and implementation.

### **Understanding Vulnerability to the Net Zero Transition in the UK: a Conceptual Framework**

*Lucie Middlemiss, Yekaterina Chzhen, Helen Goulden, Gill Main, Emily Morrison, Anne Owen, Carolyn Snell, Jana Tauschinski*  
(University of Leeds)

The Net Zero transition, as articulated in policy, research and activism, is an increasingly detailed vision of a greener future, in which we travel less, eat less meat, and rely less on fossil fuels to meet our needs. In the UK, people face this future with different skills, opportunities and resources, however. In this paper we outline recent work in which we characterise existing future scenarios, and anticipate the risks inherent in these for more vulnerable families and communities. Drawing on our interdisciplinary expertise, we present a conceptual framework built from an interdisciplinary literature review, drawing on environmental, energy, and poverty research, and rooted in a realist approach. We analyse the likely constraints facing particular places and people, associated with their existing resources and networks, and on their opportunities to engage in the Net Zero agenda. The novelty here is in bringing together environmental visions of the future with a critical understanding of poverty and inequality, to consider who would be most likely to get left behind by Net Zero. The conceptual framework also provides a tool for those addressing justice in transitions to uncover the risks inherent in this agenda.

### **'If you want to tackle climate change, it's the only option' – Active Homes as a Route to Social Progress?**

*Fiona Shirani*  
(Cardiff University)

Active Homes as a particular type of Active Building represent a potentially transformational innovation by altering how energy is produced, distributed, and consumed, in addition to how homes are designed, constructed, and then lived in. Such developments aim to contribute to meeting UK decarbonisation and climate change targets through seeking to be energy efficient and flexibly producing, storing, and releasing energy for heat, power, and transport. Alongside carbon reductions, through increased energy efficiencies that reduce household energy demand, Active Homes can also work towards reducing energy vulnerabilities and fuel poverty, which could lead to potential improvements in resident health and wellbeing. Consequently, Active Homes can be seen as contributing to calls for socially just low carbon transitions. Whilst these are laudable aims, questions remain as to whether they can be realised in practice. In this paper we draw on insights from the 'Living Well in Low Carbon Homes' project, which brings together interviews with developers and



residents of innovative Active Homes across five diverse case sites. We explore developer accounts of social justice motivations behind the developments, including efforts to mitigate fuel poverty. In addition, we consider how these homes are experienced by residents and whether they feel able to live well within them. By engaging with residents on multiple occasions over the course of a qualitative longitudinal project, we are establishing a detailed and dynamic picture of lived experience of Active Homes, which holds vital insights for the ability of such development to contribute to social progress.

## Families and Relationships

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### **The Future is Gender Creative**

*Max Davies*

(University of Brighton)

We all can see how gender works and revolves our social world, the impacts and damages it can create. For centuries many theorists have debated the meaning of sex and gender, conceptualising gender equality through treating boys and girls the same. Hypothesising this will lessen gender-stereotypical behaviour, however, still using gender-specific pronouns, a gender-neutral approach to parenting. Inclusive language is important because male bias is such a cavernous negative social detriment. Androcentrism affects social positioning, unconscious bias, policies and laws. However, not nearly enough has been explored surrounding NOT assigning sex and gender at birth to children. Gender Creative Parenting seeks to tackle sex-based oppression by removing socialised barriers. Firstly, not disclosing a child's anatomy to the public domain in order to restrict gendering based on genitalia. By removing this knowledge and gendered signifiers in an attempt to limit gendered socialisation. Using inclusive language, including they/them pronouns, allows the child to make constructive decisions about their identity and gender. They are allowing freedom of exploration through dress and play. Imagine a future where gender is not an implicit purpose of one's life. To really understand a future within gender discourse, to know for sure if a more equalised society is possible, to tackle sex-based oppression, one must enter a world without sex in all its meaning. We can no longer keep dividing society into two categories and forcing children to conform to either one. Children who explore gender discourse freely from day one have more egalitarian views of gender.

### **Norms, Trust, and Backup Plans: College Women's use of Withdrawal with Casual and Committed Romantic Partners**

*Laurie James-Hawkins*

(University of Essex)

This study integrates research on the prevalence of contraceptive methods including withdrawal and research on how hook-up culture impacts contraceptive use to examine college women's use of withdrawal with sexual partners. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 57 young women at a midwestern U.S. university, we analyze women's explanations for using withdrawal in sexual encounters and frame our study within the research on gender norms, sexual scripts, and power dynamics. Findings show that withdrawal is normalized within collegiate hook-up culture, with most women assuming without discussion that both casual and committed partners will pull out. Across relationship types, participants typically reported using withdrawal as a backup method to pills or condoms or a stop-gap method when switching between more effective contraceptive methods. Women also relied on Plan B if using only withdrawal. With casual partners, women often advocated for themselves in sexual encounters; however, in committed relationships women often acquiesced to use of withdrawal to maintain their relationship and because their partner desired condomless sex. Findings suggest that women in relationships may be disadvantaged by hook-up culture norms suggesting sex is freely available, which puts added pressure on women to acquiesce to the use of withdrawal to maintain their relationship.

### **What is Gender Equality? First-time Parent couples' Perspectives and Practices**

*Katherine Twamley, Charlotte Faircloth*

(UCL)

This paper explores the ways in which couples making the transition to parenthood think about, practice and assess 'gender equality'. The analysis draws on data from two separate qualitative, longitudinal research projects in the UK with 36 mixed-sex couples. We outline four 'configurations' of equality articulated by the couples: 'symmetry', 'breaking gendered stereotypes', 'fairness' and 'equality in decision-making and worth'. Our longitudinal analysis showed that despite strongly expressed desires for equality, many of the couples ultimately fell short. Such inconsistencies were explained by 'choice' and personal preference. We argue that these rationalisations are not the result of false consciousness, but rather reflect the dominance of individualism as a common-sense narrative in people's lives. Overall, the analysis provides novel insights into the ways in which understandings and practices of gender equality are relational, negotiated, and shaped by the political and cultural context in which parents live, and therefore in a state of

flux. As such, this work contributes to analytical debates around equality as well as to policy debates about how (and whether) to intervene in gendered divisions of paid and unpaid work.

## Lifecourse

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### YOUTH: CHILDREN AND YOUTH UNDERSTANDINGS AND EXPERIENCES

#### **An Equal Chance to Explore Risk: Being in Care as an Adolescent**

*Annabel Goddard*

(Loughborough University)

If the experience of being a child or young person can be described frequently as one of constraint or exclusion, the experience of being a young person in care is undoubtedly more scrutinised, surveilled and restricted. Whilst the protection of children viewed as inherently more vulnerable than their peers is necessary and welcomed, existing processes and procedures which dictate how this is done, fail to embrace or encourage the important maturation process of risk-taking during adolescence. Interview data from young people and social work practitioners found tensions in social work practice when supporting adolescents experimenting at the boundaries of risk. Social workers were able to confidently discuss child development but struggled to account for adolescent development needs in their practice. Adolescent participants felt

'othered' by the protections placed on their routine lives. Sheltered from risk taking also meant sheltered from mistake making and the important learning opportunities their peers were afforded. In the attempt to provide equality of safety a unfair, unjust consequences is created in a falsely safe environment immediately before a cliff edge out of care. This discussion seeks to highlight the value of adolescent boundary testing and highlight the danger of constraining experimental or testing behaviours through overprotection and in labelling others as beyond the boundaries of control. In conclusion, social work practice needs to better embrace the development stages of young people in care which includes opportunities for mistake making and risk taking, protection should not inadvertently impede rights to experience adolescence equally.

#### **Authoritarian Orientation among Youth in Southeast Europe: Sources and Implications**

*Anja Gvozdanovic*

(Institute for Social Research in Zagreb)

The presentation is aimed at answering the following research question: what are the sources of political authoritarianism of youth in ten countries of Southeast Europe? Political authoritarianism as a dependent variable in multiple regression analyses is operationalized through the assertion that a leader of the country should rule with a strong hand for the public good. In order to detect significant sources of political authoritarianism three sets of variables are tested on each national sample of youth. Firstly, authoritarianism is primarily seen as part of a value orientation – traditionalism that is mostly shaped by religiosity and nationalism. The second model based on political socialization theory tests if youth's political competences such as interest in politics and subjective assessment of political knowledge are significant factors in rejecting authoritarianism. The third model tests the relationship between political inefficacy of youth along with their dissatisfaction with democracy in their particular country and the emergence of authoritarianism. Youth's political authoritarianism in each country is determined to a varying degree by selected variable sets. Also, cross-national analysis shows that perceived political inefficacy represents a significant predictor of authoritarianism in almost all countries.

The comparative analysis is based on the data from an international research project of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung carried out in 2018 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. In total, N=10902 respondents aged 14–29 participated in the survey.

#### **New Materialistic Perspective on Disabled Children's Participation in Healthcare Decision-making**

*Rados Keravica*

(University of Leeds)

This presentation draws from the ongoing PhD research project on disabled children's participation in individual decisions related to impairment-related elective orthopaedic treatments. It offers an insight into the preliminary findings of the study which applied comparative socio-legal analysis of child participation in healthcare decision making in England and Serbia. Social inquiry has used in-depth semi-structured interviews with 16 families in England and Serbia (8 families in each country involving separate interviews with disabled children and young people aged 10 to 22 and their parents / carers). On the basis of empiric data, the child participation in individual treatment and recovery related decisions is regarded as a socially produced event. Such perspective drawing from new materialism allowed to rethink both the ontological and epistemological premises concerning disabled childhoods. Disabled children's capacities for participation are produced relationally through complex interplay between discursive and material realities which both

have the potential to affect and produce the event - disabled child's participation. As a result the basis for policy reform is found in the changes of ontological position of child's capacities. The focus should shift from the assessments of child's inherent capacities to participate to the capacities of adults to create enabling environment and provide meaningful support for child's participation maximising its capacities and potential to have their say in these decisions. The presentation will shed the light on empirical findings which identify discursive and material elements which shape the participation events.

### **The Youth Understanding of Marriage, Family and Birth-giving in China**

*Chong Liu*

(University of Leeds)

As a part of my PhD research investigating the youth sexuality education experience and social stratification, the discussion about sexuality education can never be comprehensive enough without considering relationships. From March to September 2019, I went to Tianjin, China, and conducted fieldwork at two high schools and interviewed 28 students and 7 schoolteachers.

In both the UNESCO's comprehensive sexuality education technical guidance (2018) and the UK's RSE guidance (2019), 'relationship' the part is unignorably important – from the 'successful marriage' (see UNESCO, 2018:44; Department of Education, 2019:25) to the 'successful adult life' (see Department of Education, 2019:35). Meanwhile, in both guidance, the discussions about family are primarily about the youth relationship with their parents. Besides, the discussions about youth's future marriage and birth-giving are rarely mentioned. For example, UNESCO (2018) used the term 'long-term commitments' as an umbrella to cover the above topics. And in those discourses, family, marriage and birth-giving are usually interpreted separately. They argued that 'long-term commitments, marriage and parenting vary and are shaped by society, religion, culture and laws (2018:43).' Nonetheless, family, marriage, and birth-giving are often linked altogether in China's context (Yan, 2003). Therefore, it is meaningful to discover the 'lost part' in the previous discussion, specifically in China's societal and cultural context. In this presentation, I will unpack the youth understanding about family emerged from their everyday lives.

## Medicine, Health and Illness

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### **Justice for Whom? Exploring Notions of Justice in the Context of Participant Representation in Cancer Research Early Detection**

*Ignacia Arteaga, Maya Raphael*

(University of Cambridge)

Members of the public are at the heart of any early cancer detection effort; they are pivotal to making early cancer detection approaches socially acceptable and to increase the uptake of detection technologies. Yet, past studies have revealed uneven rates of participation in cancer research across sociodemographic and protected characteristics (McGrath-Lone et al. 2015, CRUK 2020), raising crucial ethical questions about equality and justice within early detection cancer research and practice.

More recently, the exclusion of underrepresented groups in cancer research has become a growing area of concern for researchers and health professionals. One key method they have promoted to address this shortcoming is participant public involvement (PPI) frameworks (Marjanovic et al. 2019). While such frameworks seemingly contribute to a more just and equal approach to cancer research, their focus on quantitative metrics of "impact" that only consider instrumental effects of PPI on research, begs the question; what do underrepresented groups gain from participating? And what does justice in the context of early detection cancer research mean and for whom?

This paper engages with these questions by reviewing different conceptualisations of justice as they appear in the context of early detection cancer research and PPI frameworks. Ultimately, I argue that using the language of medicine to speak about justice fails to achieve it in a meaningful sense. Social, political, economic, and ethical ideas of justice must be used in health research to pervade the fake dichotomies of health/society and make participation worthwhile for those who live through it.

### **Bringing Utopias to the Banal: Making Equality in Healthcare Services beyond The NHS**

*Hannah Cowan*

(King's College London)

The UK's National Health Service (NHS) and healthcare services across the globe have come evermore into centre stage during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this paper I build on work which illustrates how the NHS, and welfare state apparatus that mimic this model across the globe, is not the beacon of equality that many pride it to be. Rather, healthcare activism which works to 'save the NHS' also preserve a nationalistic sentiment for antiquated hierarchical relations which bring about classed and gendered inequalities in the delivery of everyday healthcare. Rather, I suggest that healthcare activism needs to be both more hopeful in what it can achieve and use everyday banal practices to

change relations of power (Cowan, 2021). Whilst I only found sparse examples of this kind of everyday activism in my ethnographic work to date, in this paper I consider how these everyday practices could be expanded on in light of the pandemic, where underpaid NHS staff with poor working conditions are becoming increasingly disgruntled with merely claps and cheers. I do this by exploring relations between utopias and the banal, speculating how using 'utopia as method' (Levitas, 2013), which can help us think of way of doing healthcare beyond current structural frameworks, could then be actualised through our banal everyday actions.

### **Is Outsourcing Healthcare Services to the Private Sector Associated with Higher Mortality Rates? An Observational Analysis of 'Creeping Privatisation' in England's Clinical Commissioning Groups, 2013-2020.**

*Benjamin Goodair, Aaron Reeves, Charles Rahal*

(University of Oxford)

The Health and Social Care Act of 2012 enabled a rapid increase in the provision of healthcare services by external, for-profit providers within the NHS - with the ambition of incentivising performance through increased competition. However, prestigious commentators of the time hypothesised that outsourcing of health services to for-profit providers may lead to cost-cutting and poorer outcomes for patients. The biggest challenge preventing evaluation until now has been the lack of a harmonized data resource suitable for analysis. We utilize an entirely novel database compiling parseable procurement contracts from a 7-year period ( $n = 647,541$ , value  $> \pounds 25,000$ , total value =  $\pounds 204.1$ bn) across 173 of England's Clinical Commissioning Groups. We reconcile individual CCG contracts to the Companies House registry from 12,709 heterogeneous but harmonized data files. We then aggregate this annually and supplement with local mortality data and to estimate multivariate longitudinal regression models with CCG-level fixed-effects to analyse the effects of for-profit outsourcing on treatable mortality rates in the following year. Our estimates show that an annual increase of one percentage point of outsourcing to the private sector corresponds with an annual increase in treatable mortality of 0.40% or 0.30 deaths per 100,000 population (95% CI 0.15% to 0.64%;  $p = 0.001611$ ) in the following year. This finding is robust to matching on background characteristics whilst adjusting for possible confounding factors in an intensive and computationally robust way, and accounts for potential measurement error. Private sector outsourcing is on average statistically associated with significantly increased rates of treatable mortality.

### **When do Democratic Transitions Reduce or Increase Mortality? Exploring the Role of Non-violent Resistance**

*Aaron Reeves, Laura Sochas*

(University of Oxford)

What explains variation across countries in the effect of democratization on mortality rates? On average, transitioning to democracy improves health outcomes but recent work has shown that there is substantial variation across contexts in whether democratization leads to lower-than-expected infant mortality post-transition. As yet, there is no convincing quantitative explanation for this variation. In this paper, we argue that whether you have a protest-led or violence-led democratic transition alters the trajectory of mortality post-transition. Our paper makes two contributions. First, we focus on a new explanation for why some democratic transitions have greater health benefits than others: the peaceful or violent nature of the resistance movement which prompted democratization. Second, we extend earlier research by examining whether the nature of the democratization movement constitutes a necessary cause of higher or lower than expected mortality following democratization. Across 51 transitions, we find surprisingly stable associations. Countries that have a protest-led transition have lower than expected mortality rates after the transition to democracy than countries with a movement that was violence-led. Violence-led transitions, meanwhile, have, on average, higher than expected mortality rates after their transition. These associations hold even when we conduct simulation exercises which account for potential error in our dependent variable and when we adjust for covariates (including all possible combinations of these confounding variables). Democratization may not always improve health, but it is far more likely when the movement that prompted regime change is protest-led, thereby building a broader coalition committed to consensual politics.

## **Methodological Innovations 1**

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### **A Pandemic PhD and Problems of Paying Participants: A Reflexive Account of the Challenges of Encountering 'Fake' Participants from Online Recruitment Methods during Covid-19**

*Elizabeth Darrington-Mosley*

(University of Nottingham)

An incentive payment in the form of cash or vouchers in qualitative research is becoming increasingly common, yet remains a problematic issue amongst scholars in the social sciences when ineligible respondents participate in research. This presentation debates the issues that arose during my PhD project investigating the experience of being a restaurant worker during a pandemic in the UK. Recruiting UK participants for remote one-to-one interviews was difficult due to industry closures and restrictions of face-to-face qualitative participant recruitment methods (notably the most effective

of them all - actually talking to people). A reliance on an online call for participants and the difficulties getting interviews forced me to offer an incentive (Amazon e-voucher). What followed was a number of encounters with participants that clearly did not work in hospitality nor live in the UK but wanted the voucher.

Arguably justice in social research is understood as a concept of fairness. It is incumbent upon researchers to abide by ethical guidelines ensuring all aspects of the research design and methodology are a fair and just representation of what, or who is being investigated. But what happens if this concept of justice is not reciprocal, and you encounter 'fake' interviewees that participate only for financial gain?

Recruiting the right participants can be difficult, and if undetected, bogus responses can invalidate study results and jeopardise years of work. This presentation debates how do researchers balance good quality research with financial incentives, and what impact can 'fraudsters' in research have on early career sociologists.

### **Objects as Innovators: Creating Opportunities, Research Activities, and Spontaneous Data**

*Siobhan Dytham*

(University of Northampton)

This presentation will suggest that non-human objects can play both participant and researcher roles in research projects. Data drawn from projects working with 'disadvantaged' young people, exploring topics such as gender identities, sexuality, bullying, and exclusion, using a variety of data collection approaches (including walk-and-talk, observations, photography, and photo-elicitation interviews) will be shown and discussed. Firstly, an activity in which young people were given cameras and asked to give a tour of their school while taking pictures of anything that they felt was interesting or important. The presentation will explain how this resulted in students producing 'posed' photographs of themselves acting like other students (for example 'popular' girls posing as boys and 'geeks', and boys posing as girls). These pictures offer an opportunity for a valuable analysis of young people's gender identities and the physicality of these. The presentation will discuss the role of the camera in the exploration of other identities, as well as in the initiation of this data collection activity and the resulting unexpected photographs. Secondly, a project which demonstrated how young people with cameras may enter new spaces, take on new roles, and 'play'. The presentation will demonstrate and discuss the ways in which cameras can give permission to behave differently. Finally, the role of iPads, laptops, and headphones in observation and field notes will be considered. The presentation will highlight the role of these objects in instigating unplanned activities and producing unexpected but highly valuable data.

### **Feel Tanks as Method: Pace, Spontaneity and Rhythm**

*Chloe Turner*

(Goldsmiths University of London)

Amidst an already troubling social, political and ecological landscape, Covid19 has brought into sharper focus the many emergencies in our future. As we collectively, yet differentially, struggle against anti-Black violence, queer, transphobic and ableist austerity governance; social justice pedagogies in the classroom have never felt more pressing.

Since 2018 I've been employing my own remixed framework of 'Feel Tanks' (originally Public Feelings Project 2001 - ) as both intellectual enquiry and call-to-arms, to consider how it feels to live under capitalism in the current moment. Drawing on my recent work as part of the British Academy funded 'Feeling, Making and Imagining Time' project with Dr Rebecca Coleman, Dr Dawn Lyons and Corrine Van Emmerik this paper will offer a three-fold argument of the importance of Feel Tank methodology. Firstly the paper argues for the texture that 'feeling first, thinking second' spaces bring to pedagogy and the feminist, queer and decolonial intimacies it draws on and reimagines. From there the paper considers the importance of pace, spontaneity and rhythm as conduits of 'carrying and listening differently' (Puwar 2020, Sheikh 2021). To close I think through how Feel Tank methodology brings liberatory, coalitional futures into the present. Ones where we gift our labour to each other, co-create the means to weather the coming disasters, and mobilise a resistance that centre's pleasure and joy.

### **Critical and Visual Sociological Pedagogies**

*Sheila Quaid*

(University of Sunderland)

In this paper I share experiences of teaching equalities and building understandings of social justice through visual sources, innovative teaching methods and co construction of assessment. The visual surrounds us in everyday life and the use of film produces an opportunity to develop visual literacy at a critical level for our students. Visual methods are under-utilised in higher education pedagogies in favour of verbal and written methods. Visual method also allows each learner to explore differences and identities, without the need for personal disclosures, and allows emotionality to be present in the learning environment. The teacher becomes secondary, and the student creatively engages with sources. Their reactions and interpretations will be subjective and variable. One student responded: It encourages and depends on students to emotionally engage with the visual and develop a passionate connection with it .... In essence it is this emotional connection to the visual that inspires students to an extent that allows them to produce high quality essay-based work. In this type of learning the viewer/learner is bringing to the forefront their own and other interpretations of

what we are seeing and hearing in our culture. We are increasingly aware that the graduate skills needed for interpreting the visual world are precisely the transferable skills that our humanities and social science graduates need in the workplace. There is increased recognition that graduates who can demonstrate visual literacy, are able to demonstrate interpretive ability developed in this type of learning experience are crucial for 21st century employment.

## Methodological Innovations 2 Special Event

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### Special Discussion Session on Mixed Methods: A Panel Discussion with Networking

This special event has a networking element and a discussion of mixed methods.

Mixed methods including the use of statistics opens up a number of cutting-edge opportunities, so for this session we focus on quantitative+qualitative social scientists.

First we all personally introduce ourselves, and using 'chat' we share/meet/greet.

Then we 4 five-minute summaries of mixed methods across the qualitative-quantitative "divide". This schism can easily be bridged. Experience will be shared by Dr. Jihye Kim who has worked on:

- Information theory and strong priors in Bayesian regressions.
- Delphi method of expert elicitation combined with survey data.

We also have Prof Wendy Olsen presenting briefly about:

- Time-use diary data combined with sociological conceptualisations of work.

And we have a five-minute talk on:

- Teaching Mixed-methods research in sociology classrooms: Dr Stef Doebler

As co-convenors of the Study Group on Social Statistics of the BSA, Dr Doebler and Prof Olsen take responsibility for encouraging audience participation. We will also draw the session to a positive and helpful conclusion. We use the zoom equivalent of a whiteboard to take notes.

### Challenges in teaching mixed methods to undergraduate students

*Stefanie Doebler*

(Lancaster University)

Teaching mixed methods has many challenges. When qualitative and quantitative methods are taught on separate modules, this often does not inspire students to combine different methods (e.g. in dissertations). When they are taught on the same module, there is the challenge of integrating the methods and teaching them with equal emphasis and rigor. Lecturers want to allow students as much freedom as possible in developing their first research projects, but must also reflect on how the chosen methods work together. This ties in with the aim to motivate students on core methods modules which they often perceive as challenging and difficult. On modules that are shared between students from different disciplines, there is the added challenge of varying prior knowledge. Lastly, more difficult topics tend to have lower student satisfaction scores. In today's managerialist University, teaching evaluation scores have become a performance management tool that can affect probation and promotions. The traditionally lower popularity of core methods may thus drive teaching staff to put less emphasis on methodological rigour, making content too easy. This panel contribution aims to inspire a discussion of challenges we face when teaching mixed methods and share our different experiences in overcoming them.

### The Delphi Method

Jihye Kim

(University of Manchester)

A Delphi survey is a method of eliciting and refining group judgements and experts' subjective opinions. The Delphi method is designed as a qualitative method that provides in-depth opinions, but it is useful in quantitative analysis and used to elicit information to supplement quantitative data. Last year, the Delphi survey was conducted as part of the Future Migration Scenarios for Europe project (FUME) funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (Grant ID 8706490, authors: Arkadiusz Wiśniowski, Gregory Campbell and Jihye Kim). In the study about the future migration in the EU, two-round Delphi surveys have been implemented with 13 policymakers. The main question of this research is to know the immigration policy change and understand the future migration trends by skill levels, gender and Covid-19, until 2030 over the EU countries. The main findings show that the Delphi survey reflects on current knowledge and trends, and it can be useful to extract expert opinions on policy priorities. Finally, I want to suggest how the Delphi method can be used in a study of child labour.

## **Special Discussion Session on Mixed Methods: A Panel Discussion with Networking**

*Wendy Olsen*

(University of Manchester)

Our research teams have been working on “Methods of Combining Time-use Diary Data with Economic Survey Data: How the COVID-19 Pandemic Affected Gendered Work Patterns in India” and related projects during 2016-2020. We had two mixed-methods projects, and I offer some reflections on this whole process. First I describe the kinds of datasets involved: interviews, questionnaires, and national (free-to-access) randomly-sampled datasets on time-use. Among the last of these, there is both a privately-held (proprietary) and a publicly-created (free to use) dataset. Second, my reflections:

1) The diaries take a lot of time for respondents.

1a) the status of a person is not same as the tasks done, which are multitudinous

1b) the dominant status of a person is quite hard to obtain. Statisticians often use an ‘algorithm’ method.

Secondary-data statistical analysis requires good clear theorising.

2) The governments are hooking up with UN institutions, which is desirable

2a) but then no interviews are done

2b) and it is hard to get funds

2c) and it is hard to publish using the smallscale approach that fits well with interviews.

Thus in summary, there are challenges to the mixed-methods career sociologist in this area of global development socio-economics.

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## **Race, Ethnicity and Migration**

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### **Decolonising Diverse Methodological Traditions: Critical Reflections on Methodologies-in/As-practices, Methodological Discontent and the Case of Practice Theory Methodologies**

*Allison Hui*

(Lancaster University)

While working towards decolonising methodologies requires change across diverse methodological traditions, thus far engagement has been uneven. Fragmented sub-disciplinary fields and legacy teaching, funding and academic promotion practices present challenges to strengthening the relation between those who are and are not currently engaged in this work. Focusing specifically upon the case of practice theory methodologies, which are internally diverse and have had limited engagement with decolonising literature, this paper makes a unique contribution by developing the concept of ‘methodologies-in/as-practices’. It analyses how practice theory methodologies align with understandings of methodologies as techniques, philosophies and autobiographies, and then argues that the concept of methodologies-in/aspractices articulates convergences amidst this diversity. The paper further develops this concept through a consideration of ontological resonances between practice theories and Smith’s Decolonising methodologies, demonstrating its potential to support critical questioning across diverse types of research practices. Finally, the normative dimension of this concept for encouraging methodological change is addressed through a discussion of situated methodological discontents. In the end, this case demonstrates how expanding conceptual repertoires can support further critical reflection and practical change to decolonise diverse methodologies.

### **Researching the Health and Social Inequalities Experienced by European Roma Populations: Complicity, Oppression and Resistance**

*Lois Orton, Olga Fuseini, Angela Kocze, Marton Rovid, Sarah Salway*

(University of Sheffield)

This paper draws on the experience of five Romani and non-Romani scholars in knowledge production on the health and social inequalities experienced by European Roma populations. Together, we explore how we might better account for, and work against, the complex web of dynamic oppressions embedded within processes of academic knowledge production. Our aim is to encourage careful scrutiny through which sociologists might better recognise our own complicity with oppression and identify concrete actions towards transforming our research practices. Drawing on Williams et al.’s (2019) domains of racism typology, we use examples from our own work to illustrate three interconnected domains of oppression in which we have found ourselves entangled (structural, cultural and interpersonal). A new conceptual framework is proposed as an aid to understanding the spectrum of different ‘types’ of complicity (voluntary-involuntary, conscious-unconscious) that one might reproduce across all three domains. We conclude by exploring how sociologists might promote a more actively anti-racist research agenda, identifying and challenging subtle, hidden and embedded negative ideologies and practices as well as more obviously oppressive ones. We hope these reflections will help revitalise important conversations.

## **Liminal Relationalities: On Collaborative Writing with/in and against Race in the Study of Early Childhood**

*Shaddai Tembo, Simon Bateson*

(University of the West of Scotland)

Collaborative writing is well established in the humanities. However, the process of coming to do research is an experience that typically happens without comment. As such, questions about the power and relational dynamics - especially among Black and "white" (sic) authors writing about race within collaborative-autoethnographies - tend to go unacknowledged or be seen as peripheral. Drawing from the Deleuzian concept of becomings and Bakhtin's dialogic imagination, this paper provides a collaborative-autoethnographic account of the author's coming-together to write about race in the context of early learning and childcare (ELC). It describes our personal journey towards collaboration and the imbalanced tensions and vulnerabilities present for each of us.

As part of our methodology, we utilise a multi-column/fragmented narrative that facilitates our opening up to, and reflections on, the prism of our identifications. Mapping our authorial, individual, and liminal subjectivities with this technique enables us to experiment with the boundaries of our individual selves and practice new modes of collaborative engagement. In tentatively decentering colonial tropes of individualism and separation in favour of 'staying with the trouble' of identity and race, this paper illuminates how writing relationships comes into being as the process entangles with our racial identities. Such an endeavour contributes toward the broader field of scholarship concerned with problematising racial identities, equality, and social justice. We also begin to explore how similar questions and discourses of identification might shape young children's self-perceptions in the ELC context in Scotland, refracting this into an emerging ethics for our future research.

## **Science, Technology and Digital Studies**

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### **The Unequal Global Circulation of Scientific Knowledge**

*Christian Morgner*

(University of Sheffield)

In 1987, Michèle Lamont posed the question of how one becomes a dominant philosopher. Her answer to this question formulates criteria for the quality of scholarly knowledge. The main drawback of this approach is that it reconstructs the circulation of knowledge from an already successful case. After all, there were many outspoken and critical French philosophers in the 1960s.

This study uses contrasting cases of two social scientists: Jurgen Habermas and Niklas Luhmann. Both authors share a similar post-war German biography and publication record, and both developed a grand, complex social theory. However, only Habermas has gained a large following and knowledge about his theory is widely circulated.

The presentation will make use of a novel application of quantitative (bibliometrics) as well as qualitative data (text mining). The results show that the circulation of knowledge does not follow a linear process, in which a few initial scholars convince others and those persuade even more, but instead, at first, a quite erratic path. The research suggests that external events (e.g. the collapse Eastern bloc, rise of the Internet) triggered waves of re-framing and thereby distributing knowledge.

These findings suggest a much more complex picture of global the circulation of knowledge driven by external events, the Matthew effect and formulaic citations of scientific shop talk. Overall, these results suggest that Lamont's analysis needs to be revised using more sophisticated tools to track inequalities in the global circulation of knowledge.

### **Internet Academic Talk Show: an (Auto)ethnographic Project of Practising Public Sociology in China**

*Ling Tang*

(Hong Kong Baptist University)

With the tightening of user-generated content on social media and a further strengthening on censorship and surveillance on the Internet in mainland China, knowledge-based contents including podcasts and videos still burgeon and flourish across various platforms including bilibili, weibo and xiaoyuzhou. Intelligentsia including scholars, journalists, writers, critics and hosts also join the wave of knowledge influencer economy to promote critical thinking to the public.

I started producing Internet academic talk shows on Chinese social media platforms since 2019. In September 2021, I officially launched a show called "forest and trees" for the purpose of conducting (auto-)ethnography. As the name suggested, citing Allan G. Johnson's (1997) introductory sociology canon, the show intends to introduce sociological imagination to the Chinese netizens. This (auto)ethnographic project examines the interrelations among emotions, politics, and economy. Sitting in between practice and theory, this is a truly methodologically innovative inquiry that seeks values beyond exchange value, knowledge-making beyond academia, and has the potential to cater to public interest whilst making significant academic advancements in the field of digital media studies, Internet studies, digital economy and emotional capitalism.



In this paper, I review how 1) scholars could utilise the Internet and social media for public sociology 2) the dynamics between building an online community and exacting digital labour 3) the contestation and negotiation between knowledge economy and political censorship on the Chinese Internet.

### **Epistemic (In)equality and Global Governance of Scientific Uncertainties**

*Joy Zhang, Saheli Datta Burton*

(University of Kent)

This paper examines a type of immaterial inequality that is often indiscernible in the public gaze yet central to our collective prospect in a world risk society: the epistemic inequality within contemporary science. We argue that conventional ways of designing and delivering regulations can easily be trapped in a self-referential 'bureaucratic amplification of credibility' which has limited ability to speak, let alone respond to diverse risk preferences.

Based on conceptual review of the relation between risk society and a historically embedded epistemic inequality experienced by the Global South scientific communities, the paper provides an in-depth analysis of key controversies from cutting-edge life sciences emerged in the late developing countries. In particular, we focus on the two decades of development of Nutech Mediworld in India and the emergence of International Association of Neurorestoration (IANR), an international professional association mainly comprised of members from China, India, Iran, Argentina. The discussion not only demonstrates how epistemic inequality persists in the absence of scientific certainty, which reinforces arguments from many existing studies that the subversive potential of risk on world order cannot be taken for granted. More importantly, by tracing how 'epistemically disobedient' scientists in the Global South have evolved from local mavericks to de facto movers and shakers of research norms, this paper points out an underlying mechanism through which epistemic equality could be promoted between the Global South and the Global North so has to enhance the perceived legitimacy and enforceability of transnational governance regarding scientific uncertainties.

## **Social Divisions/Social Identities 1**

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### **A Polarisation between Localism and Scale: The Changing Nature of Voluntary Sector Service Provision**

*Leanne Greening*

(Cardiff University)

The Voluntary Sector (VS) has a pivotal role to play in helping to build global equality and justice. The diverse range of organisations that comprise the sector predominantly exist to address social issues facing communities, societies and publics. Services provided are vast and, in many cases, voluntary work, just like paid work, can be highly stressful and challenging. One such example is that of 'crisis volunteers' who deliver services through crisis hotlines (Aguirre and Bolton 2013).

Voluntary Organisations (VOs) exist, and have done for decades, in a perpetual state of uncertainty and instability due to staggeringly low levels of funding and the changing political landscape. In particular, political ideologies have tried to reduce the direct role of the state in the provision of public services and transfer the responsibility to non-state actors, thereby facilitating widespread VS involvement (Jessop 2002). In their attempts to secure funding (and survive), many organisations are forced to alter their behaviours, capacities and identities as a way of enhancing their competitive appeal (Cunningham 2016). In doing so, they fortuitously wind up mimicking the approach of professional, statefunded services; a model that has not been designed for VS service provision. Reflecting on 40 semi-structured interviews with volunteers, this paper reveals a series of tensions and contradictions that arise in the social order of these organisations. It posits that the blurring distinction between voluntary and statutory services threatens the commitment and retention of volunteers who are often left disenfranchised, displaced and disempowered.

### **Challenging Challengers: the Pitfalls and Positives of Online Activism for Equality and Social Justice**

*Gayle Letherby, Tracy Collett*

(University of Plymouth)

Social media has fundamentally exchanged the nature of political action and activism. Twitter, Facebook etc. are places where individuals network with others; obtain and share knowledge; challenge dominant and authoritative political discourses and everyday stereotypes and engage in activism for political causes and organisations. As individuals we are each committed to equality and social justice and are connected to others, on and off-line, who identify similarly. As sociologists our involvement is inevitably influenced by our sociological imaginations. Our particular auto/biographical interest here are the challenges (often in the form of explicit insults) in response to our and others' activism and individual and community responses to these. Arguably, those with less power are more likely to be insulted and to have their concerns, both political and personal, dismissed. Furthermore, insults from the more powerful can have troubling implications beyond the rhetorical. Yet, individuals who are seen as powerful, as 'influencers', may themselves be victims of insults. In all cases, whether from a position of power or in an attempt to regain some control, insulting others is a performative act with intended audiences in mind, in which an individual (s) draws on societal and/or personal values

in an attempt to put themselves forward/pull others back. Here we draw on our own and others' recent experience to reflect not only on the negative impact of being insulted (online) whilst working for (what in our view is) positive change but also on the potential for support and camaraderie from like-minded others.

### **Class, Networks and Ethical Dispositions**

*Manuela Mendoza, Gabriel Otero*

(UCL-Institute of Education (Manuela) and Utrecht University (Gabriel))

In this paper, we examine the extent to which class-based social networks shape attitudes towards inequality, including perceptions of fairness, meritocracy beliefs, and preferences for redistribution. In particular, we explore how distinct network compositions along lines of class (i.e., social diversity, isolation, segregation) associate with distinctive political attitudes. Drawing on Pierre Bourdieu's concept of habitus complemented with further developments of it, our theoretical framework defines attitudes towards inequality as ethical dispositions (Sayer, 2005, 2009) and conceives that personal networks may favour intersubjective negotiation (Bottero, 2009) and the development of what has been termed a 'reflexive habitus' (Sweetman, 2003). We hypothesise that different network profiles influence such attitudes beyond and above class positions. The focus of our enquiry is on Chile – one of the most unequal countries in the world. We use large-scale representative survey data collected in 2016 for the Chilean urban population aged 18–75 years (N=2,983). Our results indicate that social poverty - i.e., lack of social contacts - is strongly and positively associated with attitudes towards inequality, while social diversity - i.e., having contacts across different status positions - increases altruistic dispositions. Moreover, we found that networks dominated by low-status contacts foster meritocratic beliefs, while greater socio-economic prestige in networks does not significantly produce differences in political attitudes. Finally, we demonstrated that class homogeneity in networks fortifies the class divides in political attitudes. Taken together, these findings increase our understanding of the crucial role of networks in political divides across classes.

## **Sociology of Education 1**

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### **CARE-EXPERIENCED STUDENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

#### **Care-experienced Graduates' Decision-making, Choices, and Destinations: How does a Background of Care Affect Graduate Transitions?**

*Zoe Baker*

(University of York)

Care-experienced (CE) students (those who have spent time in the care system often due to childhood neglect or maltreatment) overcome profound challenges to access and progress through higher education (HE). Such challenges include educational disruption (Sebba et al., 2015), and mental health issues arising from childhood trauma (Harrison et al., 2020). Yet, we know little about their onward trajectories as graduates. Recent quantitative evidence of CE graduate destinations presents a complex pattern; they are less likely to be employed (Harrison et al., 2020), though are more likely to move directly into postgraduate study (Baker et al., forthcoming). Dominant theories in the sociology of education would predict a continuation of disadvantage, which only partially exists here. To provide reasons underpinning this complexity, the present paper reports on interim empirical and conceptual findings from a British Academy funded study which qualitatively and longitudinally explores CE students' transitions from HE to graduate life in England and Scotland. The study accomplishes this through employing Margaret Archer's (2003, 2012) notion of reflexivity to conceptually identify what roles structural enablements and constraints, as well as individual agency, play in these transitions. This is coupled with a life course perspective (Giele and Elder, 1998) to understand how individual care histories shape constellations of structural enablements and constraints upon graduation. In reporting on these interim findings, the paper will provide initial insights into how inequalities are reproduced (or not) for care-experienced graduates to understand whether HE helps to transcend early life disadvantages.

#### **Going to University as an 'estranged student': Stepping into the Category**

*Sidonie Ecochard*

(University of Strathclyde)

The presentation considers the experiences of 'estranged students', who navigate higher education without the (financial, emotional, etc) support of their family. As a relatively new Widening Participation category, little is known of 'estranged students'; yet, the academic literature available highlights striking inequalities in their engagement with higher education, especially in terms of their access to economic capital (Costa et al., 2019). 'Estranged students' trouble traditional understanding of students as able to mobilise family support and the assumption that families are responsible for the welfare of 'young people' (Smith, 2003) - as made evident by the call for students to 'go home' during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The presentation discusses preliminary findings from an on-going doctoral research project. In-depth interviews were conducted with participants attending various Universities in Scotland, yielding rich and complex data on the conditions shaping the experiences of 'estranged students'. The presentation considers how current well-intentioned provision in place to support 'estranged students' may act to reproduce traditional understanding of the 'family' in higher education and of estrangement as a dysfunction – in turn reinforcing the 'othering' of 'estranged students'. The presentation also addresses the inequalities within the category of 'estranged students' itself, a category which has typically been represented as homogeneous. Differences between participants, such as class background and institution attended, are key in understanding participants' position in the field of Higher Education, and who gets to be considered 'estranged' in student finance (and therefore allocated a higher student loan).

## Sociology of Education 2

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### GENDER & SEXUALITIES IN EDUCATION

#### **In/equality in UK Secondary Schools: Transgender and Non-binary Students**

*Sophie Atherton*

(The University of Manchester)

This presentation is informed by data that was collected for my ongoing PhD project regarding transgender and non-binary individuals' experiences of UK secondary education. For the purpose of this conference, I focus on one emerging finding from the research: experiences of trying to improve school life for trans and non-binary pupils and promote trans equality in schools more broadly. Whilst the data revealed how trans and non-binary students experience inequalities in school, the data also revealed that young trans people did not always passively accept their marginalisation. Highlighting this avoids only recognising trans and non-binary youth as passive 'victims' of oppression (see Formby, 2015). This presentation will outline some of the ways that young people ignited change which promoted trans equality in school and the challenges that they faced when doing so. The presentation also considers some instances where students actively decided not to propose change in school. Rather than signifying passivity, these were conscious decisions made by young people to avoid the negative consequences that they feared would result. Through these accounts, this presentation considers some possible strategies that could be implemented to ensure trans equality and justice in school environments. It also critically examines how young trans people could be supported, and who should support them, to secure their rights and equality in secondary school. This contribution will enhance understandings of trans in/equality in schools and provoke a conversation about what could be done to protect and ensure trans student's rights in school.

#### **Successes and Silences in Intersectional Gender Equality in Higher Education Practice: Intentions and Tensions in Collaborative Feminist Research**

*Tamsin Hinton-Smith*

(University of Sussex)

This research is a collaboration of minority and majority world feminist researchers, building on insights from a previously funded study (HintonSmith et al. 2021; Morris et al. 2021). We set out with the aspiration to contribute to equitable and sustainable processes of social development and democracy through developing understanding and commitment around gender equality in higher education classrooms across disciplinary areas and international contexts. This reflects the ambitions of the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) under which the research is funded, which aims to 'strengthen capacity for research, innovation and knowledge exchange' through partnerships between researchers in the UK and developing countries (2021).

While our feminist commitments to collaboration, equity and positive social change remain the research keystones, we recognise the need to interrogate tensions in upholding these aspirations (Lacey and Underhill-Sem 2018), as our intentions to work in equitable ways rub against the constraints of persistent inequitable historically-rooted structures (Bhambra et al., 2018). We do so not to undermine or apologise for the research that we are invested in, but through a commitment to authenticity in the research process and to expose enduring inequities so that we may collectively grapple with them, rather than gloss them over in pursuit of easy presentations of research success and equity (Ackerley and True 2008). Here we discuss the design and development of the project while also reflecting on process including through insights from reflective international research team online focus groups that we held with the intention of interrogating this journey.

#### **Educational Inequality in Accessing Primary Schools in China**

*Xiyuan Liu*

(University of Manchester)

Educational equality is related to the equal development of individuals, but many groups still face educational inequality. There are many debates on whether educational inequality has been widening and how to narrow the gap in education.

With the economic development in China, the country has continuously increased financial investment in the field of basic education. This essay aims at investigating the current situation of educational inequality in accessing primary schools and analysing the changing trend of educational inequality in accessing primary schools. By analysing the national longitudinal China Family Panel Survey from 2010 to 2018, it is found that urban students are more likely to go to key schools, which are the better schools, while rural students are more likely to go to ordinary schools. As time goes on, the gap between urban and rural students has narrowed, but unfortunately still exists. It also found that girls are more likely to go to key schools in recent years, which might be because girls are better at performing themselves in interviews and the single child policy surprisingly reduced the gender inequality within the family. In addition, students from Han ethnicity, are more likely to go to key schools, indicating that more efforts should be made to solve the ethnical inequality in education. In conclusion, the essay holds the idea that the educational inequality in accessing primary schools in China has been decreased but still existed.

### **The Impact of Language on Equality in the New RSE Guidance**

*Rosie Macpherson*

(University of Surrey)

Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) became compulsory in English secondary schools from September 2020. This is the first time that this subject has been compulsory, although many schools have been providing RSE prior to this change. To support schools in the design, implementation and long term delivery of RSE, the Department for Education issued schools with an RSE guidance. The guidance has been designed in such a way as to be deliberately non-prescriptive, to allow schools greater flexibility in what they choose to teach in RSE. As this is the first RSE guidance to be published since 2003, many changes can be observed in its content. Most strikingly, is the inclusion and acknowledgement of LGBT lives and relationships, which has been ignored in previous versions. To gain a better understanding of what RSE looks like in policy terms, I conducted a Foucauldian Discourse Analysis on the new RSE guidance. The aim of this was to examine how the language used in the guidance impacts the subject in practice. The extent to which the guidance promotes equality of LGBT lives and relationships, as well as a universal model for RSE was also explored. This presentation will discuss the justification for conducting an FDA, as well as the process of it. The findings from this FDA will be discussed, as well as the extent to which these findings impact upon equal learning in RSE.

## Theory

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### **Towards a Tragic Social Science: Critique, Translation and Performance**

*Sam Han*

(The University of Western Australia)

Events in the world today appear to be increasingly uncontrollable. Climate change, refugee crises and global pandemics seem to demonstrate the limits of human reason, science, technology, and medicine. In the wake of these developments, “tragedy” and “tragic” have come into use, perhaps with greater frequency. Taking Rita Felski’s concept of “the idea of the tragic” as a point of departure, this paper comprises a first step in a larger project towards articulating an approach to sociology and social theory from the perspective of a “tragic vision.” It argues that there is an acute need to respond to the present crisis (as well as the ongoing *longue durée* of the crisis of modernity) through an engagement with the tragic understood as a reflection of the long tail of the formation of a secular, modern “ethico-onto-epistemology,” to use the language of recent posthumanist scholars. In providing an “interpretive genealogy” of a “tragic ethics” in social thought, focusing on the thought of Lucien Goldmann and Georg Lukacs, while putting them in dialogue with posthumanist theory, especially recent debates involving the place of “critique,” the paper concludes with some implications for the social sciences, and what challenges “tragic social science” may bring to ideas of individual action and responsibility.

### **Care, Capitalism and Affective Equality: Resisting Capitalocentrism**

*Kathleen Lynch*

(University College Dublin)

Under neoliberalism the world of care provisioning and nurturing is divested of a place in language. It is visually and discursively absent from public consciousness and from much academic consciousness. But this is not inevitable. This paper makes a case for redefining social justice in a way that recognises the affective care relationality of social life, and for resisting the deep carelessness that is endemic to neoliberal capitalism, and capitalocentric ways of thinking based on an epistemology of naïve autonomy. It builds on previous empirical and theoretical work by the author on *Affective Equality* (2009) and *New Managerialism* (2012), and a new book, *Care and Capitalism* (2022). While Nancy Fraser’s three-dimensional theory of justice has many merits, an exclusive focus on redistribution, recognition and representation silences the affective care domain of social life. Given that inter/dependency is endemic

to the human condition, not only in its relationship to other humans, but also in relation to non-human animals and the environment, theories of equality and social justice need to align rights-based thinking with needs-care-based thinking. The paper closes with a discussion of privileged ignorance in the academy, not only classed, aged and geopolitical ignorance, like that underpinning the spread of Covid19, but the equally powerful affectively privileged ignorance that underpins indifference to the labour that makes people up in their humanity as affectively engaged caring/cared-for persons. It explores why epistemic resistances to the dominant epistemologies of capitalocentric thinking about social justice and social change matter, including within sociology itself.

### **Hidden Transcripts of the Powerful**

*Narzanin Massoumi, Marcus Morgan*

(University of Exeter and University of Bristol)

This paper builds upon an underdeveloped aspect of Scott's (1990) work on 'hidden transcripts'. Whereas Scott's work focussed on hidden transcripts of powerless groups, here we investigate how social scientists might go about researching the hidden transcripts of the powerful. Firstly, we show that the hidden transcripts of elite social groups remain understudied. Secondly, we focus on the differences between the hidden transcripts of subordinate and dominant social groups. Thirdly, we ask how hidden transcripts become institutionalised amongst elite groups in exclusive social spaces, work environments, clubs, and organisations. Fourthly, we ask how social scientists might go about studying the hidden transcripts of elites. Finally, we question whether hidden transcripts can be used as a reliable indicator of the 'true' consciousness of the class, or social group that expresses them.

## **Work, Employment and Economic Life**

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### **DIGITAL WORK**

#### **Digital Labour and Tech Workers**

*Robert Dorschel*

(University of Cambridge)

The digital labour debate has produced manifold insights into new forms of work emerging within digital capitalism. So far, though, most research has focused on highly precarious labourers, such as gig and crowd workers. This has led to a neglect of affluent "tech workers" – a growing segment of professionals responsible for coding, designing and managing digital technologies. I argue that this analytical oversight can be attributed to a narrow conceptualisation of digital labour. Thus, the talk first proposes a broadening of the digital labour concept to encompass all work entangled with the digital economy. In a second step, I demonstrate the heuristic surplus of this theoretical broadening through a discussion of the ethos of tech workers. Based on original interviews with tech workers and a discourse analysis of their interpellation, I point to the cultural, technological and organisational relations between high and low-paid digital labourers. This examination will also address the potential to build new alliances across occupational segments. Pursuing twin-aims, the talk combines a theoretical reconsideration of digital labour with an analytical exploration of tech workers to provide a more relational account of work and economic life in digital capitalism.

#### **The Divisions of Open Source Labour: 'sidelines' and 'things' in the Organisation of Developer Careers**

*Rebecca Taylor, Mark Weal, Anthony Quinn*

(University of Southampton)

Scholars have long debated the 'free'/unpaid labour of open source (OS) contributors (Nagle et al. 2020, Terranova 2000). These debates have gained increasing significance as the scale of public benefit of digital infrastructure, built on free and open source code, becomes apparent (Eghbahl 2018). Studies have grappled with questions about the motivations of unpaid contributors (Crowston, 2011) and increasingly the sustainability of these volunteer communities (Di Tullio and Staples, 2013). However, debates tend to rehearse a narrative in which open source is an individual choice (political, creative, moral), or a gift (Raymond 2001). This paper takes a sociology of work approach and explores the interconnections and divisions of labour (Glucksmann 1995; Taylor 2016) for OS contributors, and the various ways their unpaid work is organised and resourced. We draw on data from a study of the working lives of a diverse group of contributors to OS projects on the GitHub repository. Scraping GitHub identified contributors (by location, gender, role and contribution type) and they were then approached for online interviews (n20). Our paper examines how these workers navigate and organise their work, patchworking formal employment, gigs, sidelines and 'things' to construct working lives. In doing so we highlight the way in which their unpaid labour is resourced, subsidised and symbolically rewarded, and embedded in organisational structures. We argue that OS labour is not a singular feature of software development but, like forms of unpaid work in other fields, is instituted and legitimised in wider social divisions and relationships.

## **How much does a Face Cost? Global Inequalities, Precarized Work and the Market for Personal Data on Digital Platforms**

*Paola Tubaro*

(Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique)

Facial recognition is one of the most controversial Artificial Intelligence-powered technologies owing to its potential for racial bias, discrimination, and surveillance. But most debates focus on the consequences of the deployment of face recognition, while its production conditions have largely remained in the shadow. The proposed presentation uses evidence from a four-year fieldwork with data workers in French- and Spanish-speaking countries (about 1500 online questionnaires and 150 interviews), to claim that the global supply chain behind these technologies is equally problematic. Although a face is unique to each human, and thus constitutes (highly identifiable) personal data, AI producers recruit people on demand to provide images and videos of themselves, tailored to their increasingly sophisticated needs (static and moving, current and historic, in different poses, etc.). Digital platform marketplaces make this possible, allowing to reach masses of potential contributors across borders – where legal protection is weaker and/or incomes are so low that the opportunity to earn some hard currency outweighs any worry about data protection. Yet platforms offer little improvement over time, as earnings are highly volatile and, as a growing literature demonstrates, no long-term labour relationships are established. Thus, the very production of face recognition technologies mirrors and reinforces inherited global economic inequalities, leveraging the very gap between AI developers – mostly residing in higher-income countries – and data providers – mostly in lower-income countries.

# Keynote Event

## Gargi Bhattacharyya, Dr. Mariangela Graciano, Lulius Rostas and Spyros Themelis

FRIDAY, 22 APRIL 2022

13:15 - 14:15

### SOCIOLOGY UNDER THREAT PANEL

#### Susan Halford (chair)

**Gargi Bhattacharyya** is Professor of Sociology at the University of East London. Their publications include: *Rethinking Racial Capitalism* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018), *Crisis, austerity and everyday life* (Palgrave, 2015), *Dangerous Brown Men* (Zed, 2008) and the multi-authored *Empire's Endgame* (Pluto 2021). They are Co-I on the CoPower project (<https://co-power.leeds.ac.uk>), analysing the impact of the pandemic on the well-being and resilience practices of racially minoritised communities.

**Dr. Mariangela Graciano** is a Professor in the Education Department of the Federal University of Sao Paulo, UNIFESP. Her research focuses on the education of young people and adults who have been deprived of freedom, as well as on Popular Education. She delivers course on "Youth and Adult Education: Diversity and Educational Practices", "School Education of People Deprived of Liberty" and "Social Movements and Youth and Adult Education". She is involved in extramural projects, such as the Observatory for the Educational Rights of Incarcerated Population, of which she is a member, and she coordinates the Citizenship School of Ademar and Pedreira Town. She is a member of the Research Group Freirean Studies and the UNESCO Chair in Applied Research for Education in Prison.

**Susan Halford** is Professor of Sociology at the University of Bristol (UK) and co-Director of the Bristol Digital Futures Institute and the ESRC Centre for Sociodigital Futures. As recent past President of the British Sociological Association, she has led responses to a range of critical challenges to Sociology around the world, from Hungary to Brazil and Australia, as well as in the UK.

**Dr. Iulius Rostas** is Visiting Professor at the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Bucharest, Romania). Between 2016 and 2019 he served as Chair of Romani Studies and Assistant Professor at Central European University and was Visiting Lecturer at Corvinus University of Budapest (2012-2016). Dr Rostas is the editor of "Ten Years After: A History of Roma School Desegregation in Central and Eastern Europe" (CEU Press, 2012) and in 2011 he published "Social Inclusion or Exclusion: the Rights of Persons Living with HIV in Moldova" (Cartier Publishing, 2011). He is the founder Editor-in-Chief of the Critical Romani Studies journal ([crs.ceu.edu](http://crs.ceu.edu)). His latest book "A Task for Sisyphus: Why Europe's Roma Policies Fail" was published by CEU Press in 2019 and translated into Romanian in 2020.

**Dr. Spyros Themelis** is Associate Professor in Education at the University of East Anglia. He has published a monograph *Social Change and Education in Greece: A Study in Class Struggle Dynamics* (Palgrave, 2013) and several papers in international journals. His latest book is titled *Critical Reflections on the Language of Neoliberalism in Education: Dangerous Words and Discourses of Possibility* (Routledge, 2021). He is the lead editor of *Frontiers in Sociology* (research topic *Towards 2030: Sustainable Development; Goal 4: Quality Education*) and joint Deputy Editor of the *Journal for Critical Policy Education Studies*.

Currently, he is Co-I on the Jean Monnet project '[Inclusive Europe and Democracy](#)' and PI on two Opportunity Area project evaluations in East Anglia.

# Paper Session 9

## Friday, 22 April 2022

### 14:30 -15:45

## Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

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### **Seeing Like a Shadow State: An Ethnographic Analysis of Biopolitical Interventions by Homeless Street Outreach Workers**

*Garrett Grainger*

(University of Wisconsin-Madison)

How do street outreach workers govern homelessness in neoliberal cities? I answer this question with ethnographic data that I collected in a large, post-industrial U.S. city. To conduct this analysis, I borrowed a term, biopolitics, from neo-Foucauldian theory. Biopolitics is a mode of governance that manipulates population dynamics to achieve political economic outcomes. The biopolitical turn in U.S. homeless policy obliges federally funded street outreach teams to produce raw material (i.e., quantitative data) for welfare managers to estimate, measure, and manipulate homeless (sub)populations by flexibly allocating permanent supportive housing. The production of quantitative data is impeded by forces that regularly displace homeless people across urban landscapes. This creates spatial problems that street outreach workers attempt to solve by creating a decentralized panopticon. After locating a homeless contact, street outreach workers count and classify them in public spaces before uploading their information to a shared database where it is aggregated by welfare managers. This process can unintentionally expose the personal data of homeless contacts to hostile or predatory actors. If homeless contacts cannot be located, then they will be uncounted, misclassified, and/or deprioritized for homeless assistance. Policy, place, and poverty render street outreach a biopolitical enterprise whose operators canvas urban landscapes to produce a resource that welfare managers need to control homeless (sub)populations.

### **'Levelling up'? Disparities in Devolved Welfare Provision among Local Authorities in Britain**

*Niamh Mulcahy*

(University of Cambridge)

This paper explores changes in funding provision for British local authorities as part of Boris Johnson's 'Levelling Up' initiative, with an eye to the deepening disparity in welfare that will likely arise from a devolved approach to decision-making. Local authorities bore the brunt of austerity cuts from central government in 2010, losing just over half of their funding at a time when demands for council assistance were increasing in the wake of the global financial crisis. Successive attempts by Conservative (led) governments to devolve decision-making powers to local government have resulted in regional strategies to fund necessary services, which often include generating new income streams through investment and corporatisation. There is, consequently, little guarantee that the communities in greatest need will have adequate funding for assistance. The problem has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed how entrenched inequalities across the country had become. In this paper, I examine the funding packages rolled out under Johnson's Conservatives since 2019, including £4.8 billion for investment in local infrastructure from the 'Levelling Up' fund, as well as the £3.6 billion 'Towns Fund' intended to improve transport and communications. While such injections appear to signal a move away from limited government spending and austerity itself, I suggest that the competitive nature of the bidding process for accessing funds from central government offloads risks associated with inadequate welfare provision onto local authorities, thereby reproducing or deepening inequalities created by austerity measures in the first instance.

### **Language and Religion in the Superdiverse City**

*Stephen Pihlaja*

(Newman University)

This presentation will discuss the opportunities and challenges of engaging religious communities in research about language and religious identity in urban contexts. The presentation will focus on the project 'Language and Religion in the Superdiverse City' which uses linguistic ethnographic methods to gather data about how religious identity affects interaction in the superdiverse context of Birmingham. The project works with religious groups engaged in community organising, with the explicit goal of using academic research to inform and equip research participants and their communities to effect social change. Drawing on field notes from over 30 conversations with community members, and



transcripts from 15 formal interviews and 3 focus groups, the presentation will show how discourse analysis can be used to understand how individuals position themselves within specific religious communities, with a focus on how those positionings help or hinder coalition-building with people who do not necessarily share the same beliefs. Building on this analysis, the presentation will then consider how those initial findings can then be presented to research participants and how participants can meaningfully engage in analysis with researchers, and work together to develop resources that communities can use to better organise with others toward shared civic goals while recognising and respecting differences.

### **Using a Bespoke Conversational Probe Application to Understand the Environmental Fear Felt by Students who Identify as Female in Situ**

*Michael Saker, Dan Mercea, Carrie-Anne Myers*  
(City, University of London)

The impact of COVID-19 continues to be felt throughout the world. National lockdowns have affected the use and feel of public spaces. Rather than experiencing the death of public space, however, the pandemic has engendered a period of ongoing transformation. The myriad stories that have recently emerged about the fear many women experience while going about their daily lives, demonstrates the importance of this topic beyond COVID-19. Equally, this highlights that fear is not the same for all people. Women are most affected by the fear of violent crime. And this can have a huge impact on the lives of those affected. Following this, emerging mobile technologies have been used to document spatial experiences on the fly as people move through their surroundings. Yet, extant research in this field also points to a general gap in the surrounding literature. For the most part, studies of crime data using augmented reality (AR), for example, routinely involve participants reflecting on existing crime data as they move through their surroundings. In other words, what is missing from this field is a more situated appreciation of fear in situ. Drawing on an original study that combines digital (e.g., geo-locational) trace data with qualitative data elicited directly from students who identify as female at a Central London university, the paper will present preliminary findings on the fear participants face as they move through their surroundings. Importantly, these findings will be presented in the context of embodied experiences of space and place.

## Emerging Themes Special Event

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### **WORLDS PROBLEM, NATIONAL SOLUTIONS**

#### **Is the Past Catching Up with Us? Vaccine Uptake and National Past**

*Sarah Carol*  
(London Metropolitan University)

To what extent are individuals willing to help others during the pandemic? The pandemic might have affected the pro-sociality towards out-groups. On the one hand, one could argue that inter-religious boundaries are more salient during the pandemic. On the other hand, religion also has the potential to unmake prejudice and lead to increased solidarity especially during a pandemic. This paper examines pro-social attitudes among 7,000 residents in Britain, Ireland, Germany, Serbia and Sweden by showing a fictitious scenario of an older neighbor who needs his groceries to be picked up from a nearby supermarket due to cocooning. Respondents were asked to indicate their willingness to help. The online survey experiment follows a 3x2x2 factorial design varying the ethno-religious origin of neighbors signaled by the name (Alexander vs. Mohammed), the length of their residence (< 1 year, 10 years, entire life) and if groceries, or groceries and beer need to be collected. We find that the pandemic has left the vulnerable more vulnerable, i.e. those of minority origin and those who have spent less than a year in a country and would probably need the support the most. However, there are national differences with Germany and Serbia penalizing neighbors of different ethno-religious origin most consistently, and Ireland and Britain the least. In Sweden, the solidarity with Mohammed who lived his entire life there is not significantly different from the solidarity with a native. Overall, religiosity turns out to decrease the willingness to help a neighbor named Mohammed in Serbia and Sweden but not in other countries.

#### **Reasoning about Covid-19 and Behaviour through the Lenses of the Past Events**

David Lea  
(University College Dublin)

Based on two axes, the paper analyses the employment of past events to situate the Covid 19 threat. On the first axis, the paper distinguishes between two types of past events mentioned by respondents when asked what events from the past (national and global) resemble the most today's COVID-19 threat. The two most common answers that people evoke when thinking about the Covid-19 pandemic in all five countries are either previous pandemic where there is no guilty party to be found or human-made disasters such as wars and different sorts of economic crises. On the second axis, the paper distinguishes between those who associate the COVID pandemics with the recent event from the living memory and those who named older events. The way in which people evoke past events to reason about the Covid-19 pandemic has several implications. While in the first instance we see that those who think of COVID-19 in terms of the

past disease' outbreaks are more likely to show trust in science and to get vaccinated, yet, there is no correlation between the human-made disasters mentioned and the proclivity to vaccination. However, when we see the division on 'old' and 'new' events, we see that those who named recent events are more likely to say that the COVID-19 pandemic is artificially made, less likely to get vaccinated, believe more in conspiracy theories and tend to be more nationalist. The paper offers a number of possible explanations on why this might be the case.

### **Plotting against Our Country: COVID-19 and Nationalist Conspiracy Theories in Five European Societies**

*Siniša Malešević*

(University College Dublin)

In this paper we analyse the relationship between nationalism and conspiracy theories during the covid 19 pandemic. The paper focuses on two main issues: 1) the relationship between the level of general trust in society and the intensity of belief in conspiracy theories; and 2) how commitment to specific nationalist ideologies shapes one's belief in conspiracy theories. The paper also explores the impact of different sociodemographic variables such as age, gender, education, ethnicity, religious orientation, professional status, and political preferences on the intensity of belief in conspiracy theories relating to COVID-19 pandemic. The paper differentiates between the three types of conspiratorial beliefs propensity towards strong, medium, and mild conspiracy theories. We show that the lack of trust in government and a strong sense of religiosity is linked with the prevalence of strong version of conspiracy theories. Furthermore, the primordialist understanding of one's nation is positively correlated with the propensity towards strong and medium versions of conspiracy theories. The paper also zooms in on the significant differences across the five countries studied: the Serbian respondents stand out in terms of their mistrust in government, strong beliefs in conspiracy theories while Irish and Serbian respondents also subscribe to the primordial understanding of nationhood. Swedish, English and German respondents are less inclined to believe in conspiracy theories while their sense of nationhood oscillates between the primordial and constructivist views.

### **The Impact of Trust in Institutions on Vaccination**

*Gordana Uzelac*

(London Metropolitan University)

In the period of March-April of 2021, a survey on a representative sample from the populations of five European countries (England, Germany, Ireland, Serbia, and Sweden, n=7000) has been conducted with the aim to understand the main factors that influence behaviour in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper focuses on the question of the impact that trust in institutions has on respondents' decision to take COVID-19 vaccination. Trust in institutions was measured through a five-point scale of trust in government (Cronbach's Alpha = .785) and trustworthiness of seven different institutions (Cronbach's Alpha = .822). This paper examines especially differences in trust in government and science in the five countries and their effect on respondents' willingness to take the vaccine.

## **Families and Relationships**

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### **The Construction of Motherhood: Re-conceptualizing Ideal and Othered (Single) Mothers**

*Amy Andrada*

(University of Edinburgh)

Historically, single motherhood is perceptively linked to gender, race, and class subordinates, e.g., single black women. Yet, these perspectives persevere a public memory that is incomplete and inaccurate. For instance, during the 1940s and '50s, babies of young white mothers were generally accepted (and encouraged) for adoption, while the inverse tended to occur among black mothers. In the 1970s, pregnancies were just as common among middle-class and working-class women, with the former more likely to have abortions. Furthermore, the history of marriage tends to be a class-based phenomenon within the American consciousness— one generally reserved for higher economic statuses. Hence, these conceptualizations of single mothers are disproportionately based on race and class, they are also actively constructed as so. Collectively, this has contributed to the mythologizing of the 'good mother' (e.g., married, white) and the 'bad' or othered mother (e.g., unmarried, non-white). In effect, the historical framing both created and substantiates the construction of motherhood. Evidenced in research examining the stigma among middle-class single mothers, this chapter utilizes the framing of lone mothers as evidence of that construction and argues these legacies presently define the experience of motherhood itself.

## **Single Chinese Women: Resisting Normative Marriage in Contemporary Urban China**

*Yue Liu*

(University of York)

Historically, there was a regional marriage resistance movement practised by Chinese women from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. Since the reform era, an increasing number of Chinese women attempt to challenge institutionalised marriage and marital norms, though monogamous heterosexual marriage is still a near-universal practice in China. This study aims to explore some possible forms for single Chinese women to resist marriage institution and prevailing marital norms in urban China. I pose four types of single women - romanticists, familists, pragmatists and resisters, then discuss their views on marriage institution and marital norms, and investigate the various ways they resist the normative marriage. "Romanticists" refers to the women who are eager for love marriage, or have romantic ideas about marriage. Familist women normally have a high sense of responsibility for future marriage, and expect of both their potential spouses and themselves to be capable enough to take family responsibility. Both romanticists and familists tend to postpone marriage or remain single until they meet their satisfied partners or are well-prepared for marriage. The pragmatists usually use marriage as a tool to achieve personal goals or gain individual interests, subverting traditional gendered roles in domestic space and challenging modern people's general understanding of marriage about satisfying financial and emotional needs. Resisters are those single women who want to keep singledom as they hope to avoid the risks within marriage or practise non-marital intimacies.

## **Lifecourse**

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### **LIFECOURSE: AGEING AND AGEISM**

#### **Fractured Rituals: Retiree Community Engagement and Pandemic Time**

*Boroka Bo*

(University of Essex)

A burgeoning body of research shows that Interaction Ritual Theory (IRT) is useful for illuminating how individual sentiments and behaviours aggregate up to shared social consequences. This study examines how the physical interaction-reliant framework of IRT holds up in extraordinary situations, when a global pandemic abruptly halts the routine flow of interactions. My findings substantiate several tenets put forth by IRT. My results also extend the model, by highlighting the need to incorporate the socioemotional experience of time. Drawing on insights from life course theory and social psychology, I elaborate on the framework via an examination of the relationship between SES and retiree community engagement during the COVID-19 pandemic. I find that SES frames the social experience of time and the prevalent emotions of retirees while physically distancing. These individual-level experiences translate to markedly different blueprints for interaction. High-SES retirees were more likely to 'go global', organizing to advocate for their interests. Conversely, low-SES retirees were more likely to 'turn in', minimizing their community engagement. My findings reveal how existing socio-political inequalities may become further entrenched in public health crises.

#### **Isolation, Vulnerability, and Government Policy: A Qualitative Investigation into the Experience of People Aged Sixty and over during the Coronavirus Pandemic**

*Luke Seeley*

(The University of Sheffield)

Government responses to the Coronavirus pandemic reinforce discourses pathologizing the later stages of life as a time of vulnerability - those defined as 'old' are reduced to stigmatized identities through pre-existing associations between age and mortality. In light of this, the primary aim of this project is to explore the experiences of people aged 60 and over during the Coronavirus pandemic. Furthermore, existing work does not explore their experiences regarding government policy. Therefore, the second aim of this project is to explore older adults' perspectives of government policy. Lastly, it will consider their perspectives on suggestions that older age groups should bear the economic cost of recovery.

Qualitative methods were used to deepen existing quantitative findings that identify the negative impact of imposed isolation. Semi-structured interviews were remotely conducted with participants within the UK. Convenience sampling drew upon existing contacts, who acted as gatekeepers to further participants. An interview schedule was built around a timeline of events and policy decisions during the pandemic. Interviews are currently being encoded using thematic analysis. This work highlights the experience of an underrepresented group, at times contradicting stigmatized views of older adults. This research is relevant both internationally and across disciplines because it represents the shared experience of older adults during the pandemic. In conclusion, this research is of value to multiple disciplines in understanding the international impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, and government responses.

## **Linking Economic and Intimate Citizenship in Later Life: The Post-Pension-Age Livelihood Strategies and Patterns of Personal Life of Older Russian Women**

*Anna Shadrina*  
(UCL)

This paper contributes to the understandings of the relationship between economic and intimate citizenship in later life. It draws on the biographical narratives of Russian heterosexual women aged 60 and over, one group of whom reside in Russia and the other in the United Kingdom. The paper examines the role former Soviet women play in the processes of individualisation that are characterised by the increasingly deregulated labour markets and the detraditionalization of intimate life. Based on the findings of the study, irrespective of their country of residence, the main aspiration the participants declare is to help their adult children combine parenting with paid work by providing them extensive assistance with housing and childcare. The paper suggests that the norm of contributing to the economic and often conjugal stability of their adult children leaves older Russian women in more precarious economic positions and less freedom to exercise full intimate citizenship beyond the family role of grandmother. Many scholars have spoken about the class and racialized differences that exacerbate when some groups of women pursue careers and motherhood by outsourcing part of their family duties to less qualified women. The case of older Russian women stresses age as another axis of social inequality that is reshaped by the processes of individualisation.

## **Do Older Lives Matter? Age Discrimination in Covid-19, Necropolitics and 'new' Ageism**

*Bethany Simmonds*  
(The University of Portsmouth)

The Covid-19 pandemic has thrust the human rights of older people into sharp focus. The propensity for age to be conflated with incidence of chronic illnesses, has been magnified during Covid-19, for instance, age group membership has been used to assess the risk of death and disease caused by the virus, rather than a personalised assessment of the individual. Although the probability of chronic illness increases with age, it does not mean that everyone above 80 years has the same clinical risk. Yet, unfortunately, age group bandings, in the UK and other countries, has been used as a blunt tool to triage people into two groups: those that are worth treating and those that are left to die. The Covid19 pandemic has been devastating for older people in the UK (particularly the tragedy of numerous deaths in care and residential homes). This paper provides a discussion of some of the (exceptional) practices implemented during the Covid-19 pandemic, such as, unsafe hospital discharges, denial of medical treatment, and blanket 'Do Not Resuscitate' orders. The theoretical lens of 'necropolitics' (Mbembe, 2003) is applied to make sense of the treatment of older people during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is argued that parallels can be seen between Mbembe's (2003) theorisation of death politics, and the spatialised control of older people during the Covid-19 pandemic, who are at the whim of state decisions over their life and death.

# Methodological Innovations

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## **The Cruel Optimism of Co-production**

*Cassandra Kill*  
(University of Nottingham)

Collaborative knowledge production practices are increasingly valued in the social sciences (Facer and Enright, 2016). It is often argued that co-production is likely to lead to both insightful and ethical research practices (Marcus, 2000; Campbell and Lassiter, 2015). As a doctoral researcher, I found this argument compelling and invested in co-productive methods as a route to more equal epistemic relations. However, I suggest that the pursuit of the correct "method" for these relations paradoxically constrained my ability to attain them. As the research unfolded, the complex realities of the field challenged and finally undid my optimism about the transformative potential of co-production, leaving me with a more nuanced understanding of its ethical potential and the role of affect. I will discuss how my initial investment in a vision of a cognitive, linear and unified form of collaboration in ethnographic research constrained my ability to attend to other forms of affective 'in-between-ness' (Stewart, 2017) that were unfolding with and around me. Critically engaging with my own attachments to this set of imagined research relations as a form of 'cruel optimism' (Berlant, 2011) allowed me to question whether embracing these affective moments as alternative forms of collaboration might allow for a more expansive approach to co-production. These critical resources - along with the disruptive events of the Covid-19 pandemic - allowed me to develop rich insights into co-productive relations, both in the substantive field and in my research methods.

## **Nomadic and Affective: A Methodological Shift Away from the Anthropocentric and Towards a Posthuman Production of Multiple Others**

*Abigail Wells*

(University of Sussex)

This paper narrates a journey towards more posthuman methodologies that challenge the dominance of traditional anthropocentric sociological research practices. It takes Rosi Braidotti's concepts of nomadic thinking, alongside new materialist methodologies based on Deleuzian concepts of becoming, to focus on the relational conceptualization of bodies and objects through a posthuman lens. These questions are explored drawing on creative data, such as visual journals, collaborative collaging and painting, created with young people in the UK within a project exploring their engagements with feminism as part of their emergent futures. In this paper, I question 1) how can the various modes of story-telling, art making and visual arts have the aptitude to re-work the body's limits? And 2) could this be a valued way of investigating young people's engagement with feminism and post binary gender? My emergent reflections highlight the importance of a methodology that captures the production of concepts, precepts and affects in a way that recognises the move towards multiple others. Of particular importance is the recognition of a mutating nomadic subjectivity which is able to represent the equally complex and fluid notions of gender in young people's lives. Importantly, the art practices were able to better capture the current cultural and social understanding of gender and post binary as an ongoing process of transformation.

## **Race, Ethnicity and Migration**

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### **Seven Dangers of Migrant crisis' Societal Narrative in Light of Equality and Justice**

*Izabela Grabowska*

(Kozminski University, Central Europe Center for Research on Social Change and Human Mobility (CRASCH))

This paper presents eight dangers of migrant crisis' grant narrative in light of equality and justice. The aim of this paper is to formulate implications for social theory and policy. Crisis cascaded through society (Walby 2015: 1) in the 21st century: from the fiscal one, through migration crisis, to pandemic crisis. Crisis in Ancient Greek means "a separating, power of distinguishing, decision, choice, election, judgement, dispute". It is also linked to discrimination and decision. Economists relate the word crisis to 'a decisive moment' for economic transformations. Sociologists relate it to social change. I formulated eight dangers which will be analysed in the paper: (1) (Migrant) Crisis fatigue; (2) Normativity (good & bad migrants); (3) Othering (migrants as others, aliens in a society); (4) Functionality (migration as a 'whipping boy' for politicians); (5) Making reactionary, piece meal, ad hoc policies; (6) Labelling (various categories of migrants); (7) Delaying, postponing geographical mobility due to pandemic lockdowns, economic slowdowns, enhanced border controls etc. The paper is embedded into the Horizon 2020 MIMY research project (Empowerment through liquid integration of migrant youth in vulnerable conditions).

### **Coloniality of Power and Modern Slavery in the UK**

*Ndiweteko Nghishitende*

(The Wilberforce Institute, University of Hull)

The journeys of survivors of modern slavery are affected by various laws and policies. However, despite stating repeatedly that survivors should be supported, and that the government is taking a "victim-centric" approach, the UK government continues to propose laws that leave a potentially large proportion of survivors unprotected, particularly through restrictive migration policies that in turn fuel vulnerability and exploitation of certain migrants. Even in the face of Covid-19, where there is evidence that the vulnerability of workers has increased, the UK government continues to work on increasing the stringency of immigration laws. In this paper, I argue that the coloniality of power present in modern slavery and immigration laws and policies in the UK is adversely affecting survivors' journeys after exiting situations of modern slavery. I further argue that there is a need to reflect and properly interrogate coloniality of power as far as laws and policies affecting survivors are concerned, and as long as colonial legacies continue to inform laws and policies on issues affecting survivors of modern slavery, especially immigration, survivors' journeys after modern slavery will continue to be undermined and the state will continue to perpetrate violence against those it vouches to protect.

### **White Saviours versus White Borders: Constructions of Race in the Visual Representation of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in UK Newspapers**

*Hannah Ryan*

(Aston University)

Constructions of whiteness and white privilege stem from the era of European empires and colonialism. During this period, a racial hierarchy was produced with white Northern European colonialists seen as superior, modern and

enlightened while people of colour were seen as primitive, barbaric and child-like. This paper will argue that these notions of racial hierarchies still exist and are ever present in the visual representation of refugees and asylum seekers in UK newspapers. Drawing on a mixed method analysis of a sample of 231 photographs published in four UK newspapers over a three-year period, I will argue that whiteness and white privilege are represented through a dual construction: the 'White saviour' and the 'White border'. I will use Boltanski's 1999 work *Distant Suffering* as the basis for my paper, arguing that, with the photographs of the White saviour, the asylum seekers of colour are shown to be objects of pity whilst the White celebrity is shown to be the benefactor (the saviour) and also the voice of these people. Importantly, the pity towards these asylum seekers of colour relies on them being kept at a distance from the West, predominantly in far-away camps. When asylum seekers of colour are shown to be coming into proximity with the West, pity turns to fear and whiteness moves from the saviour celebrity to the protective border guard – the 'White border'.

## Rights, Violence and Crime

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### **Building Equality in the Face of Cultural Myths and Perceptions: Marital Rape and Dowry Deaths in India**

*Hazel Lincy Ebenezer*

(University of Kent)

Over the past few decades, women in India have heralded and welcomed positive legislative and social justice for sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in India's public sphere. However, India's domestic sphere continues to remain under the iron fist of the nation's patriarchal culture. Women are still largely unprotected from SGBV behind closed doors. These forms of violence notably include marital rape and dowry deaths.

This research firstly addresses the question of why marital rape and dowry-related crimes continue to exist and increase, despite social and legal awareness. The research problematizes the definition and understanding of gender equality in India by using myths and social scripts prevalent in Indian society to examine the culture surrounding marriage and violence. These myths include the perception that marriage is necessary and permanent, that the husband must be worshipped by his wife, and that the husband has the right to discipline his wife. In understanding the continued prevalence and reinforcement of these myths within Indian society today, the research argues that India's legal conceptualizations of marital violence remain largely patriarchal and do not sufficiently address the social particularities surrounding this topic.

After understanding the role and consequences of myths in defining and building equality within the nation, the research discusses research and actions that can be undertaken to move towards a system of social justice that operates regardless of gender or social spheres. This includes potential community-level and state-level interventions that can open avenues for social justice and legal change within the nation.

### **An Exploration of the Impact of Women's Economic Projects on Gender-Based Violence in Teso Sub-Region, Uganda**

*Sally Squires*

(Nottingham Trent University)

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a global public health concern, however, most research is limited to the Global North. Notably, there has been limited research on GBV in low resource settings. This presentation uses a case study of Teso, one of Uganda's most deprived subregions, to examine sustainable economic growth in relation to GBV. The presentation will offer insights into the impact of economic projects on GBV in Teso and seek to understand whether such ventures prevent or intensify this critical public health issue. Some evidence suggests that increasing women's incomes leads to a feminisation of poverty and greater health issues. However other studies argue that economic empowerment is a path to autonomy.

My research uses unpublished, qualitative research data, collected by the economic project leaders in Teso. Integrating the project leaders into this exploration enabled the research to be carried out collaboratively rather than being imposed. Through the lens of intersectionality, I then analyse the mechanisms of change within this community and how economic factors and relationships influence each other.

I argue that GBV in Teso is a result of intersecting oppressions that impact women's health including education, and community norms. Hegemonic patriarchy intensifies these intersections of subjugation. Whilst economic projects can benefit women by strengthening communities, providing resources, and imbuing the women with a sense of autonomy, they can also fracture community norms which results in further violence. My presentation concludes with some ethical considerations for professionals working with women affected by GBV and notable areas for future research.

## **Evidence of Racialization, Criminalization, and Knowledge-Production Bias, in a Five-Year Study of the Police Practice of Street Checks in a Northern Canadian Prairie City, 2014-2018: A Few Bad Apples Shape the Knowledge?**

*Scott Thompson*

(University of Saskatchewan)

Known across various jurisdictions as “Street Checks,” “Stop and Account,” “Terry Stops,” “Person Interviews,” and “Community Contacts,” the police intelligence gathering practice of “Carding” broadly includes the stopping of city residents, their questioning, and the subsequent recording of the non-criminal actions of their day-to-day lives. Drawing on a full five-year dataset of Street Checks conducted in a Canadian prairie city obtained through Access to Information legislation (N=1,657), this paper demonstrates how knowledge produced through the practice of Carding carries biases which are constitutive of both police service members’ understandings of race, ethnicity, and communities, as well as how data-driven intelligence-led policing models inform resource deployment. Specifically, it argues that knowledge biases are identifiable through: i) the majority of carding data collection being done by only a small number of officers; ii) the overrepresentation of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples; and iii) the mediating influence of the technology of Carding in shaping officer/community member interactions. Ultimately, this Carding-Knowledge Production-(re)Organization of Police Work relationship, not only harms the validity of the statistical data outputs upon which modern policing decisions are made, but in fact mediates knowledge construction within police services in a way that works to racialize and criminalize both bodies and communities. In working towards equality and justice, demonstrating how the harms of carding are not simply a matter of bad actors, but instead as part of the larger construction of knowledge within police services, enables the development of more targeted and effective solutions moving forward.

## **Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1**

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### **Exploring Literature on Digital Youth Activism**

*Rebekah Bainbridge, Harry Dyer, Esther Priyadharshini*

(University of East Anglia)

This paper explores existing literature to establish how the field of digital youth activism is represented within academia and propose further areas for study. Much of the literature supports the notion that research into youth activism should steer away from traditional metrics and explore non-traditional ways in which young people engage with politics – including digital activism. A noticeable pattern is a rise in causebased activism, with papers spanning a broad number of issues researched in this field, such as feminism and gender equality, climate issues, LGBTQ+ matters, and voter registration.

Despite these being complex ongoing causes, there appears to be more research targeting specific events within a clearly defined timeframe, particularly in the UK. Thus, social media and other communication technologies are often considered as a means for organisation and mobilisation. Whilst this may be the case in such events, this suggests a temporariness to youth engagement with activism, both online and inperson, which is confined to these instances. However, it may be argued that many individuals’ relationship with social media and activism is far more complex – yet, far less information is available about more sustained engagement and everyday activism within the lives and online activities of young people. Furthermore, much of this literature on digital and youth activism does not seem to focus on the youth voice, suggesting that research into youth activism and initiatives to promote it are often still largely framed by adults. Therefore, careful consideration of youth agency, voice and representation is encouraged.

### **Online Activism and Redress for Institutional Child Abuse: Function and Rhetoric in Survivor Advocacy Group Tweets**

*Alasdair Henry*

(Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University)

In Australia, survivor advocacy groups have been closely engaged with the emergence and development of policy and redress responses to institutional child abuse. Their activities and influence in this respect have been under-researched. This paper focuses on the use of Twitter, a tool increasingly employed by activist groups in their lobbying repertoires. Using content and thematic analysis, tweets of 15 non-survivor led advocacy groups, and one survivor-led organisation - Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) - referring to ‘redress’ were analysed for rhetorical content (via Aristotle’s traditional framework of ethos, pathos, and logos) and communication purposes using three broad functional areas defined by Lovejoy and Saxton (2012). In keeping with Lovejoy and Saxton’s (2012) framework, results found that for both non-survivor led advocacy groups and CLAN the primary function of their use of Twitter was to convey information to audiences. However, the integrated use of the rhetoric framework with the function framework revealed markedly different lobbying styles between the non-survivor led advocacy groups and CLAN with the latter pursuing a more confrontational and direct style of lobbying in communications. CLAN also overwhelmingly pursued emotion-focussed rhetoric in lobbying communications.

# Science, Technology and Digital Studies 2

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## **The Subjectivity of Data Scientists**

*Robert Dorschel*

(University of Cambridge)

Over the last decade, “data scientists” have burst into society as a novel expert role. They hold increasing responsibility over generating and analysing large data sets. Data scientists are at the heart of the digital economy where they objectify human experiences. The talk will explore the subjectivity of the objectifying profession of data science. I will discuss the professionalisation of data science not as a functionally necessary development but as the outcome of classification practices and struggles. The rise of data scientists is examined through interviews and discourse analysis in the USA and Germany. Despite notable differences across nations, two common subjectivation patterns are identified. Firstly, data scientists are constructed as hybrids, who combine generally conflictive roles as both generalists and specialists; technicians and communicators; data exploiters and data ethicists. This finding is interpreted as demonstrating a discursive distinction between data scientists and other competing and supposedly more one-dimensional professionals, such as statisticians or computer scientists. Secondly, the article uncovers a discursive classification of data scientists as discoverers of needs. They are imagined as explorative work subjects who can establish growth for digital capitalism by generating behavioural patterns that allow for personalization, customization and optimization practices. The talk concludes by discussing the political implications of the subjectivity of data scientists.

## **Do Digital Self-tracking Data Practices Contribute to Data Justice? Emotional Responses of Ordinary People toward Data-related Issues Faced in Everyday Life**

*Xiufeng Jia*

(The University of Sheffield)

With the rise of digital self-tracking technologies, ordinary people have been empowered to collect, analyse, and control their own data, as opposed to just data experts, developers, professionals, etc. Although self-tracking researchers (e.g., Lupton, 2016; Ruckenstein, 2014) have studied people’s engagement with data, their emotional engagements and responses were not considered. Researching feelings towards the data can contribute to a better way of knowing the world, and building a critique of society (Jaggar, 1989).

Drawing on in-depth interviews and text analysis, my research has found that participants face issues in relation to data privacy, dataveillance, and data literacy. I argue that self-trackers have limited freedom when it comes to controlling and protecting data. For example, participants have negative responses to their data being collected and sold by corporations. In terms of dataveillance and social surveillance, during the pandemic, many self-trackers felt scared to take their mobile phones around at home, as this may increase their “steps taken” that can be automatically shared online and monitored by others. Additionally, I suggested that there was unbalanced data literacy when it came to making sense of self-tracking data. Highly educated users with professional backgrounds in math and computer science felt more confident in understanding their data than undergraduate students.

This study contributes to the Sociology of Emotions and the Sociology of Data, and attempts to reveal new knowledge regarding inequalities in data practices in the field of data justice.

## **Building Equality through EdTech? The Discursive Construction of EdTech in British Newspapers During COVID-19**

*Lulu Shi, Claire Macleod, Rebecca Eynon*

(Oxford University)

Since the intensified use of education technology (EdTech) during the pandemic school closures, EdTech has gained much public attention in Britain and across the globe. Opinions about the use of technology in education are divided: while the government and the commercial sector promote EdTech – emphasising its potential to reduce attainment gaps and social inequalities, watchdog organisations are warning against unregulated data collections and risks to privacy, (state) schools are struggling with acquiring and managing the increasing amount of technology, and many teachers are critical towards the value of the current digital offer.

The pandemic made visible significant injustices in society, and many were comforted by the idea of the opportunity to ‘build back better’. Yet, as EdTech companies become richer and more closely connected with policy decisions, alternative visions become ever more crucial for socially just change in education.

In this paper we aim to contribute to an understanding of these alternative visions through tracking discourses around EdTech. Through a qualitative analysis of 171 articles in the ten major British newspapers from January 2019 until July 2021 we: 1) examine the different definitions and understandings of EdTech, 2) analyse in which discursive contexts the different notions of EdTech are situated, and 3) identify the major actors and how their voices are represented prior and over the course of the pandemic. Through our findings we highlight the complex and problematic constructions of EdTech and associated power dynamics, and the implications this has for building equality and justice now.



# Social Divisions/Social Identities

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## **Neoliberal Precarity and Primalization: A Biosocial Perspective on the Age of Insecurity, Injustice, and Unreason**

*John Bone*

(University of Aberdeen)

In light of the observed rise in social instability and populist politics that has emerged recently even in some of the world's oldest and presumed stable democracies, this paper reappraises the role of the neoliberal political and economic consensus in fermenting popular discontent. While this is very well trodden ground the paper approaches the issues from a wholly new direction, specifically addressing how exposure to the destabilizing conditions of the present can be seen to have negatively impacted on the neurological functioning of many of the disenfranchised and distressed of the current era, generating chronic negative emotional arousal and an associated impact on the capacity for rational thought and conduct. This condition of mental and emotional fugue, it is argued, has also rendered growing numbers more susceptible to marginal and radicalizing discourses, largely extended and amplified via social media, and not least the emotionally charged overtures of populist politicians. Against a backdrop of increasing insecurity, transformative changes to work and living conditions precipitated by neoliberal policy and the digital revolution, together with the epochal crisis presented by the global pandemic, it is argued that the task of understanding the deep and fundamental causes of social and political fracture has rarely been more urgent.

## **Class and Gender Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from the Three Cohort Studies**

*Lin Ding, Yaojun Li*

(University of Manchester)

The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all aspects of our lives. Much research suggests that women and people in lower social-economic positions are more vulnerable to natural disasters. It is necessary to examine whether the vulnerability is worsened during the current pandemic. This study seeks to gain a good understanding of the class and gender impacts on people's vulnerability and resilience during the pandemic using data from the 3 cohort studies in the UK: the National Child Development Study (NDCS), the British Cohort Study (BCS) and the Next Study (NS1). The Covid-related data were collected during the lockdown (September and October in 2020). By applying descriptive and multi-level models, we found that people in low-class positions, female, especially those from deprived family backgrounds, were more likely to encounter economic hardships, psychological distress and health problems. Origin and current class positions play a dominating role. While the origin class effects on economic and psychological well-being and health resilience are more pronounced for the NS1 cohort than for the two earlier cohorts.

## **Correcting an Injustice or Doing an Injustice?**

*Tara Peggram*

(University of Edinburgh)

This paper critically engages in questioning if adding women to the cultural landscape creates an equal landscape and if commemorating women as statues do justice to women. This research paper explores the motivations of the commemoration of the suffragettes as statues for the centenary of the partial enfranchisement of women in the United Kingdom in 2018. It unpacks the difficulties of adding gender to the cultural landscape as well as the complexities of commemorating women in a historically hypermasculine and patriarchal form of commemoration. Data was collected primarily through interviews from social actors from the suffragette statue campaigns as well as visual analysis of the statues themselves. Research findings revealed that the overall sentiment of the inclusion of women into the landscape was to make a positive impact by creating an inclusive nation-state narrative and landscape, as well as to provide educative tools on gender issues and provide symbolism of democracy and equality. The discussion argues that the inclusion of women in the cultural landscape is not an add and stir approach. I discuss that (1) visibility in the space does not equate to equality, (2) stereotypical gender constructions were prevalent in the framing of the suffragettes as symbols of equality, justice, and democracy as it plays into the historically constructed female commemoration trend as icons of the formation of the nation-state (Enloe 1990, Marschall 2010, Yuval-Davies 1989). And (3) I question the commemorating of women as statues as an empowering representation or just a cemented illustration of gender inequality?

# Sociology of Education 1

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## RESILIENCE AND RESISTANCE IN SCHOOLS

### **A Route to Resilience through Extra-curricular Activity in Middle Childhood**

*David Glynne-Percy*  
(The Brilliant Club)

Recent research indicates participation in extra-curricular activities (ECA) is especially beneficial for children from disadvantaged backgrounds facing adversity. Yet poorer children participate less in ECA than their more advantaged peers. We know much less about how ECA engagement begins and is sustained for less advantaged children. Through twenty semi-structured interviews with school ECA practitioners this article explains the process of successful ECA engagement for poorer children in middle childhood facing adversity. The findings indicate that triggering the ECA is through adult invitation and sustaining ECA engagement is shaped and guided by adults cultivating conditions where the child experiences progress and increased competency. These findings indicate that resilient outcomes of greater confidence and levels of perseverance for children are a result of proximal processes within their ecology. Resilience is an internal outcome acquired through the enabling presence of external factors. Informed by critical realism the research offers a theoretical explanation for these events drawing upon Bourdieu's dynamic of field and habitus and Vygotsky's zone of proximal development. This article also introduces the notion of resilient habitus to indicate the chameleon qualities that are demonstrated by some children in adapting to contrasting fields and proposes that development of a resilient habitus is optimal in middle childhood.

### **'Shadow Education' Timescape: An Empirical Investigation of the Temporal Arrangement of Private Tutoring vis-à-vis Formal Schooling in India**

*Achala Gupta*  
(School of Education, University of Southampton)

Private tutoring is a globally pervasive phenomenon. While scholars have explored the demand for and supply of private tutoring, the way in which tutoring centres organise their services, and the role of temporality in this, remains underexplored. Redressing this gap in the scholarship, this article draws on ethnographic data, produced during 2014-15 in Dehradun (India), to discuss four elements of a 'shadow education' timescape: how tutoring services are mapped onto the formal schooling structure (Mapping); how tutorial centres benefit from having greater time to allocate to educational services over formal schools (Advantage); how tutorial centres diversify the nature of academic support they offer throughout an academic year (Diversity); and, how tutoring services accommodate changing schooling practices over time

(Adaptability). This discussion unveils the specific ways in which the temporal facets of private tutoring help tutoring businesses circumvent the schooling system to secure a space alongside – rather than by attempting to replace – the formal institutions of education within the Indian educational landscape. Although the article is empirically grounded in India, the conceptualisation of the temporality of private tutoring it generates will be valuable to the investigations of organisational framing, structural arrangement and practices of tutoring provisions in other contexts. This research that aims to unpack private tutoring - an often hidden practice - would help understand some of the less obvious yet pervasive processes that contribute to social inequality in education systems and their practices.

### **'We are not cheating. We are helping each other out': Cheating, Deviance and Resistance in Egyptian Secondary Education**

*Hany Zayed*  
(University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign)

Cheating has long been an obstinate feature of Egyptian secondary assessment. Jeopardizing ideals of meritocracy and equality of opportunity, it has consistently been vilified, pathologized and criminalized by the state, which sought to combat it recently using digital technologies. Yet, while promising a tighter grip on assessment, those technologies afforded a new modality of cheating with a scale and speed unprecedented in Egyptian educational history. This research examines the social phenomenon of digital cheating at a time of assessment fetishization, post-revolutionary fervor, state-led educational digitalization, and pandemic exceptionalism. Using in-depth interviews with educational communities, oral history interviews with government officials, and novel qualitative social media research using WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram and YouTube to observe cheating in situ, this research asks to what extent digital cheating can be conceptualized not as deviance but as an act of resistance.

Morphing from an individual practice to a social process, digital cheating embodies an emerging collaborative ethic both in assessment and learning. It exemplifies a collective articulation of agency and a creative act of resistance to state-led educational change and unfair structural conditions exacerbated by Covid-19. Within a subversive counterculture, students are contesting the meanings, normativity and morality of cheating, forging solidarity and camaraderie, and constructing a shared social identity with an anonymous community of peers. Bringing together the sociology and

criminology of digital cheating, social movements and digital activism, and the cultural politics of educational change, this research informs contemporary forms of cheating in more global contexts and helps reimagine assessment.

## Sociology of Education 2

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### THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

#### **Hierarchies and Cliques: Mapping the Field of UK Higher Education Institutions in 2020**

*Charlotte Branchu, Vikki Boliver*  
(University of Liverpool; Durham University)

In the UK, the shift from elite to mass participation in higher education (Trow 2007) has occurred alongside a growing vertical differentiation (Teichler 2008) of higher education institutions (HEIs). Although part of a nominally unitary national HE system, UK HEIs vary widely with respect to (amongst other things) institutional economic resources, academic selectivity, research intensity and the demographic mix of students (Boliver 2015) in ways that are legitimated and reproduced by the proliferation of league tables and performance metrics. Conceptualising this variation as indicative of the different positions HEIs occupy within the UK higher education 'field' – that is, the space constituted by "an ensemble of positions in a relationship of mutual exclusion" (Bourdieu 1996: 232) – we set out in this paper to map out the field of UK HEIs in 2020. Drawing on data provided by the UK's Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS), and utilising social network analysis (SNA) methods, we explore the strength of the 'ties' between different UK HEIs as indicated by university applicants' preference matrices (i.e. the 5 HEIs to which they apply through the UCAS system). We aim, in particular, to identify any distinctive 'cliques' of HEIs – that is, relatively closed sub-networks of HEIs with many applicants in common with one another, and few applicants in common with HEIs outside of the 'clique' – and to explore the extent to which such cliques map onto well-known indicators of the vertical stratification of UK universities.

#### **National and Global Positional Competitions: Social Class and 'Future Selves' in China**

*Benjamin Mulvey, Ewan Wright*  
(Education University of Hong Kong)

In China, higher education participation has risen rapidly. However, socially-classed inequalities are still maintained in terms not only of access but also of graduate labour market outcomes. This has resulted in a pervasive sense of intense competition and anxiety amongst Chinese university students. The widely discussed neologism 'neijuan' (内卷) that refers to a sense of perpetual competition captures this zeitgeist. In this paper, we draw upon a reading of the term neijuan through the lenses of positional conflict theory (Brown, 2000) and 'self-concept' (Markus & Nurius, 1986). We examine how inequalities in graduate employment prospects are maintained through participation in extra-credentia activities (e.g., student associations, internships, study abroad programmes) at national and global scales. We draw on interviews (n=100) with final-year undergraduate students from three social class factions – rural, urban non-elite, and urban elite – at two universities in southern China. Our findings reveal substantial differences in students' aspirations and envisaged 'future selves'. Rural students tended to have less clarity about their futures, and were strongly 'nationally-oriented' in their aspirations and strategies for positional competition. Urban non-elites had more awareness of how to 'get ahead' in a national positional competition but perceived barriers to accumulating extra-credentia experiences at the global level. Elites tended to have greater clarity around aspirations, which often involved transnational migration, and generally had developed long-term strategies to enter a global competition. Overall, we argue that elite students are best placed to escape the sense of entrapment and perpetual competition felt by Chinese university students.

## Theory Special Event

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#### **New Materialisms and Political Sociology: a Symposium**

##### **Chair's Introduction**

*Pam Alldred*  
(Nottingham Trent University)

Although analysis of capitalist social relations has been foundational to some new materialist theory (DeLanda, 2006: 62-67; Deleuze and Guattari, 1984, 1988; Massumi, 2015: 83-91), this focus has not been widely reflected within contemporary political sociology. While the relationality and post-anthropocentrism of the new materialisms offer clear opportunities for the critical exploration of a variety of topics in political sociology, their monistic rejection of structural or systemic ontologies of the social has made them the target for negative critique (see, for example Boysen (2018: 238), Rekret (2018: 64). In this view, a 'flat ontology' is inadequate to address topics such as power and resistance, social inequalities, social justice, critical political economy and international relations.

Such critique has been met with robust defences, including Latour's (2004) rival criticisms of structuralist sociology, and Braidotti's (2019) promotion of a critical feminist and posthuman environmental politics. The 2021 collection *'Critical Theory and New Materialisms'* (edited by Hartmut Rosa et al) further explores the potential of new materialist scholarship in this sub-field of sociology.

The aim of this theory symposium at the 2022 conference is to provide an opportunity for new materialist and posthuman scholars to articulate emerging connections with political sociology in their current work. It will also provide a critical space for discussion during this year's Theory stream of how political sociology might be elucidated by new materialist concepts; and what might be gained and what might be lost by such an engagement.

The symposium comprises three papers, followed by generous time for discussion.

### **To Resist is to Invent: How Deleuze and Foucault can help Formulate an Analytics of Resistance**

*Angharad Beckett, Tom Campbell*  
(University of Leeds)

Over the past twenty to thirty years, 'ideas' and ideational processes have been a major focus of work in the political science and political sociology. Our focus in this paper is the turn to ideas within Social Movement Studies (SMS) - in particular, concern with the 'ideational dimension of collective action' (Hosseini, 2010: 339).

We take as our point of departure Hosseini's (2010: 29) argument that 'mainstream conceptualizations' of what he terms 'dissident knowledge' opens the approach to two rival hazards. The first risks dissolving the ideational aspect of a movement into the agential and pragmatic notions of action. The second risks dissolving it into the structural determinant relations of the broader context of action. There is growing dissatisfaction with the reductionism associated with both sets of approaches.

To date, few have considered how Foucauldian and new materialist perspectives might offer ways to move beyond approaches which prioritise the material over the discursive, or vice versa. We make the case for an analytical framework that takes as its starting point Foucault's understanding of the mutual conditioning of the discursive and the material, and Deleuze's argument that forces and agencies (discursive, corporeal, technological, social) are entangled at various points as 'assemblages'. We perceive their positions to be compatible.

This paper is part of a wider project that we are undertaking to develop an 'analytic of resistance' (Proust, 2000).

### **Reassembling Critical (Micro)political Economy**

*Nick J Fox*  
(University of Huddersfield)

The relational, post-anthropocentric and monist ontology of the new materialisms re-makes a critical approach to political economy, an approach favoured by some to address the inequalities and inequities (for instance, concerning health and welfare services) produced by capitalist social relations.

The paper develops this new materialist micropolitical approach by re-analysing Marx's modelling of the social and economic relations of capitalism in *Capital*. The question 'what does capitalism do?' is addressed via analysis of two core assemblages: a production-assemblage and a market-assemblage, which reveals how these transform labour-power into capital and simultaneously produce inequalities. These assemblages are analysed using the relational, monist and post-anthropocentric ontology of the new materialisms.

The principal opportunity afforded by a new materialist political economic perspective is lucidity: capitalist social relations act directly on bodies in everyday events rather than as social structures. I use the example of the political economy of health to explore how this 'flat' ontology removes the need for complex models to address separately the social causes of health and the social factors determining the distribution of these causes.

### **Reconsidering Precarity through Affect Theory**

*Amanda Light*  
(Ulster University)

This paper develops a new materialist and critical posthumanist approach to the socio-material conditions of precarity such as individualism, competition and 'flexibility'. It establishes the theoretical framework for my doctoral thesis.

Massumi's (2015: ix) Spinozist formulation of affect as 'the power to affect and be affected' provides ways to consider precarity as materially embodied encounters. The capacity to affect and be affected belongs to a relational ontology that is part of 'a recipe for collectively managed processes of social transformation' (Braidotti, 2019: 54). Affect theory circumnavigates the limitations of an oppositional critique of precarity that reinstates traditional power structures by focussing on ideological causality.

Starting in the middle of being affected and affective, I explore bodies' entanglements with neoliberal capitalism within a 'precarity assemblage'. What precarious bodies can do is addressed through Massumi's (2002) relational conceptualisation of affect. This reveals that processes of transformation may be formed through the material assemblages that are embedded in the very systems we are trying to challenge or change.

The main opportunity highlighted through an affective perspective is the potential to move beyond the ideologically-encouraged personalisation of precarity's effects, towards a reconfiguration of precarity as relational, affective

encounters. It is used here as a precursor to further study of the material effects of precarity, that will challenge dominant individualistic 'wellbeing' interventions to counter 'disorders' linked to precarious employment.

# Work, Employment and Economic Life

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## INEQUALITY

### **Charity Governance and the Economic Elite**

*Tom Mills, Narzanin Massoumi*

(Aston University)

The concept of elites is used very broadly in the social sciences and humanities, but has been defined more narrowly by Scott (2003) as persons wielding decision-making authority in powerful organisations, and more substantively as a group of such individuals across institutions and sectors who share common origins, associations and purpose. Elite studies have examined connections between organisations and sectors via shared personnel – the 'interlockers' in elite networks. Such studies, however, have largely neglected the 'third sector', despite extensive literature on elite philanthropy and corporate social responsibility, perhaps because the not-for-profit or charity sector is not generally seen to comprise part of the 'power structure' (Domhoff 2017) or 'structures of domination' (Scott 2008). In this paper, we examine this social sphere's integration into networks of economic power in the UK with a study of over 33K corporate registered UK charities. We measure each organisation's network distance from the UK's largest companies via board interlocks for the period 2010-2020, as well as their integration via their boards of trustees into the private sector more generally. Charity level variables measuring economic resources, status, location and areas of operation allow us to assess at scale the nature and extent of these organisations' integration into the networks of the UK's corporate elite.

### **Comparative Analysis on Multidimensional Poverty and Economic Growth in Mexico. Main Trends for the Mexican States (2008-2018)**

*Vanessa Jimenez Sanchez*

(University of Leeds)

Mexico is an upper-middle income country located in the Latin America and Caribbean Region according to the World Bank and is divided into 32 states. Mexico is a large, diverse, and unequal country. Poverty and low economic growth are structural and socioeconomic problems that has left millions of Mexicans without the benefits of development. On average, during the period 2008-2018 it was registered that 44.60% of the total population in Mexico was living in multidimensional poverty. In the same period, the Mexican economy grew only by 0.59%. Mexico shows poverty rates that are above those experienced by countries with similar levels of development (Esquivel, 2015), and has not achieved high rates of economic growth and well-being as expected (Calva, 2004). The economic and social inequalities observed in Mexico has impacted the Mexican states differently: some states are rich and show a good economic performance, while others are poor and are lagging behind. This paper explores the trends of multidimensional poverty and economic growth in the Mexican states drawing on panel data covering the period 2008-2018 and presents a descriptive and comparative data analysis that allows the classification of these states in terms of poverty and growth. The rationale for conducting a case study in Mexico is the existence of great social and economic heterogeneity between its states. This paper is part of my doctoral research that examines the relationship between multidimensional poverty and economic growth in Mexico with the aim of identifying if growth helps the reduction of poverty.

### **Material Deprivation and Household Poverty among Children in Germany**

*Claudia Wenzig*

(Institute for Employment Research)

In Germany about 20 percent of children under the age of 18 were at risk of income poverty and 14 percent receive welfare benefits. Growing up in low income families might have detrimental effects on the living conditions and on the child's development.

In terms of the deprivation approach of Townsend we are looking at the availability of goods to shine a light on the living conditions of low income families.

Firstly we compare the situation of children in low income families with families with a secured financial position (no income poverty or benefit receipt).

Secondly we examine intra-household deprivation for selected items. We analyse the relationship between household and child deprivation to investigate how far parents tend to make sacrifices for their children by going without particular items or needs.

For our analysis we use the panel study "Labour Market and Social Security" (PASS), which is an annual household panel survey for research on unemployment, poverty and the welfare state in Germany. The questionnaire includes more than 20 deprivation items to measure economic deprivation of the household which can be defined as the non-

availability of goods considers essential for an appropriate standard of living in a society, e.g. having an apartment with balcony, having television or inviting friends for dinner at home. As a specificity of the survey furthermore four child-specific indicators of material deprivation are conducted, in fact inviting friends, enough winter clothes, suitable place for homework and learning and receiving regular pocket money.

# Stream Plenaries

**FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022, 16:00 - 17:00**

## **FAMILIES AND RELATIONSHIPS STREAM PLENARY**

**Managing Unfreedom: Employing Migrant Domestic Workers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

### **Abstract**

How do employers manage power? Across the globe, migrant domestic workers are made unfree by their legal dependence on the sponsorship of an employer for whom they must work continuously as a live-in worker. How do employers manage the unequal relationship engendered by this dependence? My talk draws from interviews with domestic workers and employers in Singapore to address these questions. It establishes the emergence of two management styles; employers are either task-oriented or time-oriented. The former results in the mitigation of inequality in households and the latter in its aggravation. This talk establishes that the indentured labor of domestic workers, while rampant, does not necessarily result in forced labor and human trafficking. This is because employers could mitigate the inequalities imposed by systems of labor migration.

**Rhacel Salazar Parreñas** is Professor of Sociology and Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University of Southern California. She writes on the labor migration of women from the Philippines. Her latest book *Unfree: Migrant Domestic Work in Arab States* was recently published by Stanford University Press. For her contributions to the study of women in society, she was awarded the 2019 Jessie Bernard Award by the American Sociological Association.

**FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022, 16:00 - 17:00**

## **THEORY STREAM PLENARY**

**Working in Durkheim's "Social Fact" Tradition: Garfinkel, Goffman, Parsons and Sacks as the Authors of a Sociology of Practice and its Implicit Moral and Empirical Prerequisites**

### **Abstract**

The work of Talcott Parsons and Harold Garfinkel was met from the beginning by misreadings that have in turn encouraged contemporary misunderstandings of social theory. Consequently, Durkheim and Parsons – two of our most important social theorists – are misunderstood. In particular, the popular idea that everything is either micro or macro, structural or individual, conceptual or material – dichotomies that are incompatible with classic conceptions of sociology as the study of “social facts” – sneaks classical problems that were overcome by Comte and Durkheim back into Sociology to create contradictions. If “social facts” must be continually made and remade by people in social interaction, then what sense could be given to a distinction between concepts and materiality? If individuals do not exist as such until and unless they are mutually achieved as social selves in social interaction, then what sense is to be made of the structure/individual/agency distinction? These and other problems have torn the guts out of sociological theory, with the result that those actually making sociological arguments have seemed to mainstream thinkers to be making no sense. Using archival materials to sketch out new relationships between Garfinkel, Parsons, and Goffman – and new readings of texts to tie them to classic positions – this talk will argue that Garfinkel, Goffman, Sacks and Parsons were working in Durkheim's social fact lineage to bring the argument that social facts rest on an implicit social contract – and its implications for social justice – to fruition.

**Anne Warfield Rawls** is Professor of Sociology at Bentley University (Waltham, Massachusetts), Research Professor at the University of Siegen (Germany), and Director of the Garfinkel Archive. Teaching social and interactional theory for over forty years, Rawls has written extensively on the history of sociology with a focus on Durkheim, Du Bois, Goffman, Garfinkel, and the implications of their work for coming to terms with racism and social justice. Her *Epistemology and Practice: Durkheim's Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (2004, Cambridge University Press) is a groundbreaking re-interpretation of Durkheim's epistemology. *La Division*

*du Travail Revisited: Vers une Théorie Sociologique de la Justice* (Edited by Philip Chaniel, translated by Chaniel and Callegaro, 2019 Paris: Le Bord de l' Eau), reprises Durkheim's argument in the *Division of Labor*, that the purpose of sociology in diverse modern societies is to demonstrate empirically why morality and justice are necessary in modern contexts of diversity and differentiation. *Tacit Racism* (2020, University of Chicago) co-authored with Waverly Duck, brings Rawls' conception of Interaction Orders to bear on how racism manifests in social interaction – detailing how a lack of racial justice can make mutually meaningful interaction impossible. Rawls' work editing and explaining the relationship between Garfinkel and Parsons (2019, *Parsons' Primer*, by Harold Garfinkel, and Rawls and Turowetz, 2021, "Discovering Culture' in Interaction: Solving Problems in Cultural Sociology by Recovering the Interactional Side of Parsons' Conception of Culture." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*) illuminates key debates in cultural sociology, suggesting that Parsons was a more interactional and overall more interesting thinker than usually given credit for. Rawls has published in *The American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Theory*, *The European Journal of Social Theory*, *Organization Studies*, *The Information Society*, *Zeitschrift für Kulturwissenschaften*, *Mauss Review International*, and *Etnografia Ricerca Qualitativa*.

**FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022, 16:00 - 17:00**

## **SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL STUDIES STREAM PLENARY**

**How AI pilots put society to the test: trials of implicitness**

### **Abstract**

Testing has long been favoured as a method for introducing Artificial Intelligence to the world and to society. Today, so-called real-world tests of AI, whereby technologies from intelligent vehicles to facial recognition are introduced in everyday environments like roads and schools in the form of "pilot studies" are increasingly common. These tests raise serious concerns about the accountability of science and innovation to society, but they also have been welcomed as opportunities to empirically evaluate the social implications of AI. Sociologists have long argued that tests and testing may reveal the type of societies we live in (Linhardt, 2008) From this vantage point, tests can be defined as "trials of explicitness": empirical occasions that may force the articulation of social attributes and relations, as for instance in the case of pregnancy tests. In this talk, I will argue that today's real-world tests of AI challenge this sociological confidence in tests as elicitation devices. Through a discussion of real-world testing of Artificial Intelligence technologies in mobility settings, I will show how the creation of so-called test environments in society calls into question a core assumption that has underpinned sociological accounts of testing, one that I call "social naturalism," the idea that what goes on in society is inherently, "always already," social. Extending performative conceptions of the social I will consider the fundamental possibility of breakdown, that the conditions for sociality may fail to obtain in the artificial hells (Bishop, 2012) of real-world testing of AI. Such tests, I will argue, present trials of implicitness, compelling sociology to examine how sociality can endure under conditions of its infrastructuralisation.

**Noortje Marres** is Professor in the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies at the University of Warwick. Her work contributes to the interdisciplinary field of Science, Technology and Society (STS) and investigates issues at the intersection of innovation, publics, the environment and everyday life. She studied Sociology and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Amsterdam and has published two monographs: *Material participation: technology, the environment and everyday publics* (2012) and *Digital sociology: the re-invention of social research* (2017). Together with David Stark she recently edited a special issue on the new sociology of testing for the *British Journal of Sociology* ([Marres and Stark, 2020](#)). Noortje is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Siegen and PI of the ESRC-funded, international project [Shaping AI: Controversy and Closure in Research, Policy and Media](#)



**FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2022, 16:00 - 17:00**

## **RACE, ETHNICITY & MIGRATION STREAM PLENARY**

### **Unequal Europeans: Racialization as Pandemic Management**

#### **Abstract**

The studies according to which people of color in the United States, Europe, or South Africa, as well as indigenous populations in Brazil or Australia have been more exposed to the coronavirus and have disproportionately contracted COVID-19 point to a strong link between the pandemic and existing inequality structures. We know that the pandemic has exacerbated preexistent inequalities, especially with respect to access to resources such as a medical insurance, comfortable living quarters, or the option to work from home (Oxfam 2021). Racialized populations often perform hazardous jobs with no or little health benefits that place them on what, in the war-like terminology of the pandemic, was called the “frontline.” They are also more often than the general population subjected to police violence and targeted by strict lockdown measures during health crises. At the same time, such strict measures are justified using the racialized stereotypes that pinpoint these groups as different from the majority. The talk will discuss these patterns through the lens of two often neglected and partly overlapping experiences during the current pandemic: that of the Eastern European seasonal laborers and that of the Roma communities. The aim is to highlight how these European populations became more vulnerable than other groups to the combined effects of two pandemics—the ongoing racism and the coronavirus.

**Manuela Boatcă** is Professor of Sociology and Head of School of the Global Studies Programme at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She has a degree in English and German languages and literatures and a PhD in sociology. She was Visiting Professor at IUPERJ, Rio de Janeiro in 2007/08 and Professor of Sociology of Global Inequalities at the Latin American Institute of the Freie Universität Berlin from 2012 to 2015. She has published widely on world-systems analysis, decolonial perspectives on global inequalities, gender and citizenship in modernity/coloniality, and the geopolitics of knowledge in Eastern Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In 2018 she was awarded an ACLS collaborative fellowship alongside literary scholar Anca Parvulescu (Washington University in St. Louis, USA), for a comparative project on inter-imperiality in Transylvania. The resulting co-authored book, titled “Creolizing the Modern. Transylvania Across Empires” is forthcoming in English, German, and Romanian in 2022.

### **UK's Roma community and the Covid-19 pandemic: an insider perspective**

#### **Abstract**

The Covid 19 pandemic has impacted lives of millions across the world. Already being at the margins of our societies, those from the Roma communities have seen their vulnerabilities deepening even more throughout this crisis. Our communities have been targeted by strict, forced Covid 19 restrictions and our children have lost on education. Many Roma have also lost their migrants rights and so they lost the opportunity to provide a better future for their families. Equally the very limited support available to Roma was severely impacted. Organisations had to adapt their work to the new context and Roma faced even more barriers in trying to access support available. My presentation will focus on the UK's Roma community, its reaction to the pandemic, the support available and the current context.

#### **Mihai Bica, Policy and Campaigning worker, Roma Support Group**

Mihai Bica is a member of the Roma communities with over 10 years experience working with people from his communities. Mihai's professional experience includes supporting young Roma and women access employment, monitoring human rights and documenting discrimination cases. Since 2016 Mihai works for the [Roma Support Group](#), which is the first Roma led charity to be established in the UK in 1998. Currently Mihai is a policy and campaigns worker. Over the past 5 years Mihai has extensively worked on issues concerning the Brexit and EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS). Through this work he has facilitated EUSS support for Roma communities across England and has supported Roma communities across the UK raise their concerns in this context. This is reflected through reports presenting an [overview of the situation](#), statements on particular concerns, such as [EUSS digital status](#), or [events aimed at UK parliamentarians](#).

Mihai's work also involves areas such as education, health, rough sleeping or the child protection system.



# BSA Medical Sociology Conference 2022 Call for Papers

Wednesday 14 - Friday 16 September 2022

## Lancaster University

This year we are delighted to be able to welcome you back for an in-person conference held at Lancaster University. The call for papers is now open. As always, we are inviting you to submit your innovative medical sociology papers for consideration at this year's conference. The deadline for Abstract submission is Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

When reviewing Abstracts the following criteria will be applied - relevance to medical sociology, academic rigour and clarity.

Please indicate upon submission if you would prefer to attend and present your paper in person or as a pre-recorded video. Day two of the conference will include all pre-recordings accepted into the programme, and we will be using Zoom to facilitate remote interaction.

When submitting please also indicate if your submission is and oral or special event presentation and select the correct method.

Please note that presenters will be able to present only one paper at the conference, although they may be authors on more than one. Please see the table below for a list of the conference streams. At the point of submitting your abstract, please consider where your presentation may best fit.

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Citizenship and Health             | Inequalities and Intersectionality  |
| Critical Public Health             | Lifecourse – reproductive health; chronic conditions; ageing; death and dying |
| Diagnosis, Screening and Treatment | Mental Health   |
| Embodiment and Emotion             | Open  |
| Environment and Health             | Patient – professional interaction  |
| Experiences of Health and Illness  | Pedagogy and Methods  |
| Health Care Organisations          | Politics and Ethics of Health   |
| Health Policy                      | Professions   |
| Health Service Delivery            | STS and Medicine  |
|                                    | Theory  |

The abstract submission deadline is **Friday 29 April 2022**, abstracts received after this date will not be accepted. **The link to submit your abstract can be found here.**

For further details, please visit <https://www.britisoc.co.uk/groups/medical-sociology-groups>

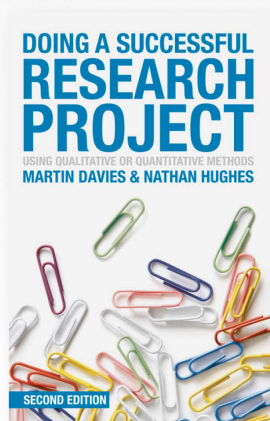
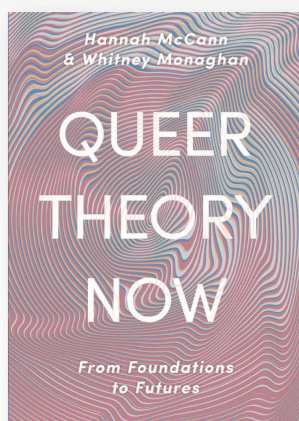
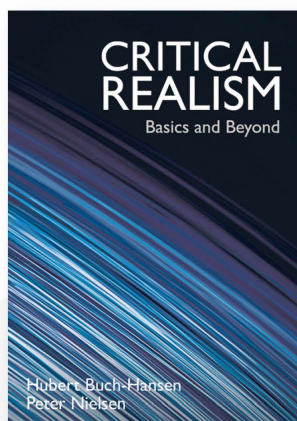
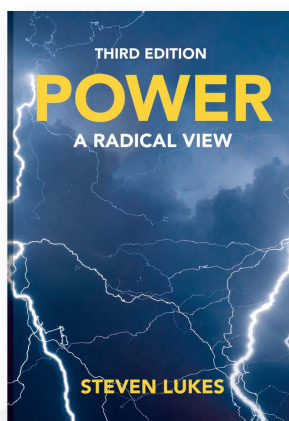
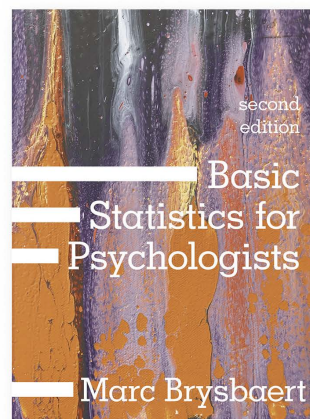
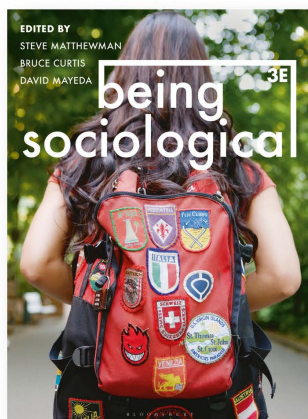
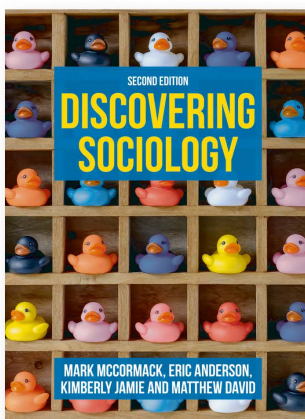
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A conference of this magnitude and breadth depends on the efforts of many committed individuals. Great thanks are due to all those who have helped with the organisation of the conference, particularly the coordinators of the conference streams. A special thanks goes to the events team who have worked incredibly hard to bring the conference together in this very different format.

| <b>Stream name</b>                             | <b>Stream coordinator(s)</b>                              |
|--|---|
| <b>Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space</b>     | Sarah Leaney<br>Maria Silvia D'Avolio                     |
| <b>Culture, Media, Sport and Food</b>          | Thomas Thurnell-Read (to return in 2023)<br>Emma H Casey  |
| <b>Environment and Society</b>                 | Catherine Butler  |
| <b>Families and Relationships</b>              | Katherine Twamley<br>Julie Walsh<br>Julia Carter          |
| <b>Frontiers</b>                               | Janice McLaughlin   |
| <b>Lifecourse</b>                              | Karenza Moore   |
| <b>Medicine, Health and Illness</b>            | Flis Henwood<br>Jen Remnant                               |
| <b>Methodological Innovations</b>              | Helen Lomax<br>Paola Tubaro<br>Stefanie Doebler           |
| <b>Race, Ethnicity and Migration</b>           | Narzarin Massoumi<br>Polina Manolova                      |
| <b>Rights, Violence and Crime</b>              | Louise Livesey  |
| <b>Science, Technology and Digital Studies</b> | Emily Ross<br>Julia Swallow<br>Harry Dyer<br>Tara Mahfoud |
| <b>Social Divisions/Social Identities</b>      | Sarah Woodin  |
| <b>Sociology of Education</b>                  | Derron Wallace<br>Nicola Ingram                           |
| <b>Sociology of Religion</b>                   | Rob Barward-Symmons                                       |
| <b>Theory</b>                                  | Lisa McCormick<br>Barry Gibson<br>Christian Morgner       |
| <b>Work, Employment and Economic Life</b>      | Jonathan Preminger<br>Jill Timms<br>Rachel Cohen          |

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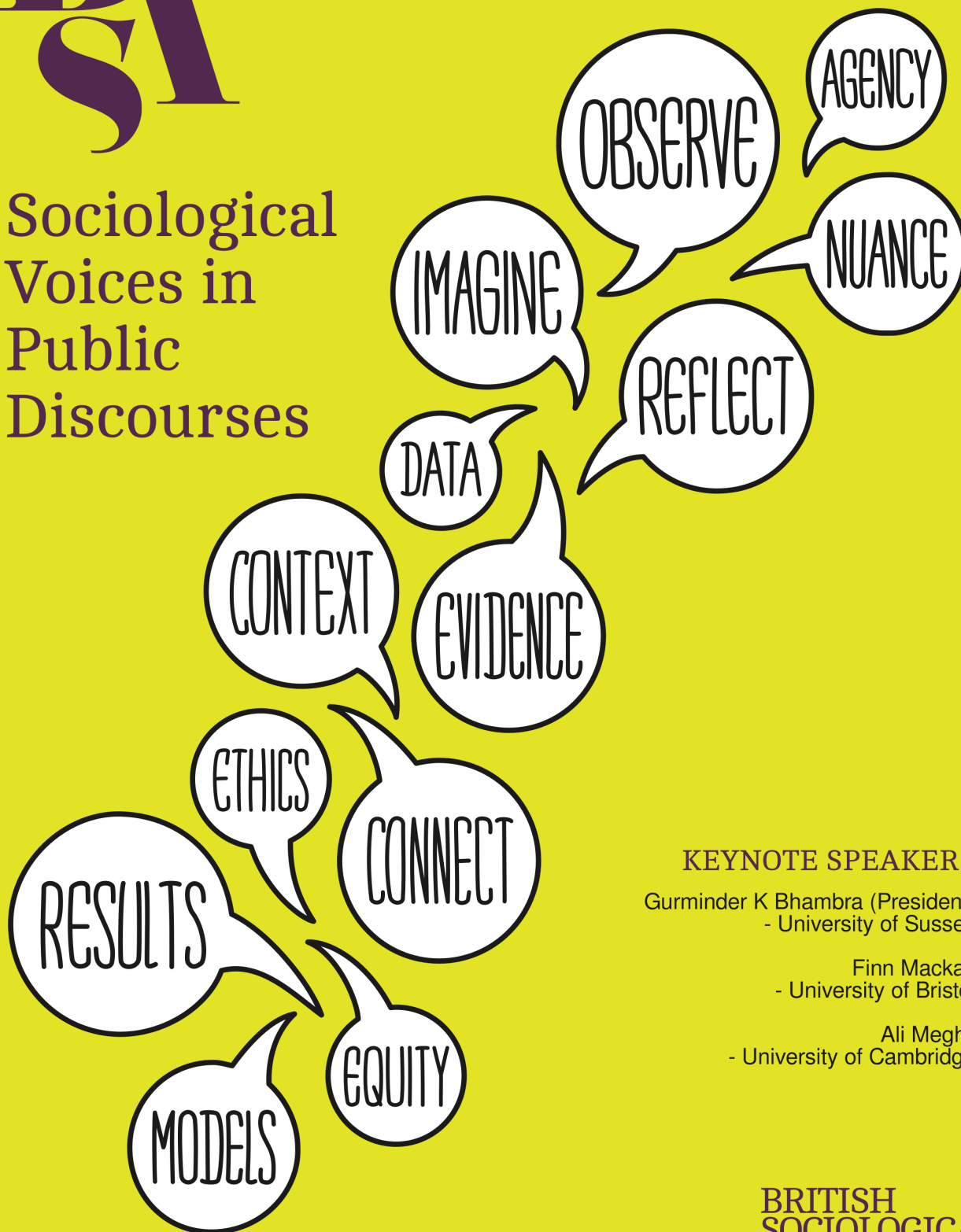
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# Sociological Voices in Public Discourses

2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
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Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 April



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Gurminder K Bhambra (President)  
- University of Sussex

Finn Mackay  
- University of Bristol

Ali Meghji  
- University of Cambridge

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