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CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Perez-Portilla, K.

University College London

Media and Discrimination

The paper aims at providing the political and philosophical underpinnings that justify the need to consider discriminatory speech as an issue of injustice and discrimination. This is achieved through an analysis of the scope of social justice together with the introduction to the legal agenda of the political and philosophical claims for recognition as a matter of justice.

The paper explores the limitations that some of the dominant theories of justice and equality have with regard to redressing discrimination. Most significant of these is the fact that, on the one hand, it has not been deemed sufficiently important for these theories to have considered the causes of inequality or the structural and institutional arrangements that sustain injustice; and on the other, that the redresses they seek against injustice and inequality are merely through redistribution. This is to say that for at least the past 150 years the theories of justice and equality that are most influential in legislation and policy have been overwhelmingly focused on redistribution; especially of goods and services whilst ignoring non-economic and/or non-material aspects of justice, such as status subordination. The latter would not only require redistribution but also a revaluing of disrespected identities and the transformation of the societal patterns of representation, interpretation and communication that lead to discrimination.

Strong, C.

Charles Stuart University

Anti-fans and symbolic violence: Examining on-line discussions of Twilight

In Western societies, cultural products associated with girls or women, either as the creator or the main audience, have often been positioned at or near the bottom of the cultural hierarchy. Examples of this include romance novels, soap operas and 'pop' music. This paper will examine the response of 'anti-fans' in on-line communities to the hugely successful Twilight series (both the books and the movie), with a view to demonstrating how the feminine nature of the series is central to the criticisms made of it and its fans. The associated naturalisation of the teenage girl as an uncritical, overly-emotional consumer of culture will be analysed as a form of symbolic violence that helps to reproduce power relations between men and women. The paper will demonstrate that the themes that arise in the discussion of Twilight coincide in many ways with debates within academia, feminism itself and wider society around the value and effects of popular culture, and ultimately contribute to the construction of a hierarchy of tastes that continues to denigrate feminine culture.

Tamari, T

Nottingham Trent University

Modern Girl and Male Intellectuals in inter-war Japan

The modern girl is generally seen as a type of new woman with independent spirit and urbane fashionable style and distinctive appearance (bob-hair), who first appeared in the 1920s. These new women were a modern cultural phenomenon to be found in many modern cities around the world, referred to as flapper in America, *garçonne* in France, and *Moga* in Japan. The Japanese term *modan garu* (modern girl) was first used by Kitazawa Shuichi in a letter published in a woman's magazine in 1923, entitled 'The modern girl and self-expression.' In this letter, he introduced the new women in England who were free from all traditions and conventions, who had become consciousness of the need to be independent and enjoy greater self-expression.

The modern girl was in the first instance an ideal type of the future new woman designed by and for male intellectuals. Although 'modern girl' had started to be used as a popular term in journalism, the images began to change around 1927. The *Moga* became a symbol of decadence and hedonism alongside the growing anti-Americanization in the expanding consumer society. The images of the modern girl were born in the imagination of cultural specialists and intermediaries along with intellectuals, such as novelists, writers, critics and journalists, people who were concerned with social thought and a heightened sensitivity to 'modernity'. This paper attempts to examine how the images of modern girl were created by male intellectuals and new cultural intermediaries during the interwar years.

Kan, M.Y. Lesnard, L.

University of Oxford

Comparing working time patterns of France 1998-99 and UK 2000-01: Results from two-stage optimal matching analyses

We conduct optimal matching analyses (OM) on “workweek-grid” data from the UK Time Use Survey (2000-01) and the French Time Use Survey (1998-99) to derive typologies of workdays and workweeks. The typologies are very similar in the two countries, but the proportions differ, especially for the case of part-time workweeks. In the UK, the most common type of part-time work is the “short work week part-time”: workers on average work for three days a week but many of them have standard or part-time work hours on their workdays. In France, “part work week, standard hour part-time” is the most common type of part-time work: workers on average work for 3.5 days a week, but most of them have standard-hour workdays. We conduct multiple correspondence analyses and multinomial logistic regressions to examine the relationship between workweeks and workers’ characteristics. In both countries, the two main factors accounting for the distribution of workweeks among workers are the overall economic position of workers (e.g. skills, educational level and pay) and industry (industrial and manufacturing sectors, and the high-skilled and low-skilled service sectors). Standard workweek and long-hour workweek are associated with high-skill and high-pay occupations. However, in France, professionals, managers and executives tend to have long hour workweeks. Atypical workweeks (e.g. part-time and shift work) are associated with low-skill and-low pay occupations. Those who work in the industrial sector tend to have shift workweeks, and those in the service sector tend to have part-time work weeks.

Olsen, W., Heuvelman, H., Gash, V., and Vandecasteele, L.

University of Manchester

Policy-Related Factors Offsetting Women’s Low Pay in the UK, 2004-7

The purpose of this paper is to examine what factors might help to further reduce the gender pay gap in the UK. Data for the paper are from the 2004-2007 British Household Panel Survey, including cumulative work histories from 1991 onward. The structural model is cross-sectional. Employer-funded training was more common among women than men during 2004-7 and was associated with 6% higher wage rates. Wages were 14% lower when there was overqualification, i.e. formal education higher than the average in one’s job. Having a work history of family care or part-time work has a significant negative effect on current hourly wages. This is a cumulative effect. The negative effect of the years spent doing family-care work was about twice as large (pushing the wage downward) as the effect of the years of part-time work. The respondent’s gender in itself became a much smaller factor in the improved model than in standard wage models. The level of formal education is shown to be a primary factor for the gender pay gap working through several pathways. High formal education has tended to inhibit women from doing family care work, and thus tends to maintain women’s wages. However, overqualification is much stronger among highly educated adults and causes a lower wage. We include in this study other direct and indirect causes of the pay gap, including institutional and labour-supply factors.

Boeckmann, I., Hodges, M.

University of Massachusetts - Amherst

The Impact of Fatherhood on Men’s Earnings in Britain, the United States, Germany, and Switzerland

While the impact of motherhood on women’s employment outcomes is well researched, much less is known about the impact of fatherhood on men’s labor market experiences. Recent studies indicate that children impact men’s earnings positively in a number of Western industrialized countries. This paper seeks to systematically examine the impact of parenthood on men’s earnings in different cultural contexts and family policy configurations using longitudinal data from the British Household Panel Study, the United States Panel Study of Income Dynamics, the German Socio-Economic Panel and the Swiss Household Panel. We include West Germany and the United States, as classical cases of the male breadwinner/female caregiver and dual earner/marketized caregiver models respectively. While Switzerland’s family policies mimic those of the United States, cultural norms around gender are more akin to those in other continental European countries like Germany. Conversely, Britain is culturally closer to the United States, while family policies are more alike continental European policy configurations.

Using data from the 1990s through 2005 to estimate fixed effects regression models for each country, we examine how the effect of fatherhood varies across different policy contexts and time. Fixed effects models provide estimates that are robust to unobserved time-invariant heterogeneity. Therefore, by employing longitudinal data we are able to examine the impact of the birth of children on men’s employment earnings and control for possible selection of men with higher human capital into fatherhood, a problem that plagues cross-sectional analyses.

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EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Bhopal, K

University of Southampton

'This is a school, it's not a site': teacher's attitudes towards Gypsy and Traveller pupils in schools in England, UK

This paper will examine teacher's attitudes towards Gypsy and Traveller pupils in one primary and one secondary school in an inner London borough, in England UK. The research is based on in-depth interviews with twenty teachers, heads, deputies and classroom assistants. The main aims of the study were to examine examples of 'good practice' in schools and to explore strategies that would improve the educational outcomes for Gypsy and Traveller groups. This article will argue that despite schools taking positive inclusive measures for Gypsy and Traveller pupils this alone does not encourage positive attitudes or change attitudes towards them. In some cases, it could be argued that such practices emphasise the difference and outsider status of such groups. The research will draw upon the work of Sibley (1995) in examining the spatial element of schools as a mechanism by which Gypsy and Traveller pupils become marginalised in which their outsider status is reinforced.

Shapira, M

University of Edinburgh

Educational Attainment of Migrants in Comparative Perspective - importance of institutional factors

The educational performance of immigrant children is different in different immigrant accepting countries. Research evidence increasingly indicates that the institutional context of schooling is very important. The presented research draws on literature which is looking for relationship between educational systems, migration policies and welfare provisions in relation to immigrant integration. This paper analyses how institutional factors impact on the educational attainment of immigrant students, net of their individual level characteristics and seeks to establish whether variations in the educational attainment of immigrant pupils in Western countries are systematically related to across-country variations in the characteristics of their institutions, and in particular, their education systems. Preliminary findings show that (i) attainment gap between migrant and not migrant students varies among different national systems and that the amount of migrant-non-migrant vary cross-nationally (ii) show that the attainment gaps between native students and migrants are smaller in inclusive "liberal" welfare regimes and in countries with selective immigration policy, while larger in countries with "conservative" welfare regime and migration policy based on family reunification principle; (iii) net performance gap between immigrant and non-immigrant pupils is larger in counties where educational systems display such features as selection, tracking and vocationalism. The current study also shows that various characteristics of educational systems, general level of welfare and its provision, and immigrant policy characteristics correlate highly and cluster well with each other in a meaningful way that should allow further empirical attempt of building dimensions of educational integration and/or typologies of educational integration according to these institutional characteristics.

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FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Sullivan, O.

University of Oxford

Changing differences by educational attainment in men's and women's domestic work and child care

In the investigation of processes of change in family work, examining differences in the degree of change between different social groups ('changing differences') can be more informative than focusing either on overall changes or on cross-sectional differences by social group alone. U.S. and British time-use data-sets are used to examine 30-year changes in the division of domestic work and child care by differences in educational attainment. Changes are compared for men and women parents in dual-earner couples. In the case of domestic labour the analyses show a 'catch-up' effect over time between men with different educational attainment, while for child care there is a widening of the gap by education. Challenges posed by these changing differences for explanations of change in family work are discussed.

Patterson, L.

Massey University

"It's what a good childhood should be": How first-time new parents become caregivers and / or breadwinners

Becoming a parent effects how people work, as well as how they think of themselves. Although participation in paid work is routinely idealised as the adult citizenship norm and gender an increasingly weak signifier of adult social identities, first-time new parents continue to negotiate a division of labour whereby mothers primarily care and fathers primarily earn. This paper explores how, over time, the traditional gendered breadwinner-caregiver pattern becomes cemented as an 'acceptable' division of labour (despite stated preferences for 'gender equality' and 'equal parenting') amongst middle-class, heterosexual, first-time new parents. In particular, four discourses of 'the ideal childhood' are identified: the natural childhood; the social childhood; the familial childhood, and the contingent childhood. Each discourse has concomitant effects on the division of labour and parental identities, as well as reproducing what seems to be a deep ambivalence in liberal democratic societies towards the non-maternal care of infants. The paper draws upon data collected from three waves of annual interviews, the first completed just before birth of the participants' first child.

Speight, S.

National Centre for Social Research

Use of non-parental childcare by different types of families: choices and constraints

Childcare responsibilities constitute a significant constraint on maternal employment, particularly for mothers from low income and otherwise disadvantaged families. Furthermore, breaks in maternal employment and downward career mobility contribute to gender inequality at work and at home, as well as to child poverty. There have been significant social policy developments over the last decade aiming to improve families' access to good quality, affordable childcare. However, large differences remain between different types of families in the use of non-parental childcare.

The paper will examine these differences in childcare use between different types of families (e.g. families with different levels of income, different employment situation, living in more and less deprived areas). It will relate these data to mothers' perceptions of the factors that facilitate their work and those that act as barriers to paid employment, with a particular focus on mothers' views on childcare provision. The research question is: to what extent are the differences we observe in families' use of non-parental childcare a product of their choices, and to what extent are they a product of social constraints (such as the cost of childcare and substantial differences in economic resources available to families)?

The data used in the analysis is from the Childcare and Early Years Survey of Parents 2008, which was a survey of over 7,000 families in England carried out by the National Centre for Social Research on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

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MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

DOCTOR-PATIENT RELATIONSHIPS

MacFarlane, A., O'Reilly-de Brún, M.

National University of Ireland

Implementation of the interpreted consultation in general practice: An analysis using the Normalisation Process Model

Internationally, health policies advocate the use of professional, trained interpreters to manage 'language barriers' in medical consultations. However, uptake in general practice settings remains very low. This paper focuses on the implementation and integration of interpreted consultations in routine general practice. Based on a 2007-2008 evaluation of general practitioners' uptake of an available pilot interpreting service in the eastern region of Ireland, and drawing on a contemporary sociological model (Normalisation Process Model: NPM) (May, 2006), we ask 'what factors promote or inhibit the routine embedding of the interpreted consultation in general practice and, and, how can these be understood and explained?' We describe qualitative data, generated using semi-structured interviews and focus groups from general practice staff (n=22), service users (n=16) and interpreters (n=3) and our analysis of these using (i) thematic analysis of emergent themes and (ii) a construct led analysis during which emergent themes were 'mapped' onto the 4 constructs of the NPM. We reveal that the likelihood of normalization of the pilot interpreting service in this setting is very low for two reasons. First, there is a 'gap' between organisational commitment to embed interpreted consultations into routine practice and the actual allocation of resources for this. Also, the professional groups involved lack necessary skills, confidence and expertise for the implementation work. We discuss implications for policy and practice with reference to migrant service users' rights to accessible and appropriate health care.

Bohyun, K.

University of Oxford

The doctor-patient interactions and their impact on the construction of illness narratives

Illness narratives reflect the ways in which individuals perceive their own illness. It is considered that there is a distinction between the doctor's clinical narratives and the patient's illness narratives. However, the social dyad between doctor and patient is also assumed to exert prominent influences on the patient mainly because it is a power relationship with the doctor having the dominant role while the patient holding a subordinate position. Therefore, by examining changes in the patient's illness narratives before and after the encounters with his doctor, we may begin to understand the extent to which the doctor's diagnosis of "disease" and clinical narratives and the patient's perceptions and narratives of his health state are synchronized. This synchronization entails a transition through which the individual reframes himself as a "patient." Hence, embracing the notion that one is now a patient with disease is important public-health issue and we can understand this from the perspective of a kind of self-fulfilling prophecy. Therefore, properly intervening the doctor-patient interactions may suggest an effective policy measure for improving public health. This paper examines the dynamic interactions between doctor and patient and the process of constructing and reconstructing illness narratives, with a special emphasis on what role do the doctor-patient encounters play in shaping the patient's illness narratives. Drawing on an ethnographic fieldwork in South Korea, the study explores, at the macro level, whether illness narratives are socially constructed, and, at the micro level, whether there is a synchronizing process between clinical and illness narratives.

Kang, T.

University of Oxford

Diasporan identity, internet use, and everyday life

Focusing on the case of the London-based Chinese community, this study explores how internet use, as an integral part of migrants' daily lives, shapes their identity formation. Most existing research on the role of internet use in shaping diasporan identity centres on online texts, images, and interactions, limiting data collection primarily to online sources. Parallel to the ways in which the traditional literature of diasporan identity theorises institutions such as schools, workplaces, and families, these studies theorise online spaces as another social space where migrants negotiate their identities. Rather than viewing online and offline spaces as separate but parallel aspects of diasporan life, this paper seeks to examine the encounter between them. I propose a research agenda that locates the impact of internet use on identity formation outside the virtual world in traditional diasporan spaces, including families, diasporan organisations, and workplaces.

Based on semi-structured interviews and participant observation of the London-based Chinese community, the results demonstrate several patterns. In families, the digital divide shapes the power dynamics between genders and generations in the diasporan group, reconstructing the intertwined relationships of gendered, aged, and racialised identity. In diasporan organisations, the results show that the internet serves to facilitate social events, collective actions, and hence cohesion in an ethnic group. In workplaces, the adoption of the internet is found to serve as a symbol of modernisation for the diasporans to (re)negotiate their imagery of development, the West, and the Other when seeking jobs in-between labour markets around the globe.

Doran, M.

University College Dublin

Media Literacy and Equality: Can the audience set the media agenda to be followed by the elite?

The ideas discussed in this research paper outline the impact new media is having on how the media industry operate and whose information makes news. This work originates from work with postgraduate students in the Equality Studies Centre UCD who wanted to develop greater levels of media literacy and empowerment. We developed the Equality and the Media module that develops activists' knowledge of media literacy by critically studying how and why the media operates. It aims to develop critical thinking about media alongside practical workshops on how to access different media platforms.

New media technology has changed working practices and cultures, as it becomes a core information and content source for media practitioners. For activists, this opens up important spaces and new media as a site for social action is where minorities and rights based groups can congregate and mobilize.

The paper looks closely at the Participatory Research and Action case study of St Michael's Estate Regeneration Team, Inchicore, Dublin. It documents the story of a working class community's journey to become media literate. It charts their journey from being a relatively unknown community group to becoming recognised nationally as media experts. It outlines the media literacy programme they followed and highlights the impact media coverage had on how their story unfolds. They are using mainstream and new media to tell their story, raise public awareness, instigate debate, influence policy and legislation.

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METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

Baldwin, C.

University of Bradford

Assemblies of guilt: An actor-network analysis of a case of alleged child abuse:

Actor-network theory has been applied to a wide range of areas, though there is little written about ANT and social work. This is surprising given that social work relies upon the assembly of all manner of things (from documentation, to testimony, to available physical resources, to treatment and to the law). Here I seek to use ANT to analyse a case of alleged child abuse in which the mother was alleged to have harmed her son and thus pose an unmanageable danger to her newborn daughter. By identifying networks at various stages of the case it is possible to explore the assemblies and reassemblies of actors in the furtherance of a narrative of guilt and dangerousness. While the local authority succeeded in removing the child for adoption, the European Court of Human Rights stated that the initial removal of the child was not based on 'relevant or sufficient reason', thus implicitly criticising the investigation and prosecution of the case. How was it, then, that the initial narrative of guilt was so persuasive? In tracing these (re)assemblies or actors it becomes possible to identify the process whereby doubt, uncertainty, lack of empirical evidence and counter-evidence and argument were managed in the pursuit of a final assembly of actors robust enough to persuade the High Court to accede to the local authority's application. In conclusion I will indicate the possibilities of ANT in the understanding of social work practice.

Melo, S., Beck, M.

University of York

The role of networks in improving patient safety – a case study

Patient safety is a topic of major interest to health care professionals, managers, politicians and the general public. Most of the studies on patient safety conducted to date can be classified as belonging to empiricists, organisational

rationalists or professional culture promoting approaches (Joyce et al, 2005). The first approach mainly aims at describing, defining and assessing the incidence and severity of errors. The second approach places error within the context of organisations as systems. Finally, the third approach considers error and risk as inevitable part of health service provision and therefore focuses on their day to day management.

The paper discusses an alternative approach to managing and improving patient safety in hospital settings which draws on actor-network theory (ANT). This approach not only places relevancy on the role of systems and professional culture aspects but also addresses the significant role that interactions between different actors (human and non-human) play in the development and maintenance of patient safety. The paper starts by examining the suitability of the ANT approach in relation to research on patient safety management and explores the potential contribution of ANT to a deeper understanding of practices that improve patient safety and their implementation in hospital settings. This analysis is underpinned by a detailed case study of a falls prevention initiative at a Portuguese university hospital. This study notes the deficiencies of systems and culture based approaches and highlights the need for a deeper understanding of the crucial interactions which shape safety outcomes in these settings.

Roesch-Marsh, A.

University of Stirling

It's a systems problem! Using systems theory to make sense of secure accommodation decision making in social work.

This paper argues that a systems-focused approach can be helpful in understanding the complexities of social work decision making. From a social work perspective systems theory has been used as a framework for assessment and intervention; social workers are encouraged to look beyond the individual to understand the wider context and social dynamics. Intervention is focused on redirecting and balancing the system rather than getting the individual to change. This paper outlines the findings from a study undertaken in Scotland which examined local social work decision making when young people were referred for placements in secure accommodation. Using a mixed methodological approach which included interviews, observations, focus groups and documentary analysis it sought the perspective of social workers, managers, residential workers and young people. A range of influencing factors were identified which broadly fell into two categories: factors within the decision operator(s) and factors relating to the organisational context. Drawing on these findings, this paper explores the methodological and theoretical complexity of analysing social work decision making. It argues that a systems perspective offers a realistic and holistic framework for understanding what really happens when social workers are faced with difficult decisions involving situations of risk. It recommends that systems theory be more widely applied by social workers and managers in order to ensure more reflexivity in decision making practice. It suggests that further studies of everyday social work decision making are needed to develop our understanding of the uses and limitations of a systems perspective for research and practice

Higate, P.

Private Military Security Contractors: Suspicious Bodies in Sub-Cultures of Risk

Private Military Security Contractors work within a deeply masculinised industry comprised of 'cowboys', 'shooters' and 'professionals'. Who or what one does within this diverse setting is configured by one's national, ethnic and gendered identity that in turn, configures everyday personal and professional subcultures. Framed in light of the absence of thoroughgoing gendered analyses of the diverse, but globally significant private security sphere, this paper poses two key questions. First it asks 'What do we miss when we ignore masculinity in our examination of the industry? And second, in a more substantive sense, 'How do Private Military Security Contractors imagine, practice and embody security in their work? Responses to these two lines of enquiry will be pursued through a number of mediums including the popularised magazine *Soldiers of Fortune* as well as with qualitative data generated from interviews with individuals employed as contractors. The theoretical framework used in these analyses is developed from a novel combination of critical mens' studies with literature on the body and military masculinity where the articulation of the everyday with the geopolitical is foregrounded in analyses.

Oerton, S.

University of Glamorgan,

"It's Just Routine Work Now": Registrars' Perceptions of Civil partnership Registration in Wales

and practices of register offices in Wales wrought by the Civil Partnership Act (2004). Since the passing of the Act, register offices in Wales have opened their doors to nearly one thousand same-sex couples who have given notice of their intention to enter into a civil partnership and undergone a registration process which may or may not be accompanied by a tailor-made ceremony to mark the couple's 'big day'. Drawing upon fieldwork interviews with ten

civil partnership registrars in South Wales, this paper critically examines their views and experiences of civil partnership registration to date. It argues that there are important issues for service providers with regard to the delivery of civil partnership registration, and that these issues take particular and paradoxical forms. Underlying and informing these service delivery issues are complex discursive constructions concerning sameness and difference that are drawn upon by registrars to generate a quasi-official, neo-liberal discourse which has the effect of constituting same-sex partnership registrations as positive, enjoyable, especially deserving and even more 'romantic' than many civil marriages. But this can also mask other discursive utterances around civil partnership which tend to remain less clearly articulated or subtly buried. By critically interrogating the discourses deployed by civil partnership registrars, this paper adds to academic analyses of the regulatory frameworks surrounding same-sex relationships and contributes to ongoing debates about the simultaneously radical and conservative impact of civil partnerships in the UK to date.

Choi, Y.

King's College London

Taming the transgendered citizen

Transgender people are a rapidly growing population (Whittle 2009) even though the proportion of the transgender population is still a minority. Adhering to this growth, legal institutions and governing bodies in UK have begun to recognise human rights issues regarding transgender citizens. Most notably, the Gender Recognition Act was established in 2004 to prevent discriminatory acts against transsexual people who transition to and live in their acquired gender. The recent legal establishment of the Single Equality Bill and the National ID Card scheme also include transgender issues.

However, the details of legal inclusion of transgender citizen has not be subject to much critically review: How do transgender related laws acknowledge transgender people and what is the coverage of legal protection within the legal definition of transgender? How far is this legal establishment a matter of human rights or is it underpinned by procedures to normalise transgender citizens? How far can legal protection actually reach in terms of a transgendered person's safety and socio-economic security?

The paper argues that there is "legal deception" regarding transgendered related laws. Most laws require people to "pass" as male or female and "fitting-in" to a gender binary system is the key qualification for the provision of legal protection. The legal system fails to understand, and ignores, the variety of transgendered identities, and most of the transgendered population are excluded from legal protection. As a result, transgendered people who are outside the legal boundary have to invent their own spatial tactics to mobilise their transnesses.

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OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Murray, M.

NUI Maynooth

Public consultation in the Republic of Ireland – discursive democracy as governmentality.

Any examination of the public consultation processes uncovers a divergence between the objectives of public policy administrators and members of the public and community and voluntary sector. This paper looks at how discourses of normative democratic participation are mediated by power into self-regulation, subjugation and ultimately, marginalisation from instances of decision-making by drawing on extensive research on public consultation processes in the Republic of Ireland conducted between 2004 and 2006 and an in-depth evaluation of the first ever use of 'e-consultation' in the Irish national parliament (the Oireachtas) in 2006-7. Here, it will be tentatively argued that discursive modes of engagement do not signal the advent of a shift from hierarchy to 'heterarchy' with the emergence of 'horizontal modes' of policy-making and this is in part, due to identifiable distance between theory and practice. Instead, an analysis based on the Foucauldian concept of 'governmentality' offers an insight into the exercise of power that remains absent from many theoretical constructs of public political engagement

Doyle, C.

Glasgow Caledonian University

Why social enterprise? An in-depth examination of the benefits of employing people with learning difficulties.

It is currently estimated that there are some 1,100 social enterprises operating within Scotland (although this is thought to be an underestimation of the true total). Many of these organizations, as part of their overall aims and objectives, employ people with learning difficulties. According to the Social Enterprise Coalition 'Why social enterprise?' there are three main reasons for starting up such an organization. One, you want to change the world; two, your not just in it for the money; and three, you do things differently. However, these motives are very broad in nature and may not include the true motivations of many such enterprises. This research will examine the motives of several social enterprises in Scotland to identify a fuller set of motives for operating a socially responsible enterprise. It will achieve this through interviewing key personnel within several such organizations to see if their personal motives agree with that of the coalition

Uprichard, E., Nettleton, S., Beer, D.

University of York

Foodles of Change: Discourses on Food and Eating, 1928s-2009

This presentation provides an overview of the changing discourses on food and eating between the late 1920s and early 2009. It does so by drawing its sample of text - namely, article titles, abstracts and key words - from the academic journal database, Sociological Abstracts, and using Wordle, the online word mapping visualisation tool. Indicative findings suggest three inter-related changes. Firstly, despite the obvious link between 'food' and 'eating', it would appear that the terms generate significantly different discourses. Secondly, discourses about 'food' have shifted from a focus on global food policy and food distribution towards a focus on food in terms of leisure and consumption. Thirdly, discourses about 'eating' have shifted from a focus on nutrition and what is considered 'healthy' towards a focus on what are considered more problematic eating behaviours and disorders, which are also typically associated with women and children. In turn, the presentation provides a historical account of the ways in which academic articles on food and eating have changed both in content and meaning, reflecting a more general wave of change about food and eating in everyday life over the past century.

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SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Smith, G. J. D.

City University London

'The Iron Code in the Velvet Glove: on the social implications of digital justice'

This paper critically considers the emergence and everyday practice of 'digital governance' and ruminates over the social and philosophical implications of such rule. Particular attention is paid to the hyper-rationality and pre-emptive logics, and latent positivism, influencing modern surveillance system design and operationalisation and the consequences for relations between institutions of governance and civil society. This involves problematizing the former's increasing dependence/reliance on the judgements made by computer code, socially constructed algorithms which, using numeric formula, automatically and autonomously classify and sort the vast swaths of compressed information captured in the far reaching tentacles of surveillant apparatuses. Drawing on a number of case study examples, the paper then analyses the accuracy or otherwise of digitalised representations of reality, before asking what purposes and in whose interests such simulations serve. The argument proffered throughout is that new intellectual and conceptual tools are required in order to better understand and critique these increasingly latent, but socially significant, decision making processes. More than anything, this paper situates contemporary surveillance desires firmly within historical enlightenment ideals of rational progress and, following Actor-Network theory reasoning, requests that sociological futures be much more orientated toward active anthropological engagement in computer software programming laboratories so that currently opaque languages, practices and imaginative thought processes are made transparent and can be held to account.

Rose, E.

Australian National University

ICTs and the work/home interface: Factors influencing workers' participation in personal mediated communications during the workday

The potential for information and communication technologies (ICTs) to reorganise space and time has emerged as a key theme in social theory. One way this has been explored by scholars of work is in terms of the ability of ICTs to overcome the spatial and temporal boundary between work and home. Particular focus has been given to the way that work may be extended outside of standard locations and times. My research concentrates on the potential for ICTs to overcome space and time in the other direction; to facilitate workers' personal lives entering the workday. If ICTs have affordances to overcome the spatial and temporal boundaries between work and home, the question I address is: what factors influence the way employees actually use these devices? To answer this question I draw on the theoretical perspective developed in the social studies of technology, in particular the domestication approach. Domestication was originally intended to apply to the consumption of ICTs in the home. I will be extending this approach and its conceptual tools to the new terrain of work. In this presentation I outline findings from a critical case study of employees in a telecommunications company. Data sources include communication logs of personal mediated communications made by employees during a two day period, face-to-face interviews and observation. I will identify key workplace factors that influence the use of ICTs for personal purposes during the workday and explain details of actual use patterns with reference to these factors.

Singleton, C., Green, E.

University of Teesside

Digital landscapes of sociality: spaces, connectedness, belonging

This paper explores the ways in which digital technologies are (re)shaping 'emplaced sociality' and associated meanings of the local, community and belonging (Pink, 2008). The paper draws upon new empirical data from an action research project exploring use of ICTs in diverse communities in the North East of England through the development of a network of community researchers working in designated research 'nodes'. We begin with a discussion of the processes involved in the assembly of the community research network, considering the intersecting flows of people and spaces within the research. Using community mapping data, we then proceed to explore the complex digitised landscapes of sociality in local spaces and the ways in which ICTs are shaping social organisation and attachments to place and community. Here we suggest that multiple types of sociality are present, including increasingly individualised networks re-worked through the digital, entwined with more traditional forms of localised interaction (Wellman et al., 2003). New types of connectedness are also enacted through both the research and in the creation of digital spaces such as community-based websites. However, these are contested spaces, reflecting local power relations and diverse constructions of heritage, place and belonging (Charles & Davies, 2005; Savage et al., 2005). 'Community' retains powerful symbolic meaning in diverse ways (Savage, 2008) with some residents continuing to identify with and aspire to a sense of 'community' (Sennett, 1998) and (re)creating imagined communities in new, digitised spaces.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 09:20 - 10:50

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Lim, H-J.

University of Bath

Culture, Motherhood and Employment: Findings from a Pilot Qualitative Study of East Asian Working Mothers in Britain

While there is a plethora of literature on women's experiences of motherhood and work, few studies have been conducted regarding the experiences of ethnic minority women living in the UK, particularly those of East Asian origin. The purpose of this study was to explore the narratives of East Asian working mothers and how they construct and reconstruct their identity. By using the concept of 'intersectionality', this study attempted to understand the ways in which mother and worker identity intersect with East Asian identity in Britain, and how identities emerge through this interaction. This study, based on in-depth interview data collected from 12 first-generation East Asian working mothers living in the UK, demonstrated that their ethnic identity as East Asians played a significant part in defining who they were. East Asian mothers shared a discernible trace of Confucianism, including a strong emphasis on education; an understanding of a child as their mother's possession; and having children as human nature rather than individual choice. In addition, whilst there were similarities in the experience of combining motherhood and work between East Asian mothers and their white counterparts, the difficulty of the former appears to be compounded by their ethnic minority status. In particular, deskilling was a commonly occurring discourse among the participants, with a substantial number of the respondents taking a job that required lower qualifications than they had gained.

Katartzi E.

Edinburgh University

Narratives of becoming and excluding: The case of native and migrant youths in Greece

In the context of internationalized economy and migration and of potent locality with its nationalist and fundamentalist voices, social life and subjectivities become increasingly fluid and fragmented. The paper analyses the intersectionalities between the local manifestations of the process of becoming and the wider social processes underlying and surrounding migration. It draws upon the narratives of 24 youths aged 16-19 with migratory and non-migratory background. Their narratives are analyzed as performative acts and social practices constructed locally and intersubjectively, rather than expression of their essentialist realities.

In the shadow of the omnipresent ethnocentric and monolithic Greek ideology and the widespread cultural nationalism, the paper argues that these youths engage in the weaving of their identities through a more or less ascribed, constrained and perpetually negotiated sense of belonging. Pessimism seems deeply rooted in adolescents' consciousness: distrust in politics and state institutions; disappointment for the lack of meritocracy and anger and resentment for the dearth of public figures capable of inspiring trust and of demonstrating genuine interest for the public good emerge as central themes in youths' narratives. The potent normative direction of familistic mental schemata seems to lead to a sense of suppression, which in turn sometimes kindles a reflexive search of identity and sometimes ignites an unprecedented hostility towards what they perceive as 'othered' stranger. The latter dimension points to the ascription, expressive exploitation and unequal access to the sense of belongingness as determinants of becoming a certain subject in the Greek society.

Tyrie, J.

Swansea University

Gender Inequalities In Accessing Rights: The Voice of Children In Wales

The Welsh Assembly Government in 2000 outlined a key strategic policy called Extending Entitlement; this policy defined ten "Entitlements" for all 11-25 year olds in Wales. This presentation discusses gender inequalities in young people aged eleven to sixteen's access to their 'entitlements'.

There has been no previous research into the relationship between gender and young people's access their ten entitlements. The ten Entitlements include a range of rights such as education, information, advice and feeling good and confident. Feminist arguments would suggest that females should have lower levels of access to rights, which was born out in these results. This research has found that when examining the ten entitlements separately there were gender inequalities in access to the entitlements. Young people felt that seven out of the ten Entitlements had gender differences that were highlighted during the research. The presentation will focus specifically on the entitlements that young people felt boys were thought to have better access to entitlements.

There are clear gender differences with young people suggesting that, for boys, access was easier to entitlements six, being individual, entitlement seven, easy access to services, and entitlement ten, safety and security. The presentation will explore these rights, including what factors in their psycho-social background might help or hinder access to the entitlements.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 09:20 - 10:50

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Doering, H.

Cardiff University

Visions of empowered community: competing narratives in the governance of local regeneration

This paper is concerned with the implications of the 'active communities' agenda for social relations in communities undergoing regeneration. It discusses the way different understandings of place as economic or social space impact on collaboration and trust in collaborative governance organisations concerned with community renewal. The concept of active citizens and active communities has enjoyed popularity among British policy makers and participation of residents in the governance of local revitalization schemes has become more and more institutionalised. 'Community' and 'social capital' have regularly been seen as positive elements in the regeneration process. This paper argues that there needs to be a more nuanced approach to the different meanings of 'community' in place and localised forms of 'social capital'. Social capital in the conceptualisation put forward here therefore has a distinct spatial dimension.

The paper is based on ethnographic research in the South East of England, in an area undergoing regeneration but characterised by fragmented social relations. It brings together policy makers' narratives and their conception of successful regeneration and the views of those representing 'community' in the regeneration process. Different actors construct community and their local social capital as hindrance or resource and highlight the tensions within one locale. Such discursive struggles, however, can easily become material struggles over place and obstruct revitalization programmes through the erosion of trust and a failure to mobilise different forms of capital.

Home, J., Hayes, G.

University of Central Lancashire

Greening London's Legacy: Environment, Civil Society, and the 2012 Games

From the outset, London 2012's bid, and subsequently, organising committee has been especially attentive to the legacy of the Olympic and Paralympic Games for London and the UK. On one level, this has been conceived simply in sporting terms, both competitive (the construction of facilities, the inspiration for a generation of young people), but also in much wider public health terms. Legacy has, however, a series of meanings, and is open to contest. This paper will aim to tease out the nature of the (future, proposed) legacy in two important areas: London's aspiration to host an exemplary Green Games; and the host city's social and civic agendas, perhaps best encapsulated in an urban regeneration project which seeks to provide high-quality affordable housing in east London.

Our paper will particularly look at the Olympic redevelopment project in terms of its environmental agenda and civic values, and will focus on the responses of civil society organisations (such as Greenpeace and BioRegional) to the environmental management and goals of the organising committee. We will discuss the impact of campaigns such as the defence of the Manor Garden allotments alongside the wider goals and implications of 2012, from the sustainable development agenda to concerns over security enforcement and the 'gating' of Olympic territory. The paper will conclude by asking: what does it mean to stage a 'Green' Olympics?

Sullivan, E.

The University of Texas at Austin

(Un)Intentional Community: The Role of Self-fulfilment in a Communitarian Organization

The rise of master-planned communities in the United States has changed the shape of the post-suburban landscape. While the value of close-knit neighborhoods is part of the traditional discourse surrounding American home life, the vast majority of housing created in the last six decades promotes insularity and isolation. Increasingly Americans are turning to new forms of master-planned communities that promote sustainable living and increased social interaction. The development of these "intentional communities" is more widespread than ever before. This study is based on fourteen months of participant observation and in-depth interviewing in a developing cohousing community. Members of cohousing communities – the most prevalent form of intentional community – create carefully planned neighborhoods that promote common space, shared resources, and collective decision-making. In planning and constructing their community, cohousers must grapple with the cultural understandings of space, privacy, and individualism that have greatly influenced the development practices of the last century and the built environment of today. The study of cohousing reveals some of the ways this tacit discourse is made explicit, and then subverted through the creation of alternative community spaces. Ironically, it also reveals that while members are drawn to cohousing based on ideals of egalitarianism and self-sacrifice, their involvement is predicated on the notion that communitarian life yields practical personal rewards. I conclude that cohousers are deeply invested in the notion of life "in community" as a potential site for personal growth and self-fulfillment and I explore the ways this both helps and hinders their collective agenda.

COSMOPOLITANISM, KANT AND COMPASSION

Kelly, MP

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Kantian epistemology and sociology of the self

Based on Kant's Critique of Pure Reason, the implications for the sociological concept of self are developed. In particular, Kant's distinction between noumenon and phenomenon is used as a basis for developing a rounded conception of self. The distinction is further elaborated with reference to identity theory. The link between the early work of Goffman and American social psychology is explored. The paper concludes with some reflections on the importance of enlightenment philosophy for understanding the origins of classical sociological theory.

Arieli, D., Ailon, G.

Emek Yizreel Academic College

Theory, Critique, Compassion: A Reevaluation of the Role of the Critical Theorist

This paper attempts to rethink the intellectual and emotional orientation of the critical theorist. Critical discourse generally deals with issues of power and we do not question its importance and contributions. We argue, however, that while the concept of "power" has undergone significant transformations throughout the years, critical researchers have not made complimentary attempts to reflexively reevaluate the standpoint from which they issue their critiques. Offering a rereading of two canonical poststructuralist and postcolonial texts—of Foucault and of Bhabha—we show how the works of these scholars laid foundations for transforming the culture of critique. Challenging the focus on "pure" reason and intellectual distancing and the antagonistic critical orientation that are reminiscent of the traditional Marxist stance, our rereading indicates that, as far as the critique of power's discursive and cultural manifestations is concerned, there is a need for a more emotionally oriented and compassionate vantage point that attempts to understand the complexity and ambiguity experienced by the people who are studied, including those who are criticized, i.e. the critique's "others." The poststructuralist and postcolonial problematisation of dichotomies of good/evil, strong/weak, and so forth must be accompanied by a reflexive reevaluation of critical researchers' orientation toward their own objects of critique: critical writers cannot reaffirm in the practice of writing the antagonistic perspective that they rebuttal in theory. Sociological critique should adopt a more sympathetic and emotionally nuanced stance that is capable of understanding and representing the complexity of the various subject-positions entangled in and defined by discursive/cultural power-plays.

Roche, M.

Sheffield University

Cosmopolitanism and the Sociology of Europe

Cosmopolitanism has been recently proposed as a relevant sociological perspective for understanding European society, for instance in the work of Ulrich Beck and his colleagues. The paper reflects on this proposal. It considers the concept of cosmopolitanism and assesses its relevance in the sociological and social theoretical understanding of Europe both in normative and analytic terms. The paper argues that the cosmopolitan perspective has considerable potential sociological and social theoretical relevance and use providing it is interpreted i) normatively in 'minimal' or 'negative' terms, and ii) analytically in ways which focus on the 'coexistence' and 'complexity' characteristics of European history and sociality. The discussion draws on aspects of my new book 'Exploring the Sociology of Europe: An analysis of the European Social Complex' (2009, Sage).

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 09:20 - 10:50

PROFESSIONAL FORUM

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

THE FUNDING OF SOCIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN BRITAIN 2010-2015

The future of research funding for sociology in Britain appears somewhat bleak. Likely reductions in public spending combined with ever increasing competition for research council funds raise significant strategic problems for the social science community. This round table discussion will involve a representative of the ESRC and some sociologists who have recently been engaged in offering advice to ESRC about strategic priorities, chaired by Alan Warde. Panel members will be Adrian Alsop, Director of Research at the ESRC, Sue Scott, Chair of the International Benchmarking Exercise in Sociology, John Urry, author of the 2007 report to ESRC concerning innovation in sociological research. The panel will discuss general issues of funding and strategy, their analysis of the state of sociological research in the UK, and the prospects for its future. There will be a substantial amount of time devoted in the session for participation by the audience.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 09:20 - 10:50

PROFESSIONAL FORUM 2

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

FIFTY YEARS OF IMPACT: REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIOLOGICAL CAREER OF RAY PAHL

The "impact" of research is receiving much attention. This session discusses what the impact of sociological research is and how such impact comes about by focusing on the career of Ray Pahl, whose contributions to British sociology spanning the last 50 years constitute a particularly interesting case study in impact. The session involves short (10-minute) presentations from John Brewer, Chris Pickvance, Claire Wallace John Holmwood and Graham Crow, who are all familiar with different aspects of Pahl's body of work, which stretches from urban sociology to households, from all forms of work to friendship, from stratification to community, and from managers and organizations to the social-psychological consequences of success. Presenters will not assume prior knowledge of Pahl's work. Each presentation will focus on a different aspect of "impact": that of research monographs, of working with non-academic organizations, of writing for popular publications, of international collaboration, and of teaching (including teaching non-sociologists). In each of these areas, Pahl has a distinctive profile, and he will be invited to comment on the presentations before the session is opened up for a more general discussion of the different meanings of impact, the time frames in which impact occurs, and strategies for increasing the chances of impact among members of sociology's different audiences, including politicians and government officials, community groups, and other lay audiences as well as sociologists within and beyond academia. The session will also discuss unintended impact, and whether the last 50 years have seen impact become harder for sociologists to achieve.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

TEHCNOLOGY AND TRANSGRESSION

Ketelaar, G

The Open University

Downloading as a manifestation of political disaffection & controlling dissent

Whilst it is widely acknowledged that large numbers of people engage in illegal downloading, it is rarely thought of as a form of political protest or action. Based on interviews with downloaders, this paper will argue that participation in downloading represents a form of political education and socialisation for some people. Downloaders educate themselves about key movements and people who engage(d) in struggles against hegemonic political regimes. This represents an important contribution to contemporary thinking about political engagement and citizenship. It furthermore provides some interesting insight into the versatility and responsiveness of citizens at large to the lack of genuine political options which they feel they have. In an age of ever-creeping security and surveillance, a certain subsection of society, clearly indicate through these interviews that they are worried about the meaning and legitimacy of democracy when the extent of freedom of information on the internet looks set to be bought and sold off, and policed in ways yet to be determined. This paper will chart the recent lobbying and political attempts to close down on the hitherto existing parameters of freedom of information on the net; and will show how these moves to lock down on illegal downloading have, for some, all the characteristics of a stealthy collaboration between the super powers of the cultural industries and the political elite. I utilise Bourdieu's ideas on symbolic violence and misrecognition to highlight how downloaders have a very different take on what crimes are being committed.

Deville, J.

Goldsmiths, University of London

Technologies of automation and empathy: mapping the domestic terrain of consumer credit collections

Drawing on interviews with defaulting debtors and empirical research in the consumer collections industry, this paper seeks to open up the mechanisms through which, drawing on Franck Cochoy, the potential 'captation' of the defaulter occurs. It explores the ways in which domestic spaces become the targets of 'technologies of affect' that rely on a combination of automated collections technologies – personalised letters, autodiallers, pre-recorded voice messaging – and the interpersonal skills of the collections agent. From the collector's perspective, it is necessary to do more than simply make contact with a rational calculating economic agent. First, in the quest amongst different lenders to ensure their repayment in as fast a time as possible, automated collections technologies seek to act as affective prompts for defaulter 'engagement': they consist of attempts to insert an individual collections company into embodied routines and rhythms and thereby to perform household spaces as spaces of calculation. Second, in their interpersonal dealings with defaulters, collections agents become key market devices: they are expected at once to empathise, or 'feel with' defaulters, as well as to be able to effectively perform the separation between an affective entanglement and ensuring a debtor's financial commitment. In examining the interplay of these two processes, this paper also points towards the partialities in these processes, to the ways in which the deployment of these technologies is characterised by points of friction and overflow.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Lashua, B.

Leeds Metropolitan University

Music, maps, and memories: 'new' directions and 'old' detours in the sociology of pop

This paper traces relationships between popular music, social memories, and urban regeneration. The paper draws from a 2-year AHRC-funded project (2007-2009) concerned with musicians' perceptions of music-making and the urban environment (i.e., 'musicscapes') in Liverpool. The paper takes as its focus musicians' everyday routes and routines, as well as questions the broader political economy of 'creative cities' in terms of the appropriation of the local musical heritage for political and entrepreneurial ends. These developments illustrate how Liverpool and other cities have been remodelled as part of a wider process of social and economic restructuring and re-branded as centres of cultural consumption. Using Liverpool as a case study during its 2008 European Capital of Culture year, the research documented, recorded, and mapped the social spaces, sites and movements of musicians, creating an ethnographic archive of the transforming city. In addition to interviewing musicians ('indie rock', 'pub rock' and 'urban' musicians), I moved through the city with them, participated in and observed their music-making practices. Crucially, during interviews musicians were invited to draw maps of their 'pathways' (Finnegan, 1989), charting the biographical pathways they took through life, and the regular pathways they took around the city to engage in everyday music-related activities. This paper will share these maps as itineraries that memorialise contested or hidden histories of Liverpool musicscapes. Musicians' maps and social memories offer wider purchase on debates over representations of Liverpool as the 'capital of pop', and deployments of these representations as markers of 'successful' urban regeneration.

Allett, N.

University of Manchester

Extreme Metal and its 'Feeling Community'

This paper calls attention to the distinct relationship the fan/subculturalist has with music. Drawing on my doctoral research with a group of Extreme Metal music fans, I explore how Extreme Metal music offers affective attachment and consider how music subculture may be related to the coming together of music fans as a 'feeling community'. The paper highlights that feelings gave my respondents a sense of solidarity, authenticity and identification and were a key reason for why they became embedded in subculture. I argue that Extreme Metal has distinct 'structures of feeling' identified in my respondents' affective experience of live music and their shared-language used to describe feeling. These 'structures of feeling' symbolise the social identity and character of the subculture and its members. Furthermore, my respondents identified subcultural 'authenticity' through feeling and were united through feeling. It was the interaction of collective feeling, therefore, that created subcultural identification for my respondents, placing the Extreme Metal subculture as a 'feeling community'.

Gibson, L.

University of Manchester

'It'll never be over for me': Threading popular music through the life course

Traditionally, sociological studies of popular music have focused on young people and youth cultures. This paper builds on existing work by exploring the salience, meaning and long-term social uses of popular music for people aged over thirty. The paper is based on PhD research which employed an ethnographic approach to investigate the experiences of 'older' fans in northern and rare soul, rock, and electronic dance music 'scenes'.

The research findings demonstrate that music tastes are typically formed during a person's youth and then remain relatively stable through the life course. A central argument is that long-term popular music consumption, and participation in scenes, is best understood as a thread of involvement. The thread of music involvement stresses the fluidity of cultural participation since popular music weaves through the life course with shifting meaning, engagement and experience.

This paper also highlights the gendered nature of popular music consumption, which age adds particular significance to, as older women are often marginalised in popular music scenes. Case-studies of older fans of northern and rare soul, rock, and EDM demonstrate that popular music does not necessarily wane in importance as people grow older and that long-term involvement in popular music scenes can be a highly meaningful and salient feature of adult lives. In contrast to existing studies, this paper argues that leisure practices and popular music tastes that began during youth can be extended and re-worked in adulthood.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Lambert, P.S; Griffiths, D.P.

University of Stirling

Social Networks and Occupational Structure

This paper will present our findings from a comparison of a social distance analysis and a social networks analysis applied to data on social interactions between the incumbents of occupational positions. The application of social distance analysis techniques ('SID', for Social Interaction Distance) to occupational data is well documented. These analyses identify a structure to occupational interaction patterns which is conceived of as a dimensional representation of the structure of social stratification and inequality (e.g. 'CAMSIS' scales/the Cambridge scale). Social network analysis applied to large scale occupational data is however a new initiative; we will present results which show how this style of analysis works and discuss its potential sociological contribution.

Our analyses use large scale survey datasets with information on social interaction connections between occupational positions (e.g. two occupations linked by a marriage or friendship between incumbents, or by inter-generational connections). Our preliminary findings are that both social interaction distance and social network analysis techniques reflect the structure of social stratification (and the centrality of occupations to that structure). The latter techniques can also provide insights into unusually influential connections between occupations, and evidence of clusters and/or exclusionary groupings within the stratification structure.

Cliquennois, G.

Facultés Universitaires Saint-Louis (Académie Louvain)

Work Assignment in French Prisons

How do inmates get a job in prison? How does their recruitment work? These questions have been discussed by several researchers who generally consider the assignment process to be inverted compared with that of labor markets. According to them, recruitment is not based on professional skills but is generated by the specific nature of jobs in prison and the security requirements as determined by the prison staff (Dawson, 1975; Legge, 1978; Jacobs, 1999; Guilbaud, 2008). On the contrary, non-participant observations conducted in two French prisons during eight months show that the recruitment of inmates is actually not that different than the process observed in labor markets ; it follows the same logic of segmentation and career progress, even if hiring processes are partially influenced by security concerns and the length of penalties. First, the labor market into these French prisons is divided into three segments defined in terms of working time, level of wages and training. This segmentation is notably based on the age, health, length of the penalty, cell location and professional skills. Second, career progress into each segment is observed, depending on social and technical skills. Finally, a competency-based hiring process is reinforced by customer requirements in terms of productivity and the necessity to create customers loyalty. A New Public Management focused on the level of employment of inmates further strengthens this kind of hiring process.

Barnes, M and Becker, E.

National Centre for Social Research

Finding the time: Understanding the participation time of atypical workers

The Government promotes work as the best route to welfare and personal well-being, with worklessness going hand-in-hand with low income and social exclusion. However, not all workers avoid disadvantage; including the low paid, those who work in poor conditions and those with stressful jobs. Another factor that can impact on workers' lives is how much, and when, people work.

There is a body of research that investigates the impact of working hours on well-being. Evidence shows that full time work can negatively affect people's ability to participate and feel integrated in society, through activities such as socialising, volunteering and helping others. Alongside this research evidence there is an argument that accepted time patterns, such as free weekends and evenings, are being called into question by the magnitude of workers working at unsocial times and changes to opening times of shops and leisure facilities. Despite this societal shift, people that work unsocial hours can still find their leisure time constrained by the availability of facilities and services, and of other people to spend this time with.

This research uses secondary analysis of the UK Time Use Survey to compare the time that 'atypical' and 'standard hours' workers spend on participation activities. The research investigates whether when people work can constrain their opportunities to take part in participatory activities. It utilises the fact that diary information records the time when people undertake activities to graphically illustrate at what times of day people work and when they take part in participation activities.

Gatt, S., Brown, M.

University of Malta

Community programmes promoting social cohesion and educational achievement

This paper is a work-in-progress report that presents the results obtained for the first three years of a 5-year longitudinal study on community programmes within schools, part of the project Includ-Ed (Strategies for inclusion and social cohesion in Europe from education) funded by the European Commission within the sixth framework programme. Successful schools in low socio-economic areas obtaining educational achievement through implementing community programmes involving parents and local organisations were identified. The two hypotheses held were: communities involved in learning projects within schools help to develop integration and effectiveness of social and educational interventions; and such projects contribute to reduce inequalities and marginalisation, and foster social inclusion and empowerment of students at school. The research methodology used was the Critical Communicative Methodology. The first three years of the research have provided insight on what community involvement brings to the learning process. The results show that these successful schools demonstrate similar aspects in their educational practices. The schools studied were found to: cater for learning for both the children and their parents within the school premises; provide stronger links between school life and home educational practices; practise egalitarian dialogue and democratic organisation in decisions taken; involve the community in decision-making processes; allow parents to participate to different degrees in the development of the curriculum, classroom practices and in evaluation; and together with all the community hold high expectations with respect to the students' educational achievement.

Ravaioli, P.

University of Bologna

Working-Class Families in the Time of «Pedagogy of Autonomy» and «Family-School Partnership»: The Case of Italian Primary School.

My paper deals with the role of new pedagogies and family-school «partnership» model in relation to social class inequalities in education. In particular, it critically examines the assumption that they are effective means for reducing both cultural distances between families and the school system, and social class differences in school performance. For this purpose, the paper presents the findings of a qualitative research on the school experience of Italian urban working-class families with children enrolled in the primary school.

In the first place, I will analyse the «official discourse» (Bernstein) of contemporary Italian primary school's «pedagogy of autonomy» in order to reconstruct the implicit conception of childhood it expresses. I will argue that the key notion of child's moral, emotional and intellectual «autonomy» is composed of two inseparable though not equally «visible» dimensions: behind the more visible expressive dimension of autonomy (child's right to self-determination), there is the essential conception that autonomy is a learned and not an innate quality.

In the second place, I will examine the ways in which legitimate pedagogic discourse and its underlying educational representations are incorporated into working-class families' forms of parental involvement in their children's schooling. I will argue that this involvement rests on a selective appropriation of activist pedagogy and, as a result of this, on unintentionally «heterodox» interpretations of school's demands. In particular, I will argue that only the more visible expressive dimension of the notion of child's «autonomy» seems to have been successfully incorporated into Italian working-class families' contemporary educational culture.

Morton, R.

University of Warwick

Walking the Line: Home education as a fine balance between parental fulfilment and hard labour

Home education is a growing movement both in the UK and worldwide. As a relatively recent phenomenon, and one which is largely hidden as a result of its private nature, Home Education is under-researched in the UK. In particular there is little known about the experiences of home educating parents. Based upon data from an in-depth qualitative study of home educating families in England and Wales, this paper focusses on the balancing act faced by parents (particularly mothers) who choose to home educate their children. While personal sacrifice and hard work are key aspects of home education for parents, it can also act as a site of personal fulfilment for them. It is argued that, that a perceived balance between the two aspects is crucial in parents' decisions to start and then to continue home educating their children.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Hines, S; Davy, Z.

University of Leeds

Recognition and Regulation: Gendered and Sexual (In)Equalities and the Gender Recognition Act.

Representing the civil recognition of gender transition, the UK Gender Recognition Act (GRA, UK, 2004) marks an important change in attitudes towards transgender people; enabling the change of birth certificates and granting trans people the right to marry or civilly partner in their acquired gender. These developments reflect broader social changes around the conceptualization and the lived experiences of sexuality, and illustrate how questions of gendered, sexual, intimate and embodied identity and citizenship are being debated, contested and reconfigured. The paper will draw on research findings from an on-going ESRC funded project exploring the impact and significance of the Gender Recognition Act.

The paper will first explore understandings of 'sex', gender and sexuality, and the relationship between these, within the GRA. It will move on to examine areas of connection and disconnection between the GRA and other recent equalities legislation; notably the Civil Partnership Act (CPA, UK, 2004). The paper will point to the ways in which legislation problematically fuses 'gender' and 'sexuality'; consequently failing to account for the nuanced formations and intersections of sexuality and gender.

In conclusion the paper will suggest that while the GRA and the CPA were guided by a need to further account for gender and sexual multiplicity, new regulatory practices emerging from processes of recognition may limit expressions of gendered and sexual diversity, and thus hamper routes to equality.

Sanger, T.

Queen's University of Belfast

Exploring the ethics of intimacy: trans people's partnerships

Has intimacy changed over time? Does Western society now make more space for previously untolerated intimate possibilities? Can the identifications and experiences of trans people and their partners add to our understandings of intimacy and change?

Using a Foucauldian framework of governmentality, ethics and the care of the self I consider the experiences of trans people and their intimate partners, as interviewed in a recent research project. Governmentality offers a framework for examination of how intimacy is regulated in society, while my exploration of ethics focuses upon the need for a more open and less proscriptive understanding of intimate possibilities.

The ways in which trans people and their partners negotiate their partnerships both within and beyond current dominant discourses of intimacy are considered through analysis of interview data. I examine the limits such discourses impose upon all intimate relationships, as well as those legal discourses - for example, marriage and civil partnership - which strongly influence how people live their intimate lives. More specifically, I shall discuss a number of relevant case studies and their implications for the governmentality and intimacy literatures, focusing on the diversity of intimate lives currently being lived and exploring whether examination of the experiences of those attempting to live beyond social norms can expand our understanding of intimacy with respect to relationality, legal frameworks and social change.

Dowling, S.

University of the West of England

Breastfeeding older babies and children: taboo, stigma and prejudice in contemporary British breastfeeding experience

Few babies in the UK are breastfed at 6 months; an unknown number continue to breastfeed beyond this time even though this is the recommendation of the World Health Organisation. Women in Britain today who breastfeed older babies and children do so, therefore, knowing that they are unusual. Little is known about their experiences although it is likely that many women who breastfeed long-term do so in secret, with profound implications relating to this for both mother and child. Cultural beliefs relating to breastfeeding compound this; notions of sexuality/incest and the difficulties around cultural expectations of what breasts are for all intersect in a complicated mix. Taboos around breastfeeding – related to other taboos around women's bodies and their functions – have been evident in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

This presentation will draw on ethnographic work undertaken for a PhD. Early results suggest that a deeper understanding of the nature of taboo and secrecy as it relates to long-term breastfeeding will give a different dimension to our understanding of the experiences of women who choose to nurture their children in this way. Drawing on sociological, anthropological and cultural explanations of stigma, prejudice, secrecy and taboo, I will relate this to my work on women's experiences of breastfeeding long-term. Theoretical ideas will be related to the data I have collected about women's experience and the presentation will be illustrated with examples from the data and discussion of key themes arising from the analysis.

Atkinson, A.M., Sumnall, H.

Liverpool John Moores University

Gender differences in media representations of alcohol and drinking: An analysis of male and female targeted magazines

Whilst a significant body of British research on the media and alcohol has accumulated in recent years there still exists important gaps, particularly in terms of how alcohol and its use is depicted in media targeted at different genders. This paper presents some findings from a Joseph Rowntree Foundation funded study exploring the ways in which alcohol and drinking are portrayed in those media most commonly consumed by young people (11-18 year-olds). Given that initiation into drinking usually begins in the mid teens and that popular media consumption plays an important role in young people's lives, studying the representations of alcohol and alcohol use in the media that young people commonly consume is an important area of enquiry. Selecting texts for analysis based on findings from a survey of young people, the paper will pay particular attention to how alcohol and drinking are represented in the most commonly read magazines (e.g. Nuts, Zoo, Heat, and Closer). Using a combination of quantitative and qualitative content analysis techniques, this aspect of the wider study captures any differences between the representations made in magazines targeted at males and the representations made in magazines targeted at females. The paper will present some preliminary but immediately significant findings.

Manning, P.

University of Winchester

Being Stoned on You Tube

To date relatively little attention has been paid to the multiplicity of messages about intoxication and the consumption of drugs, including alcohol, circulated via new media and social networking sites. Jones (2005) has examined the extent to which young people may resist official discourses through their own video practices and a wider range of research has begun to explore how young people talk about intoxication (for example, Griffin et. al., 2009). However, the extent to which video file sharing sites such as You Tube, circulate a complex, multiplicity of 'drug discourses' and the ways in which these may serve both to discipline and promote drug behaviours, has not received much attention to date. This is surprising given the extensive debates around the extent to which new media may or may not provide opportunities for identity construction, 'performativity', and on-line communal belonging (Lister et. al., 2009). The availability of new technologies such as mobile phones, personal digital devices and cheap camcorders, has made it much more possible to both record personal experience and knowledge relating to drug discourses and to circulate these via You Tube and similar sites. But, significantly, also to record the experience and behaviour of others. Thus, recorded participation may or may not be voluntary, and there may be a multiplicity of intended 'messages' associated with such videos, from the celebratory to the disciplinary. This paper reports on the early stages of research designed to explore both the video texts and their reception amongst young You Tube consumers.

Reid, I.

University of Stirling

'Discourses of 'Otherness' in popular media narratives of Scottish sport'

This paper will offer a critical analysis of the popular media narratives associated with sport with sport in Scotland. Using discourse analysis techniques the paper seeks to: (i) identify the narratives of identity and 'otherness' evident in media coverage of sport; (ii) examine the common mechanisms of 'othering' that infuse these narratives; and (iii) examine critically the embedded ideologies that deny these narratives sustain a particular form of racism in Scottish society. The analysis concentrates on football-related content collated from newspapers and radio broadcasts between January 2006 and May 2008. It is argued that the discourses of 'Otherness' manifest in relation to sport in Scotland incorporate conspicuous stereotypes around race, ethnicity and culture. But they also operate in subtle, covert and insidious ways. The embedded ideologies manifest in the popular narratives surrounding sport are illustrative of dysconscious racism ; that is "a form of racism that tacitly accepts dominant ... norms" and sustains uncritically "certain culturally sanctioned [and internalised] assumptions, myths, and beliefs" (King, 1997: 128). In Scotland, dysconscious racism services at least three inter-connected functions: (i) it perpetuates ideas that marginalize and exclude those whose identity marks them as not Scottish; (ii) it justifies certain ideological assumptions about Scotland/Scottish identity; (iii) it sustains the collective national myth that racism is not a problem in Scotland.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

HEALTH INEQUALITIES: ETHNICITY AND 'RACE'

Filc D., Davidovich N.

Ben Gurion University

SES, ethnicity and inequalities in utilization of health care services in Israel

The Israeli society is divided by different cleavages (class, ethnic, migration, national, gender) which determine access to resources and social status, and, consequently, also influence health status. While the latter results from the complex interaction between genetics, environmental and social determinants of health, access to health care services and utilization of the latter, still have an important role. Access to health care in Israel is universal for Israelis, as established by the 1994 National Health Insurance law. The law considers access to health care services as a right, and expresses an explicit commitment to equality and solidarity. The Israeli health care system thus combines a "single payer" system with the provision of services by four public, non-profit sick funds. However, while the institutional framework should allow for a high degree of equity, actual utilization of health care services is influenced by class, ethnicity, immigration and nationality. Based on data from Israel's largest sick fund, the present paper shows how socio-economic status, ethnicity, immigration and nationality influence actual utilization of different health care services: hospitalization, prescription drugs, emergency room and medical imaging. The paper discusses possible pathways that explain the results.

Afonu, D.

Gender, Class, Race and Resistance in the Discourses of African & African- Caribbean Male Mental Health Service Users

This study examines the way discursive constructions of mental health and illness are produced in the talk of African & African-Caribbean male mental health service users/survivors. Four semi-structured one-to-one interviews were conducted and their transcripts were analysed using Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (Willig 2001).

The experiences of the participants are contextualised within a critical realist framework (Parker 1992), in line with this approach the analysis is grounded in extra discursive factors; embodiment, institutions, and materiality (Sims Schouten et al. 2007). This paper also explores the historical constructions of the link between race and mental health. It observes the ways that power operates through both allowing and limiting the discourse and subject positions available to black mental health service users. It also looks at how current discourses on mental health, class, race, and gender, contribute to the inequality and racism embedded in the current mental health system.

The discourses identified are grouped into the two main themes that emerged during the analysis. The first concerns resistance and compliance in relation to psychiatric interventions. The second concerns the way that discourses on race, class, and gender mediate the meanings ascribed to mental health and permit certain subjectivities. The discourses identified reveal a number of strategies that attempt to challenge and resist dominant psychiatric discourses. A number of these strategies attempt to de-legitimise the truth status of these dominant discourses. In doing so they create a space for the construction of self defined explanatory frameworks.

Aronson, P.

Warwick University

Health Beliefs and Help-seeking Practices of Russian-speaking Migrants in Germany

After the collapse of the USSR more than three million people from former Soviet republics have migrated to Germany. Although there is some research done into general integration difficulties experienced by these groups of migrants, little is known about their health beliefs and help-seeking practices, and the purpose of this paper is to describe and explain them on the basis of fieldwork conducted in Berlin in 2008/09. The analysis is based on a theoretical approach which integrates cultural identity and socio-economic status as two major social determinants of migrant health.

I will argue that in case of migrants from the former USSR, the effects of cultural identity on health beliefs and help-seeking practices should not be attributed to ethnicity. Soviet leaders pursued to eliminate ethnic cultures, and as a result, most of the persons discussed in this paper have not experienced their ethnicity as a set of norms, beliefs and traditions expressed in everyday practices. Instead, I will argue that they have formed their health beliefs and help seeking strategies as Soviet citizens with different socio-economic and cultural identities.

First, this paper will give a historical overview of different types of health beliefs and help-seeking behaviours produced by these identities.

Second, it will argue that these identities constructed and acquired in the Soviet epoch have been integrated into migrants' lives in Germany by being translated into socio-economic categories, and that they continue affecting migrants' health beliefs and their help-seeking practices.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

RESEARCHING PERFORMANCE

Housley, W., Smith, R.

Cardiff University

Reduction in Contemporary Qualitative Methods: The Case of Conceptual Coupling, Innovation and Everyday Practices

During the course of this paper we mobilise an ideal typical framework that identifies three waves of reduction within contemporary qualitative enquiry. The paper begins with a consideration of one of sociology's key questions; namely how is social organisation possible? The paper aims to demonstrate how this question moves from view as increased specialisation and differentiation in qualitative methodology within sociology and related disciplines results in fragmentation and decontextualisation of social practices from social orders. Indeed, the extent to which the autonomy of qualitative methods as a field has been expressed through a detachment from sociological principles is considered in relation to the emergence of a reductionist tendency. The paper argues that the first wave of reduction is typified by methodological concerns such as 'discourse and the subject' and 'narrative and experience', the second by 'activity type couplings' such as 'walking and talking' and 'showing and telling' and then finally the third wave exemplified through auto-ethnography and digital lifelogging. We argue each of these three waves represent a series of steps in qualitative reduction that, whilst representing innovation, need to reconnect with questions of action, order and social organisation as a complex whole as opposed to disparate parts (Atkinson, Delamont and Housley, 2008, Housley and Fitzgerald, 2009, Housley, 2009).

Teasdale, S.

University of Birmingham

A dramaturgical approach to dramaturgy: The role of impression management in resource acquisition by social enterprises.

This paper outlines the conceptual processes involved in attempting to locate an embryonic social enterprise onto a preliminary typology. The development stages of the typology are illustrated with reference to a group of Kurdish refugees and asylum seekers producing a theatrical play based upon their collective experiences. The case study approach was longitudinal. The method of participant observation enabled a deeper understanding of the phenomena under investigation. The approach to analysis was inductive, drawing out themes for further investigation. This paper focuses upon one particular theme: the role of impression management in resource acquisition. Key findings are that the social enterprise is seen and presented in different ways by different internal stakeholders; social entrepreneurs can use impression management (the process by which individuals attempt to control the impressions others form of them) to demonstrate different faces to different audiences; this impression management is aimed at acquiring resources; however the audiences are not passive recipients of impression management; each has a strategic interest in the social enterprise being portrayed in a particular way; hence the social enterprise needs to be seen to conform to these impressions; in turn this impacts upon the behaviour of the social enterprise. An iterative model of impression management between organizational actor and audiences is developed. In the concluding section the generalizability of these findings are discussed. Finally the paper draws out the implications for researchers attempting to understand social enterprises in particular, and organizations more generally.

Abbas, A., Singleton, C., Carroll, R., O'Brien, S., Salzer, H.

University of Teesside

'Epistemological (dis)comforts and (dis)satisfactions in collaborative research'

In recent years, there has been burgeoning sociological interest in the use of artistic methods, such as film, photography, poetry and performance in qualitative data generation, analysis and dissemination. For example, artistic and performative forms of data analysis have been used by some social researchers (Bagley, 2008; Bagley and Cancienne, 2002; Gergen & Jones, 2008). This paper discusses a pilot project which was a collaboration between artists and sociologists. In researching students' experiences of 'performance', we conducted interviews and created a devised performance and dance with the students, who were also the subjects/objects of the research. Within this paper, we explain and critically evaluate the (re)assemblage of our research and illustrate the methodological and epistemological issues we were trying to address. We also describe how epistemological and ontological differences between researchers and participants influenced the process of doing research and the knowledges produced. Our research was based on relative ontological agreement but it was through the interactions of epistemologies that we began to develop new ways of thinking about methods. We frame our discussion by drawing upon the work of John Law (2004) whose critique of social science methodology and theoretical concepts have proved useful in theoretically framing our methodological journey. We also provide insights into the process and outcomes of our data generation. Our discussion and findings contribute to the growing corpus of literature which considers what sociology has to gain from engagement with artists and artistic methods and explores the potential of artistic methods in enriching qualitative research.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

CULTURES AND BODIES OF AGEING 1: EXPERIENCING BODILY AGEING

Cochrane, B.

The Open University

Growing old at the movies: Cinema-going as embodied practice

It is generally accepted that the representation of older people in the media (or lack of) works to reinforce the negative stereotypes of 'old' age and, in doing so, reproduce the marginalising structures of society. Literature on 'active ageing', however, continually includes cinema-going in discussions of constructive activities. Because they reduce isolation in later life these activities are seen to be beneficial socially, but they are also understood to have corporeal effects. By staying active, it is argued, the body ages at a slower rate. This paper explores this apparent paradox by looking at cinema-going as practice and thinking through the ways in which older bodies might co-constitute cinematic space, both material and representational. Drawing on research with women who attend matinees for the over-60s, I explore the transformative properties of pre-reflexive 'coping mechanisms' as audience members move about the cinema and watch the screen together. Through this co-constitutive understanding of cinema as embodied event I consider how we might understand cinematic pleasure among audiences who view images that contribute to their marginalisation.

Eman, J.

Umeå universitet

Managing ageing - a study of older former athletes

The main focus of the article is how older former athletes' experience the process of ageing and how they deal with the loss of (the gender related) power that ageing supposedly convey. Eight former, and in a few cases, still active amateur and elite athletes in the ages 68-90 years old have been interviewed. Grounded theory was the general methodology employed hence the entry into these men's world was rather broad, incorporating athletic careers, family relations, extracurricular activities, body images et cetera. As the work progressed the focus narrowed. The article recognizes the importance that life course experiences have on the perception and relation to ones current situation. The results show that the men employ certain strategies in order to gain more control over their self images in relation to themselves and their surroundings. Being a master over ones body as opposed to being a slave to the body appear to be of centrality in the way the former athletes handle the process of ageing.

Simpson, P.

Manchester University

Fairy Tales: The Politics of Suffering, Surviving and Surpassing in Midlife Gay Men's Responses to Ageing

How do gay men in midlife (approx late 30s – early 60s) respond to ageing? The paper explores interview and observation data generated within a Ph.D. study based in Greater Manchester. It will analyse both corporeal and spoken narratives relating to ageing in terms of differences in dress/grooming (and other bodily practices) and the forms of sociation in which gay men are involved that could either entrench conflict with younger gay men or serve as resources to counter ageism and intergenerational conflict. I aim to show how Foucauldian 'ethics of the self' and Ken Plummer's notion of how late modern narratives involve 'suffering,' 'surviving' and 'surpassing' can illuminate midlife gay men's ambivalent narratives relating to ageing, gendered sexuality, which themselves comprise capitulation, negotiation and resistance to ageist discourse. I will show how an 'ethics of the self' informs their relational practices, which suggest forms of affection, being there for the other and the older gay body as a still 'watchable self.' (Woodward). Such ethics challenge homogenising tales of the uniformly disciplinary gaze and the degraded forms of sociation said to be at work in particular spaces, as per the coldness, instrumentality, hyper-individualised 'superficiality' and age-riven nature of the 'gay scene.'

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Payne, G.

Newcastle University

The New Social Mobility: how politicians took over a sociological idea.

Although over-shadowed by the global financial crisis, social mobility – once a cornerstone of British Sociology – has been adopted by all major UK political parties as a key solution to social inequalities and the injustice of social exclusion. So how pleased should sociologists be with New Opportunities (the Government's 2009 White Paper on mobility); the Report from the Liberal Democrat's 'Independent Commission on Social Mobility (2009); or the Conservatives' Agenda for Social Mobility, Through the Glass Ceiling (2008)? Can the 'New Social Mobility' as framed by politicians, civil servants and media outlets offer a fresh solution to lack of opportunity and its associated social ills, or is it just another version of old neo-liberal social policies? The New Social Mobility draws heavily from disciplines like child psychology, economics, social work, and education, but includes only a very limited and highly selective take from sociology. That may, of course, simply reflect the dearth of sociological research on mobility since the 1970s (which in itself is problematic). However, marginalising sociology contributes towards mistaken interpretations of rates of British social mobility, and unrealistic expectations of what social mobility can offer to tackle social inequality. A content analysis of recent political statements demonstrates how social mobility discourse has been significantly modified, and consequently become incompatible with wider sociological evidence about mobility, employment, gender, and social class in Britain today. The paper thus addresses (in a relatively non-technical way) aspects of the sociological agenda; sociology and public policy; and current issues in inequalities and social justice.

Law, A., McNeish, W., Mooney, G. Annetts, J

University Of Abertay Dundee

New Wine in Old Bottles? The Contentious Politics of Social Welfare Movements

By focusing on what we broadly call 'social welfare movements', this paper seeks to give analytical expression to the plethora of collective organisations, whether old or new or the many improvised models somewhere in between, that contend around state-organised welfare. In their diverse institutional forms, national welfare regimes express an intimate and often antagonistic relationship to collective mobilisation. New social movements are often held to operate primarily through the fields of civil society, the public sphere or culture, thereby bypassing the state in their quests for progressive social change. Hence, any theoretical synthesis that brings social movement studies into contact with social policy needs to dispel a number of canards, especially the blanket emphasis on radically novel social welfare movements as well as the counter-claim that social welfare movements represent simply 'more of the same' traditional class-based organisations. We limit our understanding of social welfare movements sui generis as inherently oppositional forms of organization in contrast to assimilated and coopted groups and insider advocacy campaigns. This is done by drawing on the national case of the British welfare state. We conclude that further reflection is needed on organisational capacities, dynamics and scope of social welfare movements as we enter an era of deepening austerity for state welfare in crisis conditions.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

PROFESSIONAL FORUM

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

GETTING GRANTS: ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER SOCIOLOGISTS

In this session, Alan Warde, who is currently the Sociology representative on the ESRC Research Grants Board, will talk about the processes involved in getting a grant from the Research Councils. He will outline some of the available schemes and some of the characteristics of a successful application. Some time will be spent on explaining the criteria that committees use to distinguish among the many excellent applications they receive in a highly competitive situation. This session would be suitable for postgraduate students nearing the end of their degrees, postdoctoral researchers and early career lecturers and research associates.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEROGE MOORE M140

Kadi, S.

University of Teesside

“My daughter comes around if I get stuck by anything” Older Women’s Experiences as Internet ‘Beginners’

While older people are an expanding group of internet users, they are much less researched than younger people. This paper presents early findings from a PhD project on the impact of age and gender upon older people’s use and domestication processes (Silverstone et al. 1994) of the internet and web 2.0 sites. It draws upon semi-structured interviews with women over 55 who are internet use beginners. I will argue that it is important to combine an analysis of age-related and gendered use of the internet in order to understand why and how older women start using the internet. By analysing experiences of internet use within the framework of domestication theory, internet use and non-use can be studied as elements of everyday gender identities and provide insights into the integration of technology into everyday life. The paper will explore internet use in terms of reasons for and contexts of learning how to use the internet, and its integration with other activities.

Poleykett, B.

London School of Economics

Protocols and politics in the laboratory and beyond: practicing post colonial science in Dakar

Based on ongoing ethnographic research at a state clinic in Dakar, Senegal, this paper explores some of the complex social and spatial relations which shape a laboratory. The Senegalese state has closely regulated female commercial sex workers since independence, requiring women to register with the state and to undergo regular health checks at the dedicated state-run clinic. The state clinic has for many years now housed a biomedical research facility and many registered sex workers have participated in a range of trials.

In this presentation I seek to locate the laboratory in a wider system-network of actors working in the AIDS sector in Dakar. Far from being a discrete and bounded space the laboratory is a node in a loosely institutionalised and highly specific (post) colonial governance regime. I will show how actors in this network ‘co-produce’ (Jasanoff, 2004) artefacts such as the ‘national epidemic’ and typologies of putatively culturally specific modes of selling sex. Finally I will examine how the ethics of biomedical research circulate beyond the laboratory, both stimulating and circumscribing debate about ethical practice in the provision of health services to commercial sex workers.

Shih, L-W.

Lancaster University

Body in Enacted: Pleasure and Anxiety

The central question of this project is: how do pregnant women experience prenatal screening and testing (PST), and how do they situate themselves in relation to the foetus, family, medical professionals and technologies themselves? In my pilot interviews in Taiwan in 2008, I found that pregnant women seem to worry a lot and engage with many prenatal checks. What makes them in this position which Rayna Rapp (2001:165) might call them “moral pioneers” and “cultural conscript”? Most other studies dealing with PST have focused on Western countries. I find it is interesting to do a study in Taiwan because I want to see how pregnant women experience PST in a different way. Here, the differences in religion, health care systems and the history of eugenics, and different tradition about sex preference might be relevant aspects. Inspired by Haraway’s idea of material-semiotic, this project not only discusses how pregnant women experience PST, and also probes their relations to the foetus, medical professionals and technologies. The empirical focuses of this project come from my field work in Taiwan. I conducted 33 interviews, 15 sessions of participant observations in 3 obstetric clinics and hospitals, and also collected 26 drawings from pregnant women which show how they see the world and account for their experience of prenatal checks based on their own embodiment.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Mann, R., Plows, A., Patterson, C.

Bangor University

Emergent Hybridization? A Case Study of Grassroots Civil Society in North Wales

Political devolution has brought about an interest and concern over the nature and autonomy of civil society in Wales. Despite a growth of empirical work, there remains little knowledge of what civil society looks like at the local level, with little consideration of “grass -roots” and locally based organisations. In this paper we report findings from a case study project on “grass-roots” civil society in a north Wales locality. The project, funded as part of the newly incepted Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research, Data and Methods (WISERD), aims to examine the extent to which localities are understood through civil society activity and to explore how such local activism and identities in the chosen area have changed over time, particularly since political devolution in Wales. Drawing on ethnographic data, we provide a descriptive map of the diverse and plural nature of local civil society activity. We identify how boundaries and divisions within civil society are shaped and organised around class, linguistic and local/in-migrant status. Moreover, our ethnography also finds local activism to be characterised by varying degrees of hybridization - such as between “old” and “new” forms of activism, or between Welsh language and environmental activism - in which the salience of such boundaries are called into question. In conclusion, we attempt a broader conceptualisation of local civil societies in terms of this “emergent hybridization”, making use of social movement theory as well as theories regarding plural governance and deliberative democracy.

Demirtas-Milz, N., Saracoglu, C.

Izmir University of Economics

Neoliberal urban transformation and Turkey: Reflections from Izmir

The large-scale urban renewal projects, which included the demolition of the inner-city low-income settlements and the resettlement of the displaced migrants in the outer districts composed of “formal” apartments mark the latest stage of the neoliberal urban politics practiced in the last two decades in Turkey. The way these projects have been carried out by officials and their negative consequences particularly for the “ethnically other” migrant communities have led to a skepticism towards the merits of these projects and their claims to be for public good. By carrying such skepticism, we have been conducting a qualitative research on Konak Urban Renewal Project, which includes the total transformation of the inner-city shanty town of Izmir traditionally known as Kadifekale that inhabit mainly Kurdish migrants. As the transformation of Kadifekale bears the traces of the Kurdish question in Turkey on the one hand and the neoliberal transformation of the economy on the other, we aim to present in this conference some of our insights into these two dynamics based on our ongoing research. Our preliminary observations in the field have instructed us that people in Kadifekale cannot be seen as a monolithic community. Rather, the internal divisions, mostly along socio-economic lines, seem to have created divergent attitudes, perceptions and strategies vis-à-vis this urban transformation project. By drawing attention to this we will also try to present how misleading and fallacious it would be to construe these urban transformation projects as a negotiation/conflict merely between a homogenous squatter community and the state.

McKetty, C.

University of Aberdeen

The Genuine and the Fake? German Identity and German Citizenship at a New Juncture.

Max Weber called ‘nation’ one of the most vexing and emotionally charged concepts that, like ‘people’, conveys the notion that ‘whatever is felt to be distinctively common derives from common descent’. As the world shrinks and more and more people move across the globe for one reason or another, who belongs where and who can claim or gain membership in a particular group—or to a particular nation—has been becoming an increasingly controversial issue. The case of Germany is particularly interesting: Historiography refers often to ‘Germany’ (before it came to exist) and notions of a German race persist. A fusion of ‘volk’ and ‘citizen’—in place legally from the early 1900s until 2000—deepened and amplified the mythology. Recent changes in Germany’s citizenship law disentangled the tie between nation and citizen and immediately exposed a deeply entrenched genealogical—and persistently racial—conceptualization of the German nation...at least at the political level. No sooner had the law been amended did the government add a new category to its population data scheme—‘persons with a migration background’—distinguishing between ‘genuine’ and ‘other’ Germans. How much does such categorisation reflect the sentiments of the population-at-large? While much has been written examining the German nation-state and the socio-historical roots of Germanness, little empirical research has been conducted on German people’s constructions of themselves. By means of an ethnographic study, including interviews and a review of newspaper articles (past and present), this research aims to amend that gap. This paper presents preliminary findings.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Fassetta, G.

University of Strathclyde

A Change of State. Migrant Children's Imaginative Geographies

My paper will describe the preliminary findings of a PhD study on the imaginative geographies of children who have been affected by migration.

Focus groups, child-led photography and individual interviews were used to collect data from three groups of Ghanaian children (age 10 to 15) with links to Italy due to migration. Some children experienced migration in order to join their parent(s); some were born in Italy of Ghanaian parents; a third group were children in Ghana waiting to join their parent(s) in Italy.

The children's imaginings of Italy, prior to moving there, tell of expectations for a higher social status and increased respectability. Both seem to stem, almost axiomatically, from living in a country that is higher in the perceived hierarchy of nation-states. Whether these expectations withstand the encounter with reality or whether they crumble under the weight of changed perspectives was one of the issues the children were asked to discuss. Social status has a slippery nature: it is relative to the social context and has firm boundaries and narrow openings often precluded to migrants. With time, the children seem to become acutely aware that, no matter how much they strive, their status in the receiving country is likely to remain that of the 'immigrant'. How young people rationalise the contradiction between imagined and real and how they solve the tension between aspiration and frustration was also explored by the study. A way out seems, for the children, to be relatively simple: they must keep on moving.

Wemyss, G

Goldsmiths, University of London

Rural and Urban Space, 'Race' and the Invisible Empire

In dominant discourses about Britishness in contemporary Britain, the Empire is most often constructed in terms of exploration or the accumulation of goods and wealth. This is an example of what I have named elsewhere as 'The Invisible Empire'; the pivotal element of dominant white discourses about Britishness that consistently, but in different contexts, asserts 'positive' narratives of Britain's colonial past whilst suppressing contesting histories about the violence and oppression of Empire. The Invisible Empire is central to dominant political and media discourses and to local and national 'cultural' events and is embodied in the contexts of public and private spaces where memorials to merchants, explorers and venture capitalists suffocate competing memories of enslavement, discrimination and famine. This paper examines the impact of the Invisible Empire on public memory in contrasting contexts of the regenerated port areas of urban multicultural east London and rural white Lyme Regis in Dorset. Both ports serviced ships involved in the enslavement of Africans and in the East India trade. It investigates how processes of remembering in recently created public spaces in continue to work to exclude the descendants of the subjects of Empire from achieving genuine belonging. It uses examples to demonstrate how the Invisible Empire impacts on public space to silence histories of the violence of British rule and it assesses the significance of these processes of exclusion on contemporary politics of belonging.

Zhang, N

Warwick University

Reworking gender roles - the 'inside' and 'outside' spheres of rural migrant women in contemporary

This paper focuses on the construction/reconstruction of gender relations of rural women migrants in urban China. Through the use of in-depth interviews with women migrants, their families and fellow villagers in both sending and receiving areas, the author examines the changing boundaries of 'inside' and 'outside' spheres of rural women migrants in Beijing and Shantou. She attempts to redefine the division of 'skilled/unskilled', 'heavy/light' and 'outside/inside' work by introducing 'men' and 'men's work' as a pivotal point and argues that when the content of men's domain of 'skilled, heavy and outside' work changes, the content of women's domain of 'unskilled, light and inside' work will have to change accordingly. The research shows that the tradition of devaluing women and women's work in a patriarchal society remains intact, in spite of the fact that women migrate to work in the city and are engaged in the 'outside' spheres of industrial employment.

As well as the broad gender division of labour in different occupations, sufficient evidence also reveals distinctive gender division of labour in both working and living spaces. Because women migrants' work often takes place in the 'inside sphere' left by men, women themselves also devalue their own labour, as well as men. Women's bargaining power gained through migration does not necessarily change their subordinate status in the family. The author argues that migration redefines gender inequality and class differences among women migrants and overall, rural women are triply subordinated through gender, class as well as their peasant status.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

SPACE, INEQUALITY, CRISIS

Susen, S.

Newcastle University

Lefebvrian Outline of a General Theory of Social Space

'Space' deserves the status of a central concept in social theory because it plays a crucial role in the construction of social reality. One of the most insightful accounts of the fact that the production of human life is inextricably linked to the production of space has been provided by the French philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre. Drawing upon Lefebvre's work, this article proposes an outline of a general theory of social space, that is, of a theoretical framework capable of identifying the key features that underlie the social production of space. The main analytical advantage of such an outline is that it provides us with the conceptual tools necessary to understand the possibility of human society in terms of its spatial determinacy.

Schiltz, S.

University of Lincoln

A Re-Evaluation of the Spatial Fix in the Study of Social Inequalities in the Global City

Being written in the initial stages of a broader project leading to a PhD, this paper claims that Harvey's (2001) concept of the "spatial fix" can be a helpful tool if applied to the analysis of the global city's informal economic sector. The paper provides evidence that some main features of what Harvey defines as spatial fix have been a reoccurring theme in neo-Marxist theory and can be found in works by Lenin (1916), in structuralist thought (e.g. Frank 1966; Lipietz 1982; 1984; 1989), as well as in poststructuralist accounts (e.g. Wallerstein 2005). In its original application the city was itself considered as spatial fix (Altvater 2004). Contemporary theory, however, has moved away from this original application of the theory (Brenner 2000). This paper, nevertheless argues that, with a focus on the informal sector of the global city, Harvey's theory gains a new significance. Indeed, research claims that in global cities the informal economy has been growing steadily. Sassen (1994; 2001) shows how much of the informal workforce is made up by migrants whom she sees as the equivalent of an "offshore proletariat". As Harvey (2001: 26) considers the "import" of cheap labour as one of the manifestations of spatial fix the paper claims that his theory, if applied with a focus on this kind of migration processes, gains an altered significance and can thus help giving new insights to the study of social inequalities within the global city.

Cordero Vega, R.

University of Warwick

Late Capitalism and Crisis: Reconsidering Habermas's Critique of Marx

Elucidating the relationship between capitalism and crisis has been a pivotal concern for social theory. Yet since the 1960s and 1970s, and more persistently after the collapse of Communism, the formulation of crisis theories has been the object of harsh criticisms to the extent that the very concept of crisis has lost validity as a sociological category. In this paper I challenge this scepticism by means of discussing Jürgen Habermas' defence of sociology as 'the science of crisis per excellence' and his reconstruction of the tradition of crisis theory. However, I argue that Habermas relies upon a critique that underestimates the 'rich phenomenology' of Marx's conceptualisation of crisis. In response to this impasse, I reconsider Marx's *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte* as an exemplary resource—overlooked by Habermas—for an enriched understanding of contemporary crises. Although the *Eighteenth Brumaire* does not offer a systematic crisis theory, it presents a rich problematisation of the making of social crises that provides evidence to dispute Habermas' critique of Marx.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

CRIME, IDENTITY AND EMOTION

Green, S.

University of Hull

Morality and Identity: a psychosocial model of rule-breaking

Political and cultural discourses about crime contain a powerful association between levels of morality and criminality. At one level this association is self-evident. Crime is by its very nature immoral. Yet as an explanation for criminality morality is both empirically nonsensical and theoretically tautologous. Whilst there are a range of criminological theories which help to explain the opportunities and circumstances that lead people to commit certain types of crime this paper argues that criminality must also be viewed in terms of the emotional rewards associated with rule-breaking. Drawing on Anthony Giddens' (1991) notion of the 'pure relationship' and Stephen Lyng's (1990) concept of 'edgework' a model is developed that attempts to unite the structural conditions of late-modernity with the existential benefits of criminality. Thus it is not immorality but a sense of connection with, and control over, one's existence that best explains the urge to transgress.

Duggan, M.

Sheffield Hallam University

Exploring the links between homophobia and misogyny in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the 1861 Offences against the Person Act restricts women's access to abortion. Northern Irish political moral objection prevents the extension of the 1967 Abortion Act to Northern Ireland, despite the issue being debated at Westminster. Similar moral objection prevented the 1967 Sexual Offences Act being extended to Northern Ireland in order to end homosexual criminalisation. Decriminalisation was enacted in 1982 after lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) campaigners won their case at the European Court of Human Rights. Subsequent LGBT equality legislation has proved less difficult to enact in Northern Ireland as a result of an increased focus on addressing prejudice and discrimination in the wake of the ongoing peace process. Whilst sexual orientation is included as a matter of course, gender equality (particularly with regards to reproductive rights) remains a contentious issue in Northern Ireland.

This paper draws out the themes of social regulation and repression evident in the areas of gender and sexuality in Northern Ireland. The overt culture of moral conservatism which is frequently evident in Northern Irish politics and society continues to affect equality and access to certain basic civil rights for both women and sexual minorities. In discussing these areas, the paper highlights the unique, culturally relative factors informing and sustaining misogynistic and homophobic ideologies which, in turn, negatively impact on the social acceptance of both groups' access to full civil rights.

Imlah, N.E.

University of Glasgow

Ah never even told ma lawyer that' - Doing Research and Doing Emotion in Qualitative Interviewing with Imprisoned Mothers

Undertaking sensitive research continues to raise various questions around ethics, risks and relationship between method, theory and knowledge production. Investigating the experiences of mothers of dependent children who are currently imprisoned, to explore their life histories, experiences of serial victimisations and involvement within criminality, is indeed categorised as inherently 'sensitive' with an underlying aim put forth by ethical standards to minimise the risks of upset or distress to participants and consider researcher's safety. However, there is far less attention upon what is to be done with the array of emotions evoked in both participant and researcher.

This paper, as part of a wider Doctoral study exploring women's prescribed identities as 'mothers' and as 'prisoners', reflects upon the researcher's sociological, personal and emotional journey as an observer, a participator, an ally, a surveyor and a regulator within the fieldwork context of a Scottish female prison. It is suggested that the multiple identities assumed by both the participant and researcher over the life course and specifically demonstrated within the research setting, combined with the significance of the relationship forged between participant and researcher, are embedded within a complex web of both participants' self identification, perceptions of the other, shared experiences, and importantly both spoken and unspoken emotion, which ultimately impact upon the nature of the data elicited, and how the researcher approaches and experiences that data. Consequently, questions arise around whether 'doing sensitive research' inevitably involves an active process of recognising and engaging with emotion, 'doing emotion', throughout the qualitative research process.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Igenoza, M

University of Sheffield

What is Femininity? The Racial Division of Femininity in Western Culture

The purpose of this paper is to ask, what is femininity? I address this question by not just focusing on gender but also highlight the importance of race, a historical, cultural and socially constructed term, in the subject of femininity. I empirically research the lives of 42 white and black women through the use of semi-structured interviewing, allowing them to define femininity for themselves. As a result, I argue that there are racial divisions in the way femininity is perceived. For femininity, what Moi (1989:123) described as 'a set of culturally defined characteristics' assigned to the female sex is one of the most racial of spaces in western culture. Through the words of both black and white respondents, I argue that femininity is a masque, something to be put on and performed. Femininity as an aspect of gender is a kind of doing, a cultural performance (Butler 1990). But this cultural performance is not only performed within a gendered body but also a racial one. For a human-being is understood differentially depending on its race (Butler 2004) and femininity is a racial characteristic that is identified and understood dependant on race. However, the body in which femininity is performed is not the only the racial aspect of femininity but the performance itself is a highly racial act. There are culturally racial divisions in the way black and white women present and represent femininity from the way they perceived their bodies, to their dress and the way they style their hair.

Long, J.

London South Bank University

Binning the Bunny: The Re-emergence of Feminist Anti-porn Activism

This paper examines what appears to be the re-emergence of a feminist anti-pornography agenda in the context of the cultural mainstreaming of pornography. It begins by setting current feminist anti-porn activism in context, arguing that whilst anti-porn activism was a key element of radical feminist movements of the 1970s and 1980s, this declined in the 1990s with the ascendancy of a more individualistic feminist discourse of 'empowerment' and 'choice' regarding women's participation in the sex industry and consumption of pornography. However, this prevailing discourse appears to have been challenged in recent years with the emergence of new groups such as 'Object' and 'Anti-Porn London'.

The paper explores what motivates feminists involved in new anti-pornography campaigns, and examines the understandings and analyses of pornography that inform their activism. Whilst attention will be given to group organisation and activities, the paper will particularly focus on issues of motivation, emotions and the impact of anti-porn activism on personal biography. Through addressing these questions, the paper will problematise common assumptions about the relationship of young women to feminism, and illuminate the complexities of how activists develop and maintain a feminist consciousness in relation to a 'pornified' society.

Porfido, G.

Birmingham University

Homosexual in/visibility and the digitalisation of TV broadcasting

The paper focuses on homosexual representational inequalities and visual in/justice in the context of public TV broadcasting. Television is a 'window on the world' but also one of the most powerful cultural apparatuses for the diffusion of heteronormative values and the perpetuation of homosexual visual and social exclusion. The question of cultural representation has always been particularly important for homosexual political activism. Social dynamics of marginalisation and exclusion were seen as crucially buttressed by the ways in which homosexuals were under-represented or misrepresented in the mainstream visual arena. In recent years images of lesbian and gay people have become more common on the small screen so that commentators have argued that 'the awful closet of isolation and invisibility has been replaced by the wide-open door of public recognition' (Walters, 2001, p.xiv). The digital revolution in TV broadcasting has fragmented the public representational arena creating multiple but more insular spaces of homosexual visibility, and it has left homosexual representational opportunities prone to the whims of an over competitive neo-liberal visual market and progressively deregulated media environment. This paper intends to develop a deeper understanding of homosexual visual inclusion and evaluate the social and political implications or complications of this newly achieved digital tele-visibility.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Jayaweera, A.T

University of Bristol

Justice for the Working Poor: Working Conditions, Health and Well-being of Hotel Workers

Globalization has failed to provide decent work for the working poorest in society, the hotel workers. Typically, hotel workers are doing physically demanding work but receiving low wages. This paper explores the impact of working conditions on hotel employee health and well-being, drawing evidence derived from a total number of 24 interviews with hotel employees in a range of luxury hotels and eighteen - month period of participant observation in a luxury hotel in the West of England.

Findings provide evidence that working conditions have subsequent adverse effects on employee health and well-being of hotel workers. Working conditions such as long-working hours, night shifts, extreme hot, humid and cold environments, high -noise levels, prolonged standing and heavy lifting cause both physical and psychological problems among the workers. Severe eye pains, headaches, joint and muscle pains were commonly experienced by all the worker and stress related issues commonly reported arising from having to deal with emotional aspects of the job, work overload and fatigue caused due to long-working hours. Most of the workers also reported that the pain causing due to poor -working conditions interferes with routine activities and family life. The study suggest that improving working conditions in the hotel sector will enhance fortune of the working poor and provide benefits to the hotel workers. The paper argues that creating jobs of acceptable quality will demonstrate a possible way to achieve social justice.

Coulson, S.

Newcastle University

Extending the boundaries: non-standard work that is more than just a job

In recent years, attempts have been made within Sociology to broaden discussions about work and to extend theoretical boundaries, with a particular focus on looking outside a narrowly employment-based definition of work. Some of the impetus for this comes from the perceived expansion in non-standard work practices brought about by organisational restructuring and the rise of the 'knowledge economy'. Debates in this area have tended to become polarised around positive notions of non-standard workers as free, autonomous and creative, and more negative conceptions as exploited and marginalised. Drawing on research with working musicians, for whom non-standard working is the norm, this paper looks beyond such a dichotomised approach, revealing the complexities of interrelated structural and relational influences surrounding working lives. I show that these are further mediated by the nature of individual occupations and work identities. Musicians' work crosses the boundaries between public and private spheres, the market and the aesthetic, and work and non-work. Exploring their own perception of their work expands our understanding of what work is and can be, highlighting the possibilities of working lives that are insecure, discontinuous and precarious yet intrinsically satisfying and undertaken for more than purely economic reasons.

Beck, V., Hammer, N., Quinn, M.

University of Leicester

Well-being and the extension of "employment"

This paper considers the relationship between well-being and employment and argues for an extension of the discussion to include non-standard forms of employment. There is an established literature that provides evidence that work is good for health and well-being (Waddell and Burton, 2006) though there is similar support for the argument that work can negatively influence health and can induce stress and illness (Parent-Thirion et al., 2007). Key factors influencing whether work is a positive or negative experience seem to include what type of work is undertaken under which (working) conditions. Moreover, there is evidence that non-standard forms of involvement in work, including via voluntary activities and involvement in training can have beneficial effects for those who have experienced unemployment or health related absence from the labour market (compare Beck, 2003). The aim of this paper is therefore to dispute the clear-cut division between employment and unemployment / economic inactivity and argue for an approach to employment that is based on the consideration that the two extremes are part of one continuum (Booth et al., 2007, Dooley, 2003). As employment, let alone 'good' or 'health' employment is not always an achievable option, this paper argues that a broader range of involvement with work should be acknowledged to ensure that individuals do not become too distant from the labour market.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Murray, S., Gayle, V., Lambert, P.

University of Stirling

Growing Up in Changing Times – An exploration of social inequalities in education and employment

In the closing decades of the twentieth century there were striking changes in the landscape against which British young people grew up. Transformations in education and in the labour market had the potential to dramatically alter and re-shape patterns of social inequality.

There are many reasons to suspect that these patterns in the reproduction of social inequality for contemporary young adults may take a different form to those of previous generations. Recent decades have seen a marked decline in youth labour market opportunities and young adult welfare entitlement, counterbalanced by rising average school leaving ages and a massive increase in first further, and then higher, educational participation.

In the paper we investigate data on young people from the British Household Panel Survey (BHPS) surveyed between 1991 and 2007. We report results on experiences of education and the labour market in order to examine contemporary patterns of social inequality. We augment and extend an earlier exploration by providing more comprehensive and integrated analyses of household, family and parental data. Early evidence suggests that a variety of different family and background effects all have some measurable influence on educational and labour market attainment, with some evidence of trends in those effects over time. Furthermore, we discuss how all of these patterns can be expected to impact on wider examples of social inequality as this generation ages and another begins the transition into adulthood during a period of economic crisis

Platts, C., Smith, A.

University of Chester

'We Don't Need No Education': The Views and Experiences of Young People in Professional Football Academies and Centres of Excellence

This paper draws on data from a broader study that examines the lives of young people working in 25 professional football Academies and Centres of Excellence in England and Wales. In particular, drawing on data from focus groups, the paper explores: (i) the views and experiences players have of the education provisions they receive in clubs; (ii) the value players place on education; (iii) how education fits into their lives; and (iv) players' perceptions of the content of their educational programmes. The data reveal that, for a majority of players, education was something that 'had to be done' rather than something they wished to undertake voluntarily. It was generally accepted by players that education was useful in terms of 'a back-up plan' if they did not become a professional footballer, but, in reality, if players wished to do well academically that was to accept they may have no future in football. Indeed, in the culture of professional football, it was the achievement of a career in the game that dominated all other concerns. Such was the desire among players to 'make it' in the game and their preparedness to make considerable sacrifices, despite the limited likelihood of success, many players were more inclined to prioritize their football education over their academic education. In this regard, it is argued that despite the growth of educational provisions in professional football, these appear to have had a marginal impact on the perceptions and priorities of the players for whom they are intended.

Atherton, G.

University of Westminster

What do you want to do when you grow up? Employment & Education aspirations of Year 6 & Year 8 pupils in England.

This paper will explore young peoples' views of the future at different points in the English school system contrasting the attitudes of children at year 6 & at year 8 to future education and employment pathways. Theorists argue that these views relate to structural factors i.e. class, gender & ethnicity which shape children's perspectives. In particular, theory has focused on Pierre Bourdieu's work on the utility of habitus understood as a conduit through which information and resources are transmitted to the activities that they inform. However, research using these ideas focuses mainly on older pupils, and lacks a temporal element. The development of habitus and the attitudes and behaviour it may shape is not clear. Where a temporal element exists via theories of 'careership', it is not explicitly related to the early 21st century school system. Drawing on surveys with 1200 children and focus groups/interviews with over 120 this research argues that the formation of future views, and in particular, principles which underpin them begins earlier than official policy recognizes & in different ways to what theory describes. Year 6 pupils have what they consider robust ideas regarding their future and are developing principles the purpose of education & what is 'success' but these are not strongly related to socio-economic background. By year 8 differences are emerging as understanding of their abilities and the system grows, but aspirations and ambitions for all groups remains high. Across the groups support from the school in grappling with these issues is worryingly low.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Rogers, C.

Anglia Ruskin University

Mothers and their disabled children: where is the partnership?

This paper is about mothers (and some fathers) who have children identified with special educational needs. It specifically looks at the parent partnership rhetoric that has dominated UK government policy and directives for over two decades and yet research suggests parents and more often mothers have to battle to be recognised as legitimate experts. This paper highlights via qualitative narratives that mothers are weighed down by the sheer number of professionals involved in their day-to-day life. Moreover, mothers whose children are not identified in the early years are often blamed in the first instance for causing their child to display difficult behaviour. This research ultimately suggests that partnership work is important and necessary for practice within health, education and social work professions, not least of all because the emotional roller that mothers experience during the assessment and statementing process is disabling.

Haynes, J., Dermott, E.

University of Bristol

Displaying Mixedness: Family Relationships and Ethnicity

Recent research on parenting mixed heritage children highlights differences and similarities in the process of ethnic identification and cultural practices amongst British mixed parentage families. Some parents encourage a fluid sense of identification, extending beyond particular heritages and others promote one of the heritages as the dominant family identity; whilst the local area and material factors are shown to shape common aspects of the identification process for all, i.e. whether an identity is externally ascribed or electively chosen. This research has been useful for developing a better empirical understanding of the experiences of those who identify as mixed heritage or mixed race within the UK in order to both challenge assumptions, stereotypes and forms of discrimination, and address policy issues. However, such results are in danger of reifying mixedness. The policy focus behind much of this research assumes the existence of a mixed ethnic category based on particular characteristics while, in actuality, the range of mixing within contemporary families extends beyond Census categories. For example, the label of a 'mixed parentage family' can be applied to families constituted by a plurality of mixtures within ethnic categories but based on national identities (such as French and English, and so on). Yet such families may negotiate similar complexities associated with 'mixed parenting' in order to establish a set of shared family practices and individual/family identities. In outlining 'what counts' as mixedness in families we attempt to map current sociological understanding while highlighting the problems in classifying mixedness as an additional ethnic group.

Chowbey, P.; Salway, S.

Sheffield Hallam University

Capturing minority ethnic fathers' involvement: extending the current frameworks

Family researchers have developed various models to examine fathers' contributions. Lamb *et al*'s three-part conceptualisation of paternal involvement (engagement, accessibility and responsibility) alerted researchers to the need to be aware of fathers' indirect contributions to child-rearing. More recent work has usefully sought to expand the range of inputs that are recognised as contributions to children's wellbeing beyond material provision and direct childcare and to consider the inputs that fathers provide in absolute terms and not just in comparison with mothers. However, the complexities arising due to 'minoritised' status of fathers need to be understood to develop frameworks that better reflect the extent and types of contributions minority ethnic fathers make in their children's lives.

This paper seeks to demonstrate the limitations of existing frameworks in conceptualising fathers' contributions and modes of inputting in children's lives, from 'minoritised' fathers' perspectives. The paper uses empirical examples to highlight some of the additional complexities due to vulnerable socio-economic position of parents, transnational lives and what 'minoritised' parents consider to be desirable child outcomes and necessary childrearing inputs. These include inputs that aim at preserving cultural and religious values and weathering racial exclusions, an additional set of inputs that majority parents do not need to provide. We demonstrate some of the ways in which father involvement frameworks can be sensitive to cultural and religious diversity. This paper is based on a recent qualitative study that involved in-depth interviews with 59 fathers and 33 mothers from four religio-ethnic backgrounds: Punjabi Sikhs, Gujarati Hindus, Pakistani Muslims, Bangladeshi Muslims.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

MEDIA

GOVAN MBEKI A426C

Brienza, C.

University of Cambridge

Criticizing the Critics: Reviews, Readers, and the Paradox of Journalistic Objectivity on a Popular News Website

This paper explores how the media influences the public sphere, drawing upon ongoing fieldwork and participant-observation as a freelance columnist and review writer for a well-trafficked niche news website. Previous research in this area tends to emphasize the power to frame public discourse traditionally wielded by the media on the one hand or the emancipatory potential of new media as an alternative site of public discourse on the other. Because new Internet technologies facilitate direct communication between producer and public, I have instead chosen to examine the social arrangements this communication makes transparent. Four cases where readers publicly protested over the viewpoints expressed in particular reviews that occurred over a period of one year are analyzed. I focus specifically upon the ways readers justify their protest and the ways the website's writers and editors react and engage. From my analysis of these interactions, I conclude that reader protest serves paradoxically only to reinforce news organizations' authority over the public, for two reasons: 1) News organizations do not view the grounds for protest to be coherent and conclude that they are blameless; 2) Readers reveal themselves as having become fully interpellated into the very same ideology, that of "objectivity" as the correct way of knowing something, used to justify journalistic authority in the first place. These results thus recommend caution to both top-down and bottom-up news media reform schemes.

McPherson, E.

University of Cambridge

THE IMPACT OF NEWSROOM ORGANISATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING AT MEXICAN NEWSPAPERS

Like their counterparts around the globe, newspapers in Mexico face a financial crisis brought on by escalating competition with electronic media. Mexican newspapers' predominant response to this threat from "immediate mediums" has been cross-platform expansion to compete directly with television, radio, and internet information with their own shows, channels, and websites. Newsrooms have not expanded accordingly, so the same journalists must now produce more information in the same amount of time; this results in a newsroom organisation emphasising speed and subject to a strict newsroom hierarchy to facilitate efficient news decision-making. This presentation, which is based on ethnographic research I conducted in Mexican newsrooms in 2006, gauges the effects of these organisational changes on democracy-enhancing journalism, using human rights reporting as a case study. I look specifically at the impact of speed and hierarchy on the social relationships within and without the newsroom, namely those between editors and reporters and between reporters and sources. Limitations on time often prevent reporters from undertaking the lengthy process of evaluating potential human rights sources' credibility through monitoring their performance. Even when reporters are able to forge a relationship of credibility with new sources, the newsroom hierarchy combined with editors' innate scepticism (a key professional norm for Mexican journalists) means that editors consistently overrule reporters' attempts to include new sources' information for publication. As a result, the plurality of human rights reporting is restricted organisationally, as only a handful of sources, dominated by governmental commissions deemed credible by authority, are consulted.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

SUICIDE AND SELF HARM

Curtis, B., Curtis, C.

The University of Auckland

Suicide and neoliberalism in New Zealand: the creation of a cohort

The spectre of youth suicide in New Zealand has been at the forefront of policy and popular debate for more than a decade. This culminated in the New Zealand Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy which was released by the Ministry of Health in 1998 and renewed in 2006. This strategy has been very worthwhile and draws appropriate attention to the drivers of depression, hopelessness and deprivation in rates of suicide. However it is not cognisant of the reported rates of suicide over the last twenty-five years when reported in terms of age groups. Such basic analysis suggests a new take on the assumptions about the rise of youth suicide (15-24 years) from the mid 1980s. While the introduction of neoliberal policies by Labour and National Governments from 1984 can be clearly associated with the rise of youth suicide, what is obscured is a cohort effect. That is, suicide rates among 15-24 year olds came to the fore in the mid 1980s, but was displaced by that among 25-35 year olds by the late 1990s. Further, this century has been characterised by the rise of suicide rates among 35-44 year olds. We suggest that neoliberal policies overwhelmingly impacted a cohort of people aged in their mid-late teens beginning the period of the Fourth Labour Government (1984-1990), that is born around 1970. The greater predisposition of this cohort to suicide is in our opinion both a crucial marker of neoliberal policies and the real legacy of the groundbreaking Labour Government.

Chandler, A

University of Edinburgh

"They can see that I'm in pain because I've done something": Performance, embodiment and self-injury

This paper examines self-injury as a 'performative' act. Self-injury is a behaviour which directly involves the body, producing visible, sometimes permanent, marks upon the skin. The visual and visible characteristics of self-injury are rarely commented upon, much less theorised about. I argue, however, that the visual, material aspects of self-injury must be central to any attempt to understand the behaviour. Further, these aspects of self-injury represent key areas where sociological perspectives can be fruitfully employed.

Drawing on life-story interviews with 12 people (7F, 5M) who have self-injured, I will discuss the ways that people who self-injure negotiate life with the visible marks that self-injury can leave. The way that these negotiations were expressed focused particularly on the 'hiding and revealing' practices of participants. I will demonstrate that the framing of these narratives was frequently moral in tone, indicating the influence of wider socio-cultural understandings of self-injury, mental illness, and in particular the 'appropriate' management of emotions and emotional expression.

The presentation will highlight the importance of accounting for the embodied and social nature of self-injury. Existing understandings frame self-injury as an individual, private act. I will argue that self-injury is better understood by examining the social contexts in which it takes place, and attending to the meanings that people who self-injure have for their behaviour. In particular, I highlight the centrality of 'the body' in both these contexts and understandings, representing an attempt at practicing what has been termed 'embodied sociology'.

Lakeman, R.

Dublin City University

Working on the margins: Confronting death in the homeless sector

Working with homeless people entails working on the margins of society. Workers are frequently exposed directly and vicariously to the many traumas, indignities and injustices that characterises the lives of homeless people. Workers are confronted by marginalised lives and also frequently the sudden deaths of service users. The marginalised positions of both homeless person and homeless sector worker is a complicating factor that colours the experience and challenges the capacity of the worker to make sense of the death, work through the trauma and frame the death and ongoing work in a positive way. This presentation derived from a grounded theory study of homeless sector workers and sudden death will explore how workers resolve the problem of framing death and moving on drawing particularly on the narratives of homeless sector workers themselves.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

TEXT & IMAGE 1: BSA VISUAL SOCIOLOGY STUDY GROUP PANEL

This panel brings together three presentations from the BSA visual sociology study group responding to the theme 'text and image'. Community, space and identity are explored within three different contexts: public injecting environments in England, motherhood in inner-city Belfast, and ideas of community within minority ethnic groups in London. In 'Places of risk and hazard: public injecting environments visualised', Stephen Parkin reveals the taken for granted conditions of risk and harm and the effect of spatiality on shaping behaviour using a textual and visual model that incorporates a Bourdieuan notion of 'injecting habitus'. In 'Self directed photography and reflective interviews: a methodological snapshot', Martina McKnight and Lisa Smyth critically engage with photography as a method of accessing the everyday lives of mothers of pre-school children. Their study links ideas of motherhood, place and identity together, using photography as a way of reflecting upon aspects of life that are usually beyond comment. In 'Visualising 'community': an experiment in participatory photography', Janroj Keles completes the panel by presenting the visual and written words of a group of Kurdish workers in London using photography to explore what 'community' means to them.

Keles, J., Holgate, J., Kumarappan, L.

London Metropolitan University

Visualising 'community': an experiment in participatory photography

The everyday visualised culture has an important influence on behaviour, identity formation as well as political and social positionings. As has been noted, 'we live in a society where visual images have proliferated...our ways of seeing and our experiences of and responses to visual spectacles are central to our understanding of who we are and where we belong' (Ali 2005). As such visual materials are increasingly used to explore meanings in social and cultural life particularly in anthropology, ethnography and sociology. Methodologically, the use of photography, film and video can replace or be used in addition to other research methods, 'read' in a similar way to text. We began our research project into aspects of employment, identity, community and belonging among 3 minority ethnic groups in London by using traditional face-to-face interviewing, but increasingly were attracted to the idea of visual representations of 'community'. As Prosser (1998) has explained, images can be 'researcher found' (generated by others) or 'researcher generated' (created by the researcher) and each of these approaches is likely to result in different interpretations. We were taken by Gauntlett's (2005) Creative Visual Research Methods approach whereby individuals are asked to produce media or visual material themselves, as a way of exploring their relationship with particular issues. As such we commissioned a group of Kurdish workers to photograph what 'community' meant to them through the lens of their cameras. This paper will explore meanings of community, work and identity incorporating the visual and written words of these participants.

McKnight, M., Smyth, L.

Queen's University Belfast

Self directed photography and reflective interviews: a methodological snap-shot

This paper considers the value of self-directed participant photography and reflective interviews, in the context of a study of social change in post-conflict inner-city Belfast. While a visual and reflective approach to the question of social change would seem to offer a route to understanding the habitus of busy participants, namely mothers of pre-school children, the method did not offer unmediated access to everyday life in the inner-city. Questions of interpretation and reflexivity remained crucial, as participants struggled to visually capture and then reflect upon aspects of life that are usually beyond comment. This, combined with a sense of discomfort with stepping outside routine spatial practices to take photographs, and a relatively open request from the researcher to capture what is important to them as mothers going about their everyday lives, produced relatively low levels of engagement with this method. Nevertheless, the images and narratives of inner-city maternal life that were captured in this way were deeply revealing, illustrating the complex interconnections between classed, gendered and ethno-national concerns with representing local neighbourhoods and working class mothering as 'good' and 'respectable'. Of particular interest was the value of this dual-stranded method for uncovering the disjuncture between external and participants' perspectives on the inner city, its territorially divided neighbourhoods and the re-developed city centre. The combination of photography and follow-up interviews uncovered orientations to places and identities which would not otherwise have been revealed. Overall, this method did allow access, albeit in limited form, to the urban imaginary of the inner city.

Parkin, S.

University of Plymouth

Places of risk and hazard: public injecting environments visualised

Visual methods, and associative data, in the field of drug-related research, have contributed to understandings of political prejudice and social suffering surrounding injecting drug use at local and national levels. Similarly, visual data have contributed towards an improved understanding of health-risk associated with drug injecting and in the

development of interventions towards reducing harm. This paper reports on findings obtained from a qualitative study of public injecting in the South West of England that incorporated visual methods within data collection. More specifically, it presents visual representations of a Bourdieusian public injecting 'habitus' that reveal the accepted ('taken for granted') environmental conditions of risk and harm situated within the lives of injecting drug users.

These images of an 'injecting habitus' have been positioned within a (textual and visual) model that attempts to classify public injecting sites within a 'continuum of descending safety'; as a means of describing drug-using settings for applied harm reduction intervention. This model is presented in this paper and demonstrates a physical and environmental descent from hygiene and safety towards dirt and danger. This visualisation of text illuminates particular harmful environments and further challenges epidemiological understandings of risk. This is due to epidemiology's failure to recognise the inter-relationship between people and place and the effect of spatiality upon shaping behaviour. As such, the (visual) model further provides indicators of injecting related harms and hazards associated with each categorical setting.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

PROFESSIONAL FORUM

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

LAUNCH OF THE ESRC INTERNATIONAL BENCHMARKING REPORT ON SOCIOLOGY

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

CULTURES AND BODIES OF AGEING 2: CONSTRUCTIONS AND REPRESENTATIONS OF OLDER BODIES BY OTHERS

Iltanen-Tähkävuori, S.

University of Art and Design Helsinki

The dressed ageing body. Industrial fashion design and practices of women constructing social age

The aim of this research was to study how social age is constructed by fashion designers and ageing women. The study is situated in design studies and cultural gerontology. The data consists of interviews with fashion designers working for the Finnish fashion industry (n=8), women born in 1941-1955 (n=12), samples of the designers' work (n=19), and photographs of users' favourite clothing (n=28). In the data, constructing social age was represented as a process of change, conflicts and blurring boundaries. The following age acts (acts that construct social age) related to the dressed ageing body were found: (1) Material reality. Designers and users were aware of the bodily age-related changes, and took them into consideration through sizing, fastenings, pockets, slits and materials. (2) Interpretations. A net of age-bound female gazes was used to evaluate the dressed ageing body. The dressed ageing body was approached with denial, avoiding the subject, facing it, laughing at it, praising and becoming distressed by it. Old age was related to being old-fashioned, masculine and tasteless. (3) Practices. Social age was constructed in the processes of design and of use by directing others' gaze, shaping the dimensions of a dressed body, and covering and revealing the body. Certain outfits, details and materials were used to construct social age as not too old or not too young. The designer operated in a restricted situation due to practical, organizational and cultural reasons, whereas users seemed to have a somewhat freer standpoint from which to construct their own social age.

Pickard, S

University of Manchester

The emergence of 'co-morbidity' as a classification and the governing of old age

The management of long-term conditions (LTCs) is increasingly a focus for health policy in developed nations. Further, both policy and health services research have identified patients with two or more LTCs, or co-morbidity, as particularly challenging. Such discourses explicitly associate this category with old age.

This formed the background to recently completed research which aimed to explore (i) older people's experiences of living with co-morbidities and (ii) the particular challenges, if any, that practitioners associated with delivery of care for individuals with co-morbidities. Data was generated through interviews with a sample of patients aged 65 and over, together with their carers, where appropriate, and who were identified from GP registers as suffering from two or more chronic conditions. Separate interviews were conducted with practitioners involved in their care.

Older people's narratives revealed that for most, symptoms were limited in terms of their impact on activities of daily living. Moreover, they interpreted their condition as 'normal' in the context of old age. Clinicians' narratives similarly revealed few ways in which providing care for this group was particularly challenging, except in a tiny minority of instances where patients were complex and their LTCs unstable. Thus, far from being the ticking time bomb the literature suggests, data from this study indicates that the creation of co-morbidities as a way of classifying patients represents a (continuing) attempt to medicalise and problematise 'normal' old age, even while positive views of ageing and 'ageing as choice' are presented as cultural paradigms.

Ward, R., Bytheway, B., Holland, C

The University of Manchester

'The perception of a group in the body of the individual' - gaining insights into everyday age

This paper will report findings of a two-year participative study of older people's accounts of age discrimination. The research was UK-wide and followed an iterative process that built upon on-going discussions and input from participants. A network of older people was recruited to the study as co-researchers who interviewed diarists, led discussion groups and participated in a number of sub-projects based upon findings from the earlier stages of the research. The study uncovered evidence of the everyday aspects of discrimination – practices which are 'natural' and normalised and hence invisible and often politically inaccessible (Furman 1997). The paper will concentrate on the significance of the ageing body to these experiences with particular reference to three themes that emerged from the data:

- The dilemmas surrounding the negotiation of image and appearance in later life
- Older people's experiences and patterns of everyday mobility, and
- Perceptions of the response to old age and to older bodies in particular

The paper will draw upon broader discussions of the representational body or 'the semiotics of ageing' (e.g. Coupland 2007) and of the experiential body, as well as exploring the embodied dimension to discrimination

through reference to Ahmed's arguments concerning the sociality of emotions (2004) and Katz's (1996) observations regarding the disciplining of older bodies. The findings provide a standpoint from which to critically view current equalities policy and in particular the failure to take account of the significance of the everyday interactions in which older people are engaged.

Ylänne, V., Williams, A.

Cardiff University

Viewing age: reactions to media portrayals of older people and ageing

This paper reports findings from a study which forms part of a larger project on representations and perceptions of older people and old age in British advertising.

Focus group discussions were held to explore participants' reactions to a sample of print media (magazine) and TV adverts. The groups comprised either young, middle aged or older adults. In the discussions, participants of different ages positioned themselves vis-a-vis the images presented to them by either distancing or associating themselves with the images. In this paper, we focus on comments made especially on appearance, the body and lifestyle. Issues of age identity and contemporary stereotypes of old age play a part in the discussants' discursively expressed likes and dislikes of different advertisements in these group discussions, as do cultural notions regarding visible signs of ageing.

The findings from this study challenge the widely held notions that older people are routinely denigrated in the media, and evidences heterogeneity of such images in advertising. Yet, older people seem to appear in adverts for specific purposes and effects which at times challenge and at other times perpetuate ageist notions. These may be understood differently by people of different ages.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Achatz, J., Burkert, C.

Institute for Employment Research

Towards the adult worker model? Gender specific employment orientations and constraints of recipients of basic income support in Germany.

Our research addresses employment orientations and labour market behaviour of recipients of basic income support for needy job-seekers in Germany. To date very little is known about gender specific implications of the "activating" labour market policies implemented in the course of the German labour market reform in 2005. Within the new means-tested benefit regime incremental change in direction of an individualised adult worker model can be assumed. While work obligations have been extended to all employable members of a household, exemptions from work obligations for family carers are allowed also. In our research we focus on gender role orientations as well as opportunities and constraints of labour supply due to gender, experience of migration and living conditions of households.

The labour market behaviour of benefit recipients has to be analysed in a household context. A question that can hardly be answered without recourse to the internal social and economic structures of households is the significance of women's and men's work and employment orientation for overcoming the need to rely on benefits. Therefore we use the first wave of the household panel study 'Labour Market and Social Security' (PASS), established by the German Institute for Employment Research (IAB), which is a rather new dataset for labour market, welfare state and poverty research in Germany.

Dragolov, G.

Interuniversity Centre for Social Science Theory and

The Legitimation of Income Inequality in Transitional Societies, 1987-2009

Why do people in the former state-socialist societies of Europe believe different amounts of income inequality to be legitimate as compared to the "old" market-driven economies? Due to a number of limitations of past research (neglect of institutional characteristics, limited attention to trends over time, analyses constrained to a few countries) the factors responsible for the wide cross-national variation remain a puzzle. The paper intends to cast further light on the phenomenon by a simultaneous test of macro- and micro-level explanations using large-scale comparative data from nine Central and Eastern European countries along with several Western ones at five points in time.

At the individual level, the paper distinguishes between the role of primary values (ideological preferences) and secondary values (interests stemming from the structural position of the individual). Macro-level explanations pertain to the objective level of inequality and the nation's wealth as well as the prevalent cultural climate in terms of the dominance of ideologies. The study puts particular emphasis on the (differential) changes over time in individual beliefs about the legitimacy of income inequality. Data stem from the Social Inequality modules (1987, 1992, 1999) of the ISSP as well as the 1991 and 1996 waves of the ISJP. The dependent variable – legitimacy of income inequality – is calculated using a set of questions that ask respondents what amount of income members of several high- and low-status occupations should earn in their country.

Ryan, L.

City University London

Gender and Science & Technology Careers - can preference theory explain choice?

European labour markets are characterised by vertical and horizontal gender segregation, particularly evident in the S&T workforce (European Commission SHE Figures 2009). In relation to S&T, there have been consistent efforts to promote women's participation at all levels, across all sectors, across the Member States of the EU. The cultural and structural constraints faced by women in accessing particular work areas has been documented (ETAN Group Women and Scientific Excellence, 2000) and strategies to promote their involvement initiated. Catherine Hakim's influential preference theory (Hakim 2000, 2003) suggests on the other hand that the main determinants of women's labour market choices are their preferences and de-emphasises the role of constraints, a theoretical position much critiqued but remains pervasive - (e.g. Ginn et al, 1996, Crompton and Harris, 1998, James, 2008).

This paper presents the findings of secondary analysis of qualitative data gathered by the author (2004-2005). The data, originally collected for the purposes of exploring science subject uptake within a wider context of gender equality strategies within post-primary schools, present opportunities for investigation of the extent to which Hakim's thesis, as presented in preference theory, i.e. that women choose particular occupations by reference to work orientation/childrearing, can be discerned in relation to young people's planned careers, particularly in relation to S&T areas. This approach is novel because Hakim's theory, developed using quantitative longitudinal data, has rarely been subject to review which uses qualitative data on career aspirations towards the highly gender segregated S&T occupational sectors to consider its explanatory power.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Horlick-Jones, T., Prades, A., Oltra, C., Navajas, J. and Espluga, J.

Cardiff University

Investigating the degree of 'stigma' associated with nuclear energy technologies: a cross-cultural examination of the case of fusion power

The extent to which nuclear energy technologies are, in some sense, 'stigmatised' by historical environmental and military associations is of particular interest in contemporary debates about sustainable energy policy. Recent claims in the literature suggest that lay views on such technologies may be shifting from a fairly negative position towards a 'reluctant acceptance', in the light of concerns about issues like anthropogenic climate change. In this paper, we report on research into learning and reasoning processes concerned with a largely unknown nuclear energy technology; namely fusion power. We focus on the role of the nuclear label, or 'brand', in informing how lay citizens make sense of the nature of this technology. Our findings derive from a comparative analysis of two corpora of data, generated in Spain and Britain, using the same novel methodology. We conclude the paper with a discussion of the role of cultural resources in lay practical reasoning about the nature, and acceptability, of technological innovation.

Vardy, M.C.

Queen's University

Climate Change Beyond the Horizon of Intelligibility: The Politics of Non-linearity

Rates of ice sheet disintegration and subsequent sea level rise are the subjects of several recent peer-reviewed "hard science" journal articles. There is no consensus on projections of sea level rise, but the transition between the present climatic regime and the next is broadly held to have a non-linear quality. The purpose of this paper is to think through the implications a potential non-linear shift in climatic regimes has on the configuration of politics. How can scientific understandings of the non-linear quality of climate change inform praxis without importing the metaphysical structures through which science is accorded social authority? Several theories of how the material, non-human world comes to matter through our engagement with it, such as heterogeneous constructivism and agential realism, displace the knowing subject as authoritative and thus subvert the social authority of science. However, doing so leaves them open to the charge of political relativism, perhaps because they do not offer a stable and enduring foundation from which we can judge the world. This paper addresses this issue via Gianni Vattimo's theory of "weak ontology," which, following Nietzsche and Heidegger, erodes the foundations of strong ontologies, and yet provides a quasi-normative guiding principle that can incorporate scientific understandings into critical and democratic responses to non-linear events without recourse to the social authority of science.

Everett, G., Toogood, M.

University of Central Lancashire

Widening Participation in Citizen Science: some reflections from the field

This paper explores how different 'publics' are being constructed and understood within the Open Air Laboratories programme (OPAL), a 5-year programme in England running until 2012, which seeks to engage a wider range of publics in natural history activities. OPAL speaks of wanting to engage harder-to-reach and more disadvantaged publics within its work of producing

data that will be relevant in national biodiversity conservation, in the process producing a new, wider and more diverse generation of citizen scientists.

The paper looks at how these 'publics' are being understood in the discursive practices around OPAL thus far, and seeks to problematise somewhat the approaches taken by the predominantly natural scientist based programme with regard to this engagement.

The paper takes ideas from STS to consider what we might mean in particular instances in speaking of enabling certain more disadvantaged groups to adopt, adapt and perform as 'citizen scientists', and considers how OPAL's constructions of its publics, and of its activities for engagement (both regional activities and national surveys) might change in coming years as it seeks to achieve its stated goals.

The researchers are engaged in ethnographic fieldwork with groups in different regions, and so the paper is based upon talking with members of these groups about their feelings of dis/involvement and dis/empowerment through engagement with OPAL, as well as discussions with regional representatives and group leaders around these and other issues.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Salmenniemi, S.

University of Helsinki

Farewell to Homo Sovieticus? Conceptions of Class, Self and Morality in Self-Help Technologies in Russia

This paper examines how class is represented and negotiated in bestselling popular psychological self-help literature in contemporary Russia. The paper suggests that self-help literature as part of popular culture functions as an important site in which the symbolic contention about class takes place in Russia. Since processes of self-formation are intimately linked with class, as the British sociologist Beverley Skeggs has argued, self-help books open a particularly illuminating window to exploring the intersections between morality, class and self in Russia at the juncture of the socialist past and the contemporary global capitalist order.

This paper examines how class is defined and talked about, explicitly and implicitly, and how class intertwines with conceptions of the self and gender in self-help books. The paper suggests that 'Sovietness' functions as a pivotal yet ambivalent marker of class identity. On the one hand, Sovietness is often interpreted in the books as a sign indicating both material poverty and mental pathology, hindering the development of a 'healthy' self with dispositions suitable to post-Soviet Russia. However, on the other hand, certain practices of distinction familiar from the Soviet era, such as kul'turnost' (culturedness) with its preoccupation with high culture and education, continue to be invoked as important markers of class and morality.

Savage, M., Buhlmann, F., Miles, A., Elliott J., Parsons, S

University of Manchester

Biographies and Identities: life narratives from the 1958 National Child Development Study

The NCDS was launched in 1958 as a sample survey of the newly born. This cohort has been re-surveyed at regular intervals and now provides an important resource for longitudinal analysis. In 2009, when the cohort was 50 years old, in depth interviews were conducted for the first time, which provide a valuable resource for reflecting on how this group talks about their identities and life trajectories. This paper is a preliminary analysis of these interviews, examining how the respondents talk about their life social and biographical trajectories, especially on how far linear conceptions of mobility inform their account. The paper will show that there are striking contrasts between those who narrate linear accounts of upward mobility, against those who emphasise cyclical issues, the return of past condition, and the enduring role of family, work and neighbourhood relations. We will show how these differences are closely related to class, gender and region.

Cieslik, M., Simpson, D.

Northumbria University

Basic Skills and the Making of Class Identities

This paper documents some of the findings from a series of research projects into the influence of basic skills on the social identities and life course transitions of individuals. Though there has been much media debate about the incidence of poor skills in the UK in recent years this topic has been mostly neglected by sociologists. As there has been a wealth of government policy initiatives since 2000 and billions of pounds spent on expanding adult basic skills provision one might have expected some sociological interest in the topic. This paper begins to address this lacuna in showing how basic skills are implicated in the making of social identities and the experience of class domination.

Existing research associates poor skills with social disadvantage, particularly unemployment, poor work and lone parenthood. Though we document how skill competencies can frame the material aspects of life chances we also illustrate the power that literacy and numeracy competencies have to shape the ways that individuals are seen and how individuals come to see themselves. As episodes of disfluency for our interviewees are understood in terms of shame, embarrassment and guilt we suggest that the use of basic skills in everyday life is an important dimension of the moral and psychic landscape of social class. Our research contributes to a growing recent literature that, whilst acknowledging the economic bases of social class, wishes to explore the ways that such class processes are internalised in biographies and leads to long term injuries of social class.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Isaakyan, I.

University of Edinburgh

Mobile places, 'fixed' identities: Are they a diaspora?

Sociologists of diaspora studies express a concern about a multitude of migrating communities who, claiming for their ethno-cultural distinction, identify themselves as diasporic. This unrestricted national imagination makes the diaspora theory problematic and disorienting. Here lies the question of who can actually constitute a diaspora. To find relatively reliable criteria for diasporic membership, it is important to understand individuals' motives for moving and for living in diaspora.

Why do people migrate? Why do they migrate in networks? The answer can be found in Anthony Giddens' writings about the late modernity: they probably 'search for intimacy' – that is, make an effort to resurrect old (friendship) ties. Having conducted narrative-biographic interviews with former Soviet academics working in the West, I look at how they themselves understand their new, diasporic, spaces as impacted upon by their Soviet experiences of early career socialization in elite Soviet universities during the 1960-1980s.

Responding to what Rogers Brubaker conceptualizes as the 'diaspora' diaspora' effect on migration studies, my research builds on the notions of 'platoon' (originated by Edward Shils) and platoon friendship. The latter conveys the idea of friendship bonds shaped by extensive early career socialization and eventually leading to proto-nationalistic features in exile. The paper concludes on the platoon comradeship as a possible criterion for recognising a distinct diasporic segment.

Gupta, B

University of Delhi

Contesting Inequality: Property Rights And Livelihood Issues Amongst Tribal And Nontribal Women In Jharkhand, India

In Jharkhand, modes of marginalisation amongst the different communities occupying the same shared space particularly in relation to livelihood issues, have long documented histories of inequality. Land emerged to be the most important resource owned by both communities of tribal and non tribal population groups living in the same village. Therefore property rights to agricultural land and forest lands assume paramount importance in their survival struggle. Gender roles constructing access, control and decision making power in realms of livelihood and natural resource management are dynamic and constantly influenced by different interacting factors. Transformations in natural resource production systems in different agro-ecological regions have proven disadvantageous and dis-empowering for women in general and tribal women in particular as they have moved from central roles of decision makers to peripheral roles of mere labourers. The relationship between gender, property and livelihoods reveal the inequalities that women face in India when it comes to access and distribution of property rights. Development policies have further led to widening of inequalities in regard to the exercise of property rights. Tribal societies have usually been considered as egalitarian as compared to non tribal societies in structuring gender. This research focuses on how different land tenure systems (in both agricultural land and access to forest rights) together with community based power struggles in property inheritance marginalise women. It explores the process of women's marginalization from the power and resource systems governing property especially agriculture for both the categories creating increased levels of inequalities.

Roth, S.

University of Southampton

Perpetuating or overcoming inequality? Unequal relationships within international aid organisations

My paper is based on 44 biographical interviews conducted between 2004 and 2006 and addresses the interaction and inequality between international aid workers and local staff. Aid workers, in particular from the Global North, are in a structurally contradictory position which as the interviews show is resolved at the personal level. Coming from the rich developed countries and mostly from a middle class background, their involvement in development cooperation and emergency relief is a choice. Even if aid workers receive low salaries and live in remote areas which lack the abundance they are accustomed to from their home countries, their living standard is significantly higher than that of local staff and 'beneficiaries'. Representing Western/Northern donors and organisations, they implement programmes approved by these organisations. Once a project is completed, they move on, even if they might visit the project later on, more likely in the role as consultant than as friend. The relationships between international and local staff as well as beneficiaries are shaped by global inequalities for which none of these actors can be personally held accountable. The interviews reveal that expatriate aid workers from the North are critical of their organizations for not integrating local staff more and other expatriates for racist attitudes and behaviour. The structurally contradictory position of Northern aid workers is reflected in seemingly contradictory statements in the interviews – for example wanting to go overseas while at the same time criticizing the dominance of Northern aid workers in leadership positions.

LEGITIMACY AND JUSTICE

Walby, S.

Lancaster University

Globalization and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities

The concept of social justice is contested. There are different framings, each of which has different implications for policy and politics. The paper compares the equality, human rights, capabilities and economic development perspectives on social justice. While sociology has long addressed issues of equality and economic development, contemporary policy and politics are increasingly utilising notions of human rights and capabilities. The paper subjects the theoretically underpinnings of each of these approaches to critical scrutiny, assessing their strengths and weaknesses. For example, it addresses the ambiguities and rival interpretations of the capabilities approach in different locations; it examines the critiques of the concept of equality; it considers whether human rights is a minimalist or expansive approach. It addresses the implications of different methodological approaches to the measurement of inequality and injustice, especially their implications for making visible or invisible specific inequalities such as those of gender and class. Using both UK and global data it draws out the implications for the comparative analysis of social justice. It assesses the extent to which there has been 'progress' according to these different framings. The paper concludes with an assessment of the implications of these different conceptions of social justice for social theory and social practice. The use of concept of equality is developed and defended.

Schnuer, G.

University of Edinburgh

Equality: Means or End? An Engagement with Rawls' Original Position

This paper will try to introduce the idea of social and communal grounds to theorising justice. Firstly the paper will try to engage with the relationship between justice and equality in John Rawls' 'A Theory of Justice' in order to critique his use of a hypothetical 'original position' in his development of the two principles of justice: a) equal basic liberties to each individual and b) inequalities are defensible only if they do not conflict with equal opportunities and if they are to the greatest benefit to those most disadvantaged. This critique will try to relate these two principles back to equality and fairness. It will show how the principles of Rawls' justice presume equality and fairness as achieved when these very principles are meant to help us attain justice, and not merely maintain it. Rawls' premise will be argued to be a concern for universality rather than fairness. Secondly, the paper will try to move away from the tension that is created by the 'original position' to try and offer a different, social position from which to formulate justice, where 'equality' is not the basis, but instead is the desired end. Beginning with the concept of inequalities and injustice the avoidance of a Rawlsian veil of ignorance will allow a foundation of justice that is not only aware of 'inequality' as a faceless factor in formulating justice, but a foundation that allows explicit social and communal inequalities to be relevant in conceptualising procedures committed to justice.

Hearn, J.

The Strength of Weak Legitimacy (how legitimacy works in liberal society)

The processes of legitimation in liberal, democratic, capitalist societies are obscure. On the one hand it is fairly clear how formal democratic institutions lay claim to legitimacy in these systems, but on the other, it is clear that publics are often relatively disengaged from political processes, and political authorities are often regarded with distrust. This article argues that understanding how legitimacy operates in liberal societies requires a wider consideration of power structures in society, beyond those of state and government proper, and an appreciation of how these interact. Toward this end it attempts to identify some of the key societal processes of legitimation and how they combine to make such societies work. Adapting Granovetter's notion of the 'strength of weak ties' (also formulated in terms of typically liberal societies) it argues that the 'secret' of liberal legitimacy actually lies in the rather weak and episodic hold that political institutions have on citizens' loyalties, while allowing a plethora of more immediate (and competing) social organisations where people more directly readily recognize authority and bestow legitimacy. This diffusion of the objects of legitimation throughout the wider social system, bolstered by liberal cultural conventions regarding the intrinsic fairness of competition, creates a social web of legitimacy which, while weak in parts, is highly robust and adaptable as a system. Indeed, this is seen as playing an important part in accounting for the gradual historical ascendancy of the complex of capitalism, liberalism and democracy shaping the last 300 years.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

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CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

INEQUALITIES AND THE PROBLEM OF JUSTICE

Turcinskaite-Andujar, A.

Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Social Problems in Lithuanian Higher education

Creative society of 21st century is a continually learning society and the main cause of its existence is lifelong learning. One of the forms of lifelong learning is formal education that is commonly expected to be of a good quality and accessible to a wide variety of people. Hence, social justice, equal chances, social permeability and mobility are as important parameters of education quality as knowledge, competences, motivation or expected changes in the social status and economic situation, career possibilities, etc.

Lithuanian higher education quality is widely researched in scientific publications but the discussions are focused either on psychopedagogical factors such as students' knowledge, competences, study goals, achievements, etc. or on social and economic parameters such as students' employment rates and career possibilities. Students are mostly interpreted as higher education customers with their expectations and demands fulfilment rates similarly to economic demand-supply model.

Social interpretation of study quality, focusing on social justice, equal chances, social permeability, social mobility, etc. does not appear in the scientific discussions about Lithuanian higher education. Hence, national empirical research concerning social problems in Lithuanian higher education, financed by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science and conducted in October–November 2009, is relevant and of a high importance not only on a national level but on an international level as well.

Murray, M. G.

University of York

Female Athletes or 'Hot Chicks' on Skates?: An Analysis of Perceptions of Roller Derby

Women have been denied equal access to sport, historically lagging significantly behind men in participation. Myths about women's bodies and mentality prevented women from playing – or funneled them into sports labeled as appropriate for women. Numerous social, political, and legal acts have opened sport to women significantly in the 20th and 21st centuries. Despite the women's movement's view that women's increased involvement in sport empowers women, the ways in which women have been included is potentially problematic. Women have both been demonized as lesbians due to their sport participation, or minimized in their athleticism by focusing on their (hetero)sex appeal. Roller derby provides a unique opportunity to study sport spectatorship, and how women's roller derby is viewed with its litany of contradictions. It is an athletic, full-contact sport on skates, with players who have, deliberately or not, often played with notions of sexuality, nonvirtuous femininity, and sport.

This research focuses on how all-female roller derby is interpreted. I am particularly interested in how spectators' depictions of all-female roller derby uphold or challenge the institution of heterosexuality. In order to understand how all-female roller derby is received, fifty interviews were conducted in the United States with spectators and players alike. This presentation will review the initial findings from the field research.

Copson, L.

University of Bristol

Deadly Inequalities and the Limitations of Justice

Drawing on the emerging zemiological or 'social harm' perspective to interrogate the existing approaches to harm embodied in conventional criminal justice apparatus, this paper discusses the limits of this system for addressing harm and its subsequent capacity to realise 'justice'. Through focussing on the outcomes or experience of harm rather than its mode of causation, zemiology emphasises the location of harms within broader social structures and practices in contrast to the individualised and abstracted conceptions of harm permeating conventional legal approaches. Reflecting this perspective, this paper takes the archetypal criminal harm of murder as a starting point and draws primarily on the work of Dorling (2000; 2008) to demonstrate the way in which this harm is best understood as a socially mediated phenomenon, reflective of contemporary patterns of inequality rather than an abstract and individualised occurrence. Moreover, by drawing on Wilkinson's (1994; 1996; 2000; 2009) work on health inequalities, the paper highlights a similar mediation of mortality more generally through contemporary structures of socioeconomic inequality. Conceived thus, as merely one (generally very rare) cause of mortality, questions arise as to the adequacy of the conventional justice system for addressing harm. Consequently, it is argued, as a result of its emphasis upon the outcome rather than cause of harm, the zemiological perspective implies an alternative conception of justice based on addressing structural inequalities, thereby challenging the primacy of individual culpability embodied in the conventional legal system for the realisation of justice.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Fowler, B.

University of Glasgow

Pierre Bourdieu, the Cultural Field and the emergence of Cultural Studies

Bourdieu has been attacked for proffering a model of “eternal reproduction” (Callinicos (1999, 2006), Adkins and Skeggs (2004), Archer (2007)). This paper will disagree, pointing especially to a fertile problematic of social transformation in his work. In this neglected theoretical strand, Bourdieu outlines how prophetic heterodoxies become acceptable at times of social crisis and recession, where they help to usher in change (Bourdieu, 1971). This has been developed by Sapiro in relation to the cultural field. Nevertheless, there is a pessimistic absence in Bourdieu's later cultural theory of any popular or working-class writers coming from milieux bereft of formal education and subsequently attaining cultural legitimacy. This is one of the reasons why Rancière criticizes Bourdieu in his *The Philosopher and His Poor* (2004). This paper argues that in order to understand this absence it is necessary to undertake a Bourdieusian analysis of Bourdieu himself, especially by addressing the divergent origins of cultural studies in the different traditions, Britain and France. In Britain there has been some recognition of working-class poets and intellectuals and of a distinct genre of “the industrial novel”. Perhaps corresponding to this, the genesis of British cultural studies lay in the appearance of an extramural marginal space, in India and in the British industrial regions, where new subjects and new academic struggles came to be fought out (Steele 1997). In contrast, cultural studies as a discipline in France stemmed primarily from a structuralist symbolic revolution within the university - dominated academic field (Barthes, Levi-Strauss, Derrida et al).

Friedman, S.

University of Edinburgh

Having a 'good' sense of humour: The Endurance of Distinction in British Comedy

At the Edinburgh Festivals, which together constitute the world's largest arts festival, the Bourdieusian homology between class and cultural taste has been particularly enduring. Traditionally showcasing only ‘high’ performing arts, Festival attendance has been synonymous with those high in cultural capital. However, in recent years, this arena of distinction has been disrupted. Although audiences remain from the cultural elite, there has been a significant rise in the consumption of “low-brow” comedy. While in 1980 there were only 14 comedy shows at the Festivals, this had risen to 734 by 2009. Following other trends in elite consumption of popular culture, the leading sociological explanation for this phenomenon is the ‘cultural omnivore thesis’. This theory posits that symbolic hierarchies underpinning cultural consumption have collapsed and dominant groups now happily consume high and low culture. This paper seeks to critique the ‘cultural omnivore thesis’, arguing that its quantitative bias fails to examine the specific practice of elite culture consumers. Drawing on findings from quantitative and qualitative research conducted at The Edinburgh Festivals, the article indicates that culture consumers with high cultural capital may be finding new ways to distinguish themselves - in this case through the careful consumption of new ‘high-art’ genres of comedy. Such elite comedy consumers are also rarefying their consumption by transposing their distinctly ‘disinterested’ aesthetic style to consume comedy in a manner inaccessible to those with less cultural capital. By examining the contemporary tastes of comedy consumers, this paper therefore suggests that an updated version of Bourdieu's distinction may still be relevant.

Sutherland, A.

Kyushu University of Nursing and Social Welfare

Bourdieuian Theories of Cultural Consumption and the Occupationally Stratified Social Relations of International Improvising Musicians

This paper reviews Bourdieu's homological class and cultural consumption model, and the rich research on cultural consumption it has inspired on high, middle and low brow culture, and univore and omnivore consumers, to map effectual social relations with which improvising musicians engage. Where in this research economic and cultural capital are operationalised as income and education respectively, and classes, occupations or status groups are modelled imprecisely, explanatory clarity between dependent and independent variables is compromised; use of the gradational CAMSIS scale would address this problem. Making genres indicators of aesthetic/taste hierarchies neglects temporally requisite taste preferences implemented within and amongst genres which inform interpersonal cultural/aesthetic communications. While recent research on free and jazz improvising music commonly treats musicians as isolated individuals, data is presented on the occupations of spouses and friends reported by a sample of 1,300+ international improvising musicians mapped onto stratified social space with the CAMSIS scale. This reveals extensive social relations of affinity, additional to relations with local and international improvising musicians: most spouses and friends are engaged in semi-professional or professional occupations requiring tertiary education certification, and several are self-employed and/or engaged in aesthetic/cultural occupations. Occupations most usually reported in cultural consumption studies to exhibit omnivorous cultural consumption patterns feature most strongly; it is proposed that commonality of career and irregular earning experiences and expectations, and affinity of understanding regarding the value of aesthetic and cultural practices, with spouses and friends reinforce resilience (to innovate) against career obstacles as self-employed improvisors.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Abbott, P., Wallace, C, Nativel, C.

University of Aberdeen

Strategies for combining work and care by parents with young children

This paper will consider the strategies that parents with young children adopt to enable them to combine paid employment with responsibilities for child care and domestic work. It will draw on qualitative interviews carried out in seven European countries representing different workcare regimes. Dual earner, one and a half earner, traditional male breadwinner and single parents with at least one child under 12 years were interviewed in each country. In two parent families the mother and father were interviewed separately. We will examine the strategies adopted by parents to enable them to ensure the economic support of their family, the care of their children and the carrying out of domestic work. Comparisons will be made of the strategies used by different types of families and by families living in countries with different workcare regimes. We will discuss the key influences on the strategies adopted by parents and the extent to which these are determined by context (country) or category (family type). We will conclude by discussing the policy implications of our research findings.

Formankova, L.

Institute of Sociology of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Professional biographies of women as a mirror of work and family balance options in Slovenia and the Czech Republic

Scholars argue that the unavailability of the work-life balance policies influence strongly the working prospects of women, especially when having small children. In this international comparative study, I focus on the impact of the labour market and family policies, as well as other institutional, social and cultural factors on the professional careers of women in Slovenia and the Czech Republic. The two types of data sources, documents, strategic reports and legal acts and then qualitative biographical interviews are used in the research. The biographical interviews help to portray the genesis of the professional (working) life stories of women in two different societies with different work-life balance possibilities. In the interviews, I aim to focus on the specific factors influencing the professional working life lowest risk and the highest risk of unemployment and overall proclaimed highest career prospects.

As I focus on the factors which influence the decisions on the career and family arrangements, I plan to compare the professional life-stories of tertiary and primary educated women with children younger than 7 years (preschool) with childless women from 35 to 45 years of age both in the Czech Republic and in Slovenia. As I would like to control on diverse factors typically causing discrimination on the labour market (education, small children), I aim to identify the sources of discrimination and inequality on the labour market which are connected closely to the gender stereotypes and cultural norms about motherhood and participation of women on the labour market.

Diewald, M., Böhm, S., Körnert, J.

Bielefeld University

Determinants and work-related mediators of the Work-To-Family-Conflict.

Besides financial and material inequalities, a successful work-life-balance belongs to the most discussed contemporary working conditions and capabilities. In our study designed as employer-employee- sample we examine how conflicts in this field are structured by different labour market locations. Are there specific occupational fields, hierarchies or organizations which provide different risks or advantages for balancing work and private life? Classic research in social inequality assumes that such problems occur mainly in lower classes, while higher classes are presumed to be in advantage, because they have more resources and negotiating power. By contrast, the sociology of work weights extraordinary strains within high-qualified service occupations and upper management as much as different employment strategies. The sociology of family shows that strains for balancing work and life are arising primarily within middle-classes. Employees of those classes mostly have a well-paid job, but not enough security and freedom to balance both life spheres.

We examine these contradictory assumptions by analysing about 1700 employees within six organisations in three different industries. Our results show that all mentioned factors have remarkable impacts on the work-to-family-conflict. E.g., the distribution over employment hierarchies of these conflicts has an U-shaped form, but varies between the public sector, the steel industry and the finance sector. Those differences are only partly explained due to different employment conditions. The perceived balance between inducements and contributions and perceived discrepancies between work values and actual working conditions play an important additional role.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Finnegan, F., Loxley, A. Fleming, T., Kenny, A.

Trinity College Dublin

Where Next? Mapping and understanding the post first-degree destinations of mature 'disadvantaged' students in three Irish higher education institutions.

The concept of 'Human Capital' has gained prominence within the European and Irish contemporary education and training policy narratives. A predominant strand within this has been a focus on 'access' opportunities and routes to higher education programmes for non-standard entrants. The rationale given by (and for) the state in supporting disadvantaged students in higher education, is reference to the increased economic benefit for the student and for society. Whilst much emphasis political, rhetorical and systemic has been placed on generating access for this heterogeneous group, little consideration is given to what happens to them post-graduation. The aim of the study on which this paper is based, was to explore the post first-degree destinations (employment, postgraduate education or otherwise) of students designated as being 'mature disadvantaged'. More specifically the study sought to explore the economic, social and personal benefit of their participation in higher education and identify barriers to further progression in their career or graduate studies. The study worked with samples of ex-students from three institutions (NUI Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin and Dublin Institute of Technology) and was done through using numerical and non-numerical forms of data by involving time-stratified samples of ex-students (from 1999-2007) who have graduated from their first degrees. Drawing on both numerical (questionnaire: n=500) and non-numerical (interview: n=60) data generated for the study, this paper will discuss three interconnected areas 'family support', 'motivation for study' and 'post-degree destinations'.

Tzeng, A.

University of Warwick

Framing Sociology in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore: Geopolitics, State and Its Practitioner- A Preliminary Summary

This study aims to document and compare how sociology has been developed and practiced in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore—the three demographically Chinese- dominated Asian 'tigers,' and to interpret the observed patterns in light of their shared and distinctive historical and sociological contexts. Special attention is paid to how the local sociologists respond to the 'epistemological dilemma' of negotiating Western paradigms for seeking local relevance, and the 'strategic dilemma' between conforming to the Euro-Anglo agenda for 'international recognition' and developing their own agenda for 'autonomy in responding to local issues.' Discussed under a theoretical framework that I conceived as the 'world system of knowledge flow', this study also attempts to advance our knowledge of how this system works by presenting three cases from the semi-peripheral sphere. In particular I am concerned with the local implications of the neo-liberal managerialist turns that have swept the higher education system in many countries in the past decade. Based on the empirical materials collected from archive and literature reviews, interviews with sociologists, and some participatory observation in the three places, I shall in this presentation (1) outline the patterns of sociology development in terms of the institutional setting, the demographic/cohort structure of sociologists, the research output and the outlook of public engagement, (2) compare the three cases in terms of their geographical-disciplinary identities, international connectivity and domestic engagement, (3) relate the reported patterns to factors in both the national-institutional and the regional-geopolitical levels, and (4) discuss some emergent themes.

Brooks, R., Waters, J.

University of Surrey

Seeking 'distinction'?: the influence of the labour market in decisions to study abroad

Expansion of higher education in the UK, as in many other countries of the world, has been justified largely on economic grounds: that the UK must produce more highly skilled 'knowledge workers' if it is to compete effectively within the global economy. However, there is also growing evidence to suggest that there is now no automatic correspondence between academic credentials and labour market position. Indeed, both the normalisation of post-compulsory education and the expansion of higher education have tended to promote 'credential inflation' (Wolf, 2002). In this climate, distinction from other graduates is sought through postgraduate education, work experience and/or a range of relevant extra-curricular activities – and, possibly, through overseas study. An overseas education suggests more than simply a different form of academic qualification, however – it provides overseas experience/ exposure that is highly valued by employers, as well as by graduates themselves. Whilst most recent graduates continue to be employed within their own national context, research has highlighted the global market for skills, particularly amongst the highly educated). Drawing on in-depth interviews with 85 young adults from the UK who had undertaken the whole of an undergraduate or postgraduate degree overseas or were seriously considering studying abroad, this paper examines international education set against this background of credential inflation and a global knowledge economy. In particular, it asks, to what extent does going overseas for education provide students and graduates with a greater competitive edge in a UK (and potentially global) labour market?

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Suen, Y. T.

Oxford University

Older Men in the UK Who Have Never Married: Are They Socially Isolated?

There is very little social scientific knowledge about those who are never married in society. Even less is known about the never married in old age. However, as the number of never married people is increasing, it means that in the future being never married in old age is not going to be a rarity. There is a clear research need to understand older never married people.

General stereotypes see never married older men as being 'at risk' of social isolation. This paper presents some preliminary analysis of social relationships of never married older men who are aged 50+ in the UK, using the representative sample in the English Longitudinal Survey of Ageing (wave 3, 2006-2007). By comparing the social relationships of never married older men with those who are married, remarried, divorced and widowed, interesting differences are found. Among the older men of different marital statuses, those who are never married are MOST likely to be a member of political organization, charitable organizations, education, arts or music groups or evening classes, sports, gyms, exercise classes, but LEAST likely to be a member of social club. This result is starkly different from an earlier study organizational membership of older men in the late 1990s (Perren, Arber and Davidson 2003) which suggested that older never married men were less likely to be a member of any informal group. Some implications of the results are discussed.

Finn, K.

The University of Manchester

'I think you just get to a point where you can do no more together you know, you've done it all': Exploring the relationship between friendship and the lifecourse

This paper explores the relationship between the experience of friendship and the transition to university. The discussion is based on data produced during my PhD fieldwork, a qualitative longitudinal project which followed 24 young women through their first year of undergraduate study. The project is concerned with respondents' experiences of family and friend relationships, however this paper looks explicitly at the concept of friendship. Although respondents' experiences of friendship were diverse and complex, it was largely understood that the move to university would, and perhaps should, displace 'old' friend relationships in order to create a space for 'new' richer and longer-lasting relationships. This way of thinking about friendship was a major theme throughout the fieldwork and was used by respondents as a point of reference as they made sense of their own experiences. I have decided therefore to use this as a framework for my discussion, which examines the ways in which respondents negotiated the emotionality of their friend relationships both at home and at university.

Goodhind, W.

Constructing the Conflict Narrative: Framing perceptions of war to perpetuate public support.

This paper considers how the British government maintains public support for military engagements through the management of perceptions. This process is described as part what I have termed the 'conflict narrative', which will be the focus of the presentation. The purpose of this term is to act as a conceptualisation of how the government frames conflict within a legitimising context. In this framing process a continuous and sequential shaping of perceptions takes place using mass media and linguistic devices to guide public knowledge construction. However, in order to promote this understanding the British Government has to operate within the parameters of the contemporary media environment. As such, I will be discussing the challenges of constructing the conflict narrative within the confines of the media industry set against its own objective to maximise profits. Within this complex system there are inherent hazards of misrepresentation, both by the government, which intends to mould news to serve a policy aim, and the media machinery that delivers news to generate sales. At the centre of this dynamic lies the public, who will form a judgement of the situation based on their experiences, expectations and preconceptions of conflict. These topics as well as other issues will be the subject of consideration as I explain the 'conflict narrative'.

White, R.

University of Westminster

Worse Than Climate Change?: Resignifications in the Discursive Construction of Obesity

The publication of the UK government's Foresight report 'Tackling Obesities: Future Choices' in 2007 was accompanied by Health Secretary Alan Johnson's claim that obesity is a "potential crisis on the scale of climate change." His widely reported statement is indicative of a turn in the discursive construction of obesity whereby it no longer signifies mere individual failing, but is constituted as a fundamentally anti-social state.

This paper presents an analysis of Foresight and its media coverage in order to show how hegemonic meanings of obesity are constructed not only through scientific and medical discourses, but supplemented by other paradigms such as environmental discourses and heteronormative constructions of gender. Not only this, but within the contemporary media coverage of obesity such meanings are contested only within a narrow spectrum, leaving little space for counter-discourses which, along with the voices of fat people, are significantly absent.

Adopting a discourse analytic approach to this topic opens up the possibility of theorising the 'obesity epidemic' in terms of Judith Butler's notion of the resignification of discourse (1993, 1997). The paper argues that the resignification of obesity as analogous to climate change reduces the viability of positive fat subjectivity and contributes to the inequalities and exclusions experienced by fat people. However resignification is never final, therefore this paper will question Butler's politics of resignification and ask whether or how fat subjectivities which destabilise hegemonic constructions of the fat body can be effectively deployed.

Olawuyi, E. A.

University of Ibadan

Building Confidence in the Niger Delta Amnesty Deal through Media Narratives

The Niger Delta region of Nigeria for some time now has been a battlefield, which has pitched irate youths of the area allegedly referred to as militants against the Nigerian state. The aggression of the militants, characterised by violent attacks on oil installations, murder, hostage-taking, kidnapping, arson, etc. have been employed to press home their demands on the urgent need to redress years of exploitation and neglect. Among steps taken by the government to address the needs of the region as well as curtail the siege of the militants, is the "Proclamation of Amnesty" by President Umar Musa Yar'Adua. The amnesty deal was conceived to "ameliorate the intractable crisis in the oil bearing Niger Delta region of Nigeria" purportedly brought about by years of inequalities and perceived social injustice. While some of the militants have ceased fire by surrendering their cache of arms, those alleged to be kingpins have expressed doubts about government's sincerity; and so have been undecided. Through content analysis of leading newspapers and newsmagazines, the coverage of the amnesty deal will be assessed to determine how the issue has been framed. The position of this paper is that the media as the fourth estate of the realm through its agenda setting narratives has the most audacious responsibility to help build the confidence of the militants in the amnesty deal as well as see to it that government honours its part of the deal. This understanding is crucial to the restoration of peace to the Niger Delta.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

LAY VOICES AND USER MOVEMENTS

Shaw, R., Kitzinger, C

University of Glasgow

Empowering callers: Compliments on a Home Birth helpline

One of the aims of the Home Birth helpline - a UK-based organisation that offers support and information for women planning a home birth - is to 'empower' women around childbirth, in the same way as other support services such as Rape Crisis, the Eating Disorders helpline and LesbianLine aim to 'empower' women around issues such as rape, disordered eating and sexuality. In our corpus of 80 recorded calls, there are a striking number of compliments from call-taker to caller. In around three quarters of the calls, the call-taker compliments the caller (up to eleven times in one interaction), making a total of 112 compliments across the corpus -- for example, "you're a brave woman", "you're doing brilliantly", "you're a heroine", "I admire what you're doing". In this presentation, we show that both caller and call-taker orient to these calls as opportunities for 'empowering' the caller and that compliments are (in part) how that's done. By analysing real-life instances of compliments during helpline encounters, these findings illustrate something discussed in a more abstract way in the applied literature -- the way in which compliments are used to emphasise a client's strengths and successes. We present our analyses of (a) compliment design, (b) the sequential position of compliments, and (c) of the turn responsive to compliments and discuss our findings with reference to the existing literature on compliments in ordinary conversation, highlighting the ways in which institutional talk is both systematically rooted in, and a variant of, ordinary conversational practices.

Mottram, A

University of Salford

Risk, Control and "Having a Say": Patients experiences of Day Surgery.

Due to advances in surgical and anaesthetic technique surgical interventions that previously required hospitalisation for many weeks are now being performed in a day. Patient satisfaction studies have demonstrated that day surgery is a popular choice for individuals requiring surgery, as it is perceived to cause less disruption to everyday life, personal habits and routines.

Surprisingly little sociological research has been undertaken into patient experiences of day surgery. Therefore a study was carried out to investigate this using a sociological framework for analysis. 145 patients and 100 carers were interviewed, using semi-structured interviews on three occasions over a two year period in two different day surgery units in the North-West of England.

A major theme to emerge from the data was that of Control. Patients felt that by opting for day surgery as against in-patient surgery they were managing the risk and uncertainty associated with hospital care. Many patients feared the risk of dying whilst under anaesthesia, or of contracting infections if admitted as in-patient. They also feared losing control of more mundane events such as control over their timetables, their habits and personal routines. They saw Day surgery as a means to manage this threat to their autonomy. To counteract these fears they wished to exercise some personal autonomy especially concerning the type of anaesthesia they were to undergo. They wished to "have a say in their treatment". The unique advantage of day surgery was the perception of control it offered to prospective patients.

Posner, N., Lewis, L.

University of Warwick

Care and choice in a long-term condition

Care of a long-term condition in a developed society is a complex task impinging on many key aspects of life, and diabetes an example of a condition with many different facets to its treatment involving both day-to-day and long-term preventive care. The element of self-care in its management can vary greatly, but is crucial. If the extent of patient choice in the care of this disease also varies, what factors determine this?

This presentation will refer to the findings of a recent investigation of the role of information provision in patient choice of treatment in diabetes, and to an extensive literature review. Questions asked in focus groups and questionnaires included: do people with diabetes want choice about their treatment, what are their experiences of choice, do they receive the information they need to make desired choices, and how much does this depend on their relationship with their health care provider?

Mol (2008) has written about the 'problem of patient choice', juxtaposing the 'logic of choice' with the 'logic of care'. She argues that the tradition of care contains 'more suitable repertoires' for handling life with disease. When management of a long-term condition involves choices relating to quality of life, should not patient-centered medicine accommodate patient values and priorities? This will involve a discussion of choices that can be made and evidence of the possible effects of those choices. Without such accommodation, patient self-management may choose to ignore much of the logic of care.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

RESEARCHER EFFECTS AND REFLEXIVITY

Sala, E., Burton, J., Knies, G.

University of Essex

Interviewer Effects on Consenting to Data Linkage on a Longitudinal Survey of a General Population

Linking survey data to administrative data is becoming a common practice in the UK. Data linkage enhances research opportunities as it can provide more data at lower costs while, in principle, providing information that could also be used to detect measurement error (i.e., by carrying out validation studies) and therefore improve methods of data collection. In the UK, informed consent must be asked and obtained from respondents in order to link administrative data at the individual level to survey data.

Much of the research on this topic has addressed issues regarding consent rates and consent bias connected to respondent socio-economic characteristics. However, very little is known on other issues regarding data linkage, such as the role played by interviewers in obtaining consent from the respondents. In this paper we explore the interviewers' role in obtaining consent to health data linkage on the 18th wave of BHPS. Using a logistic regression model we estimate the effect on consenting of interviewer socio-demographic characteristics, their personality trait ("Big Five"), their job motivation and their attitude to persuading survey respondents, controlling for respondent characteristics and interviewer-respondent match.

We use a unique matched dataset for this analysis which has never been used before: (i) the BHPS Wave 18 individual interviews, (ii) an interviewer survey which was administered during Wave 18 interviewer briefings and (iii) a unique dataset on all interviewers who ever worked on the BHPS provided by the survey agency.

Lumsden, K.

University of Aberdeen

'You Are What You Research': Researcher Partisanship and the Sociology of the Underdog

This paper contributes to current debates regarding the issue of researcher partisanship and bias within social research and situates it within the current trend towards reflexivity. The discussion draws upon the ethnographer's experiences of conducting empirical research with the 'boy racer' subculture and outside groups affected by their behaviour (such as the local community, media, politicians, and police). This is combined with a retrospective analysis whereby the researcher reflects upon her empirical, theoretical, and epistemological approach in studying these social worlds. The paper questions whether, amongst other factors, the researcher's utilisation of labelling theory resulted in her choosing consciously or otherwise to side with the 'underdog' (see Gouldner, 1968); in this case, the 'boy racers'. It is posited that social researchers should, as Hammersley (1995, 2000) argues, strive for the ideal of value neutrality in social research, while recognising the role of the researcher on the research. However, although in this case attempts were made to remain value neutral and objective, reflecting upon the experiences of participant observation, data collection, representation, and interpretation indicate that the researcher's theoretical and epistemological standpoint and her social background and personal preferences, all played an important role in influencing 'which side she was on' (see Becker, 1967) before, during and after completion of the fieldwork.

Barnes, S-A., Bimrose, J., Brown, A.

University of Warwick

Systematic literature review methodology and the role of the reviewer

The systematic literature review process enables a reviewer to undertake a comprehensive, objective assessment of the available research to provide a sound evidence base for policy-makers, managers, practitioners and researchers. It should be acknowledged that the systematic review approach is a valuable method offering a transparent process, ensuring reduction of bias and the quality of the evidence included. However, it is a time consuming and resource intensive process, so consideration of the benefits and shortcomings of this approach need to be considered before its adoption. A significant problem of systematic review methodology is that the role of the reviewer and their judgement is often downplayed. A regimented approach is often followed, which fails to take account of reviewer judgement and knowledge, existing reviews and evidence not published in peer-reviewed journals. Drawing upon the experiences of conducting systematic literature reviews following the EPPI-Centre systematic methodology, the discussion will focus on how this prescribed process can be used to inform an innovative approach to reviews drawing upon the advantages of a regimented approach and addressing its failings. Particular attention will be given to how the explicit use of the reviewer's expertise can be exploited to add value to the review process, analysis and evidence base. Adapting this approach has ensured that good, interesting and, more importantly, relevant research findings can be included in a review even though they may be on the periphery of inclusion criteria.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

**CULTURES AND BODIES OF AGEING 3: CONSTRUCTIONS OF ACTIVE AGEING
EMBODIMENT BY OLDER AND YOUNGER PEOPLE**

Phoenix, C.

University of Exeter

Narratives of Ageing: Projection, Inscription and the Potential of Intergenerational Relationships.

Previous research (Phoenix & Sparkes, 2006a, b, 2007a, b, 2008) has illustrated how intergenerational relationships are significant in providing narrative maps that describe and advise young people about the people, practices, and problems they are likely to encounter as they grow older. These narrative maps are consequential for how young people relate to the future by projecting and portraying features of the ageing process in positive or negative terms. They can contribute to socialisation and social reproduction by confirming cultural stereotypes of aging and forms of embodiment or, alternatively, acting to challenge and problematise these stereotypes. This presentation focuses upon the potential of narrative maps to do the latter. Initial data was gathered via a series of life history interviews with a group of mature, male and female, natural bodybuilders (ages 50-73 years). These individuals can potentially offer an alternative storyline to the decline narrative commonly circulating within Western society regarding the ageing body. Their experiences were then presented in a number of focus groups with young people (mean age = 20 years) to facilitate discussions about (perceptions of) the ageing process. The key findings from this study are presented. The fruitfulness of combining the views and voices of young and old people to understand experiences and expectations of the ageing process are considered. It is proposed that the notion of narrative mapping might be a useful site for intervention when attempting to challenge the prevailing negativity about old age that is often inscribed into the bodies of young people.

Tulle, E., Dorrer, N.

Glasgow Caledonian University

'It is a social thing': Divergent understandings of exercise and bodily competence between older gym users and their instructors

This paper will examine divergent understandings of exercise and the management of physical capital between attenders at Active Senior classes and their (younger) instructors who took part in a qualitative research project about fitness in the over 55s. The research is underpinned by a concern for ageing embodiment in the wider discourse of exercise in later life as ill-health prevention and as the management of risk. We conducted face-to-face qualitative interviews with 8 attenders at Active Senior classes (GP and self-referrals), sessions of participant observation and face-to-face interviews with three instructors to explore how gym users and their instructors make sense of bodily ageing, particularly what narratives people in each group deploy to make sense of ageing and embodied competence. One way in which divergent understandings of embodied competence are manifested relates to the vocabulary of motives which each group uses to explain why they exercise, how regular attendance is and how they manage physical capital. We will showcase how the 'social' is invoked by both groups of research participants but with different meanings and implications, leading to 'misunderstandings' about what constitutes valid exercise and exercise motivation. These misunderstandings might prevent active senior class users from effectively negotiating imaginative ways to improve their physical capital without adopting the dominant narrative of (youthful) athletic competence. There are also implications for instructors in how they anticipate their own ageing and the potential attrition in physical competence.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

PROFESSIONAL FORUM

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

HOW TO GET PUBLISHED WORKSHOP

Join us for a session on publishing in academic journals given by BSA journal editors. Learn more about the processes and key issues relevant to journal submission.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Hickman, M.J., Silvestri, S., Thomas, L., Nickels, H.

London Metropolitan University

'Suspect Communities': the impact of counter-terrorism on Irish communities and Muslim communities in Britain 1974-2007

This paper will present selected key findings from the first comparative, interdisciplinary research project examining the impact of counter-terrorism on Irish communities and Muslim communities in Britain. This ESRC-funded collaborative research involved academics based at London Metropolitan University and City University, London. The study investigated transformations over time in the perception, construction and representation of religio-ethnic groupings as 'suspect' in relation to terror threats in Britain from 1970s to the present day. The project also examined the similarities and differences in the impact of these representations of 'suspectness' and of counter-terrorism measures on Irish communities and Muslim communities. The research methods included analysis of the national and diaspora press, of legislation and parliamentary debates, and speeches and statements of British politicians and the police. The experiences and interpretations of members and representatives of Irish communities and Muslim communities in Birmingham and London were also collected using key informant interviews and discussion groups.

Miller, D. Mills, T

University of Strathclyde

Teaching about 'Terrorism': Ideology, pedagogy and the challenges of the war on terror

The question of the relationship between teaching or research materials and the commission of 'terrorist' acts has become an important public issue. The arrest of Nottingham University postgraduate student Rizwaan Sabir and a Nottingham administrator Hicham Yezza in relation to the downloading of an 'Al Qaeda' manual for Sabir's dissertation research has highlighted the emerging and ongoing difficulties of teaching about 'terrorism' and political violence in the current climate. This paper provides a brief overview of the Nottingham case and an introduction to the Teaching About Terrorism project which has arisen in response to such cases; providing an overview of the concerns and questions which the project will explore. It is suggested that there has been a widespread threat to academic freedoms under the so called 'War on Terror' and that this should be understood in the context of a state led effort to constrain public debate more broadly through the expansion of police powers and ever broadening definitions of 'terrorism'. It is argued that this should not be seen simply as a post September 11th phenomenon, but as part of much older political project which has sought to dominate the public understanding of 'terrorism' and political violence within academia and the policy world, and to frame it in a manner which is favourable to state interests.

Dowd, M., Bogdanovic, D., Adam, A.

University of Salford

Private Lives: Researching On-line Privacy

The media abounds with stories of the revelations of young people on social networking sites with repercussions for jobs, lives and relationships. Horrific stories of child abuse using social networking sites confirms the arguments of technology studies researchers who argue that we can never know in advance how a technology will be used, nevertheless technologies will often be turned to use for criminal gain. The abrogation of privacy from a technosavvy younger generation could suggest a lack of understanding of on-line privacy and this could be seen as mirroring the misunderstandings of other generations of information technology users. Although it is tempting to see the question of on-line privacy in this way we argue that, following the body of research in science and technology studies, it is fruitful instead to research the ways in which conceptions of privacy and technology use are mutually constitutive. We make and modify many aspects of privacy through our use of technologies.

This paper reports initial findings from a large collaborative project set up to research ways of making on-line privacy more understandable for users and suppliers. In particular, we discuss research derived from a set of focus groups drawn from community groups in a city in NE England. Findings from a group of older residents are particularly interesting in that these imply a more sophisticated ability to manage privacy whilst undertaking a set of complex social, administrative and financial interactions on-line than the literature on 'silver surfers' suggests.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

OPEN 3

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Reuter, E.

University of London

Democratic integration by social policies? The ambivalent nature of welfare systems

Social policies tend to play an ambivalent role: On the one hand the welfare state provides a certain level of security and therefore acts as defender of social rights and emancipation; on the other hand welfare institutions have a controlling and disciplining character and thus tend to maintain and justify the existing social order. Programmes for labour market inclusion for example perfectly illustrate that ambiguity: they support the unemployed in their efforts to find work, potentially provide information, qualification and a substitute income. But they also impose a number of constraints and obligations while they assure the control of benefit claimants who often remain trapped in that 'revolving door' between the worlds of work and unemployment or incapacity. In general, claimants are categorised, selected, controlled as well as supported, helped and protected. While some of these ambiguities are inherent to even the best possible welfare system and thus almost inevitable, others are the result of deliberate policy choices and power relations. Therefore, they have an impact on the democratic quality of a specific society. The purpose of my paper is to analyse the nature of this particular interaction between existing structures of social inequality and divisions, social policy programmes and the state of democracy. Based on my past comparative research work on exclusion and poverty as well as on relevant social policies in the United Kingdom and France, and drawing on contemporary democratic theory, this paper will contribute to a better understanding of the relations between welfare systems and democracy.

Harrison, E

City University

Reference Groups and Attitudes to Social Inequality: Recent Evidence from Cross-national Surveys

In his classic study *Relative Deprivation and Social Justice* W. C. Runciman suggested that 'people's attitudes, aspirations and grievances largely depend on the frame of reference within which they are conceived'. He concluded that, despite large objective inequalities, individuals tend to make comparisons with those like themselves and therefore have a restricted appreciation of the true extent of inequalities. These limited reference groups went some way to explaining the widespread acceptance of existing social and economic arrangements and the maintenance of social order.

A recent revisiting of these issues concluded that forty years later social comparisons were still relatively restricted and 'hence they are neither resentful of the superrich, nor of others closer to themselves who have done better in life' (Pahl et al., 2007). Ironically this conclusion was almost immediately followed by scandals over bankers' bonuses and politicians' expenses, both of which led to an outpouring of resentment about structural inequalities in Britain.

The paper draws upon a variety of survey evidence to re-examine attitudes to social inequality and redistribution. In particular it uses data from the latest round of the European Social Survey, which was fielded between September 2008 and March 2009, in the midst of the economic downturn. In addition to presenting these findings, the paper discusses the methodological problems inherent in attempting to research social comparisons and relative deprivation in a society much changed since Runciman's original project.

Muffels, R.

Tilburg University

Explaining Objective And Subjective Well-Being. Sen's Capability Approach Applied To British, German And Australian Panel Data

There is renewed interest in Sen's capability approach (CA) but still a dominant lack of empirical research. We use his 'capabilities' approach to explain objective (OWB) and subjective (SWB) well-being. Inspiration is found in the recently issued report on economic performance and social progress by Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi (Stiglitz et al., 2009). We test Sen's approach on three of the richest panel data sets in terms of breadth (GSOEP with 24 years of data), BHPS (with 17 years of data 1991-2008) and depth (HILDA with 7 years of data but broad coverage of issues). The main question addressed is to what extent capabilities (stocks of human, social and cultural capital), functionings (presence of children, partner, health, exercising, social participation, employment) and events (health shock, poverty entry, job loss, job gain, early retirement) are able to explain SWB and OWB in these different welfare regimes. We estimated random and fixed effects panel regression models and they provide robust results. The findings on two of the three datasets strongly support Sen's capabilities framework for explaining SWB and OWB. Capabilities contribute strongly to explain OWB and SWB whereas functionings and events are more important for OWB except for unemployment and health shocks which also affect SWB strongly. Sen's CA model seems therefore promising for using it to explain OWB and SWB. The results indeed echo the contended particular features of the so-called coordinated and liberal or unregulated types of market economies.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Knight, C.

University of Edinburgh

'Most people are simply not designed to eat pasta': evolutionary explanations for obesity in the low-carbohydrate diet movement

Low-carbohydrate diets, notably the Atkins Diet, were particularly popular in Britain and North America in the late 1990s and early 2000s. This paper approaches the low-carbohydrate trend as one response to the twin obesity and diabetes epidemics. Based on a discourse analysis of bestselling low-carbohydrate diet books, and drawing on the sociological and STS literature on both the obesity epidemic and genetic explanations for disease, I examine and critique genetic and evolutionary explanations for obesity and diabetes as they feature in the low-carbohydrate literature. Low-carbohydrate diet books present two distinct neo-Darwinian explanations of health and body-weight, forming the logical foundation for their dietary recommendations. First, evolutionary nutrition is based on the premise that the human body has adapted to function best on the diet eaten in the Palaeolithic era. Second, the thrifty gene theory suggests that feast-or-famine conditions during human evolutionary development naturally selected for people who could store excess energy as body fat for later use. In contemporary conditions of dietary abundance, the thrifty gene predisposes people to diabetes and obesity. Both explanations posit overweight and ill-health as the inevitable result of a mismatch between a Stone-Age body and modern Western eating habits. Low-carbohydrate diets therefore take 'primitive' diet as their blueprint. However, the historical narratives and scientific arguments presented in the low-carbohydrate literature are beset with generalisations, inconsistencies and errors. These result, I argue, from the use of the primitive as a discursive 'blank slate' onto which to project ideals perceived to be lacking in contemporary industrialised life.

Fletcher, I.

University of Edinburgh

The 'obesity epidemic': a new label for an old problem?

This paper discusses the perceived relationship between body size and socio-economic inequality by examining the history of modern biomedical discourses on 'the obesity epidemic'. Drawing upon a range of scientific discussions and reports published between 1969 and 2007, I examine how obesity has been framed in contemporary medical theory, highlighting the changing understanding of its causes, health consequences, treatment, and prevention. In particular I draw attention to the way obesity has moved from being understood as a risk factor for illnesses such as coronary heart disease to being treated as a condition in its own right.

Using a largely historical approach, my research seeks to question some of the assumptions underlying the contemporary discourse of an 'obesity epidemic'. An understanding of the link between relative poverty, poor diet and ill-health is not a recent phenomenon. Modern biomedical understandings of overweight and obesity have strong links with earlier research into the effects of poor diet, and share some of its lacunae. Policy discussions are beginning to address the role of structural factors, such as the ready availability of energy dense processed foods and increasingly sedentary patterns of employment and leisure, rather than focus only on individual 'lifestyle' factors. Despite the increasing volume of such literature, it is not obvious how effective policies can be enacted: the 'obesity epidemic' may ultimately become one more way of analysing the effects of relative poverty on the health of populations that does not lead to significant changes in either healthcare or wider public policy.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Dogra, N.

London School of Economics

Lives of Others- Global Poverty, Charity, Empire and Britishness

Through the ideas of charity, empire, whiteness and 'Britishness', this paper explores how British society views its place and identity in the world. Using qualitative interviews to elicit responses of British audiences to a range of current appeals of international NGOs on disasters, development and structural aspects of global poverty, it shows that the levels and patterns of British public's engagement with imperial history significantly determine their understandings of global poverty and inequality, and affect their responses to 'others'. These responses range across Eurocentrism, specific notions of whiteness and charity, post-imperial denial, amnesia and melancholia, and, a genuine lack of knowledge. This, in turn informs how British publics in different age groups perceive their relations and responsibilities towards the global poor both as individuals and as a part of Britain and 'the developed West'.

The paper finds clear links between the personal and collective. Though individuals negotiate meanings based on their own specific stock of knowledge, dominant readings of many messages based on collective knowledge, symbolic maps and tools available in the society are also found. Nonetheless, the responses are far from homogeneous and undergo changes as 'new' knowledge is added by some radical advocacy messages that transform the notion of charity into historical interdependence and responsibility. The diversity and commonalities of responses simultaneously challenge the notion of 'Britishness' as mono-cultural and fixed while also revealing its durability and rootedness.

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

University of Sheffield

Identity, Becoming and Shoes

This paper critically addresses the ways in which identification, that is, the acquisition of identity, has been investigated. Though identification has been described as 'never a final or settled matter' (Jenkins 2004:5), accessing – or indeed intercepting - this dynamic process has proved challenging. What we explore in this paper is, first, the importance of transition within processes of identification; second, the embodied nature of identification; and third, the sometimes neglected contribution of items of material culture to who we feel ourselves to be – and indeed how others 'identify' us. Thus, if the body is key to identification, then its transformations are integral to its status as a social phenomenon, for as Shilling argues, 'the body is most profitably conceptualised as an unfinished biological and social phenomenon which is transformed, within certain limits, by virtue of its entry into, and participation in, society' (1993:12). Adding items of material culture to the body – clothing and shoes – may therefore engender social transformation or transition. While all clothing evidences the curious entanglement of the biological and the social, shoes stand in an intimate relationship with the body, assuming the foot's shape and so marking the wearer's embodied individuality. While shoes can damage the foot, they also enable culturally-specific competencies: running, dancing and climbing, for example. Indeed, shoes can 'produce' or 'finish' the body, most visibly in the sexy sway of elevated buttocks when high heels are worn. How shoes 'become' us – or help us become – is therefore the focus of this paper.

Baker, S., Brown, B.J., Williams, E.

Bangor University

The Accumulation and Reconversion of Symbolic Capital in Nonconformist Rural Wales in the Twentieth Century

This paper uses the biographical narratives of twenty five people who grew up in Welsh speaking areas of rural Wales ('Y Fro Gymraeg') during the middle years of the twentieth century and develops Bourdieu's notion of symbolic capital. Participants identified religious Nonconformity as central to their childhoods, commenting on the democratic and egalitarian ethos of chapel communities. Chapel life provided a forum for the generation and reproduction of culture, language, literature, poetry and music, as well as a sense of shared history which was itself valorised. The notion of symbolic capital illuminates how chapel activities were imbued with value in a way that could be compared with others in the social field. The cultural and symbolic capital involved infused much of rural Wales at the time and could be exchanged on a national level at events such as Eisteddfodau. Of particular interest was the accumulation of sizeable quantities of symbolic capital by a social group that was not the most economically dominant in the region, that being the Anglicised large land owners. This symbolic capital flourished among Nonconformist rural communities without a readily available means of conversion into economic capital, due to the generally depressed economic conditions of the region and the limited avenues available to local people to gain economic power.

Wednesday 7 April 2010 at 17:00 - 18:30

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

CRITICAL REALISM VS.

Cruickshank, J

University of Birmingham

Explanation and Critique: Exploring The Tensions Between The Methodological And Marxist Versions Of Critical Realism

The argument developed in this paper explores a tension within critical realism between what will be termed here the methodological version and the Marxist version. The methodological version holds that social scientific explanations need to explain the interplay of structures and agency, with structures conditioning but not determining agents' behaviour. The Marxist version adds to this the use of explanatory critiques to explain how capitalist structures cause false consciousness, with the argument being that one may logically derive values from facts, to say that one ought to reject capitalism. It will be argued that the Marxist version of critical realism is in tension with both the methodological version of critical realism and a key aspect of Marx's work on ideology. It will also be argued that the Marxist version of critical realism is untenable because its arguments about the logical derivation of ought from is are unconvincing and fail to transcend the naturalistic fallacy. It is argued that it is more useful to focus on culture than ideology, with agents contesting different cultural systems; and that one may develop normative critiques without the need for the logical derivation of ought from is.

Brock, T.

Durham University

Knowledge, Truth and Social Movements – Pragmatism versus Critical Realism.

This theoretical paper takes as its point-of-departure arguably the most prominent philosophical paradigm in the social sciences today: the Roy Bhaskar-inspired Critical Realism (CR). It stages a theoretical encounter between CR and one of its most persuasive competitors: a Pragmatic Hermeneutics (PH) associated with, amongst others, Rom Harré and Richard Rorty. This encounter is brought into empirical engagement with the historical sociology of social movements in the post-1970 period within the UK.

CR is defended against PH via a consideration of the recent critiques of Harré, Charles Valera et al. Making the case that CR brings objective truth back into focus, contra the primarily hermeneutic concerns of PH, the paper considers the potential to identify the causal mechanisms at work in the history of social oppression. Against a postmodernist inspired PH, this paper argues that CR can permeate the 'surface analysis' which typifies PH and, in doing so, truly understand transformative political practice. Establishing clear, if distinct, roles for both academic knowledge and knowledge which is born from activist experience, the paper contends that CR remains well-equipped to provide an account of social oppression of relevance to political action. In particular, exploring recent archival research into the political activism of gay liberation in the UK, the paper considers the controversial practice of 'outing', via a CR perspective, which stresses how 'outing's' problematisation of the public/private distinction requires a full understanding of the causes of oppression at 'depth'.

Cresswell, M.

Durham University

Between Critical Realism and Discourse Theory: symbols and rhetoric in the history of a social movement

This theoretical paper attempts a rapprochement between two philosophical approaches to social theory: Roy Bhaskar-inspired Critical Realism (CR) and Discourse Theory (DT) associated with the Essex School definition of 'discourse' located in the canonical work of Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe (1985). As is well-known, the debate between the two schools has been, at times, heated (e.g. Geras, 1987; Laclau & Mouffe, 1987) and the arguments persist (e.g. Willmott, 2005).

The paper reprises the central disagreements obtaining between, in particular, Bhaskar (CR) and Laclau (DT) concerning issues of moment to a 'first philosophy' of the social sciences - questions of causality, ontology and the status of the discursive and extra-discursive realms. This theoretical encounter is then brought into empirical engagement with the historical sociology of Mental Health Social Movements (MHSMs) in the post-1970 period within the UK.

Deploying findings from the recently digitized archive of the Survivors History Group - an archive maintained and controlled by people with direct experience of having used psychiatric services and of activism within MHSMs - the author speculates as to whether a theoretical reconciliation between CR and DT is not only possible but desirable and empirically useful. Emphasising the continuing significance of the rhetorical and symbolic domains of transformative practice for the activism of MHSMs, the author nevertheless seeks to reconcile these apparently discursive and empirically manifest concerns with a thoroughgoing materialist analysis of causal relations.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEDI A526F

YOUTH AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Powell, R., Flint, J.

Sheffield Hallam University

Anti-social behaviour discourse and the social scientist's retreat into the present

Problems of urban disorder and anti-social behaviour have been the subject of considerable political, governmental and media attention in the UK since the mid-1990s. The increased attention to what is perceived as a contemporary social problem has elicited myriad responses from academics, with social scientists from a range of disciplines engaging with, and conceptualising, anti-social behaviour and the governance of conduct more broadly. This paper draws on Norbert Elias' theory of involvement and detachment, which situates the long term development of knowledge alongside wider social processes, in providing a critique of this academic discourse. It argues that a discernible 'retreat into the present' is evident among social scientists' accounts of anti-social behaviour as a result of the tendency for 'involved' thinking, and a related paucity of historical analysis. The paper utilizes Elias' theory in outlining how a preoccupation with the immediate problems of the day can hinder the development of an understanding of the long term social processes impacting on behavioural changes. Attention is paid to precedents of incivility in earlier societies in order to show the relevance of historical analysis to contemporary debates around Respect and anti-social behaviour. The paper raises important questions about the targeted and uneven nature of the contemporary governance of conduct and the construction of incivilities and points to historical continuities.

McAlister, R.

University of Ulster

Nowhere to go: antisocial behaviour, young people and Belfast's transformation

Numerous academic studies have been compiled about Belfast's transformation from a conflict ridden industrial city to a shiny post-modern spectacle that houses many envious leisure and retail facilities. The marketeers are keen to promote this 'post-conflict' city to the worldwide audience. Yet like many cities across the UK Belfast is a city of two halves. Take a short trip to the outskirts of the city centre and there you will find life is very different for the local population where dereliction, disadvantage and anti-social behaviour is rife. Ongoing sectarian violence at interface areas further compounds these problems. In order to address the volatility and vulnerability in these local communities it is important that policy solutions are not parachuted in, much evidence reveals the failure of such initiatives in the past. Recent work undertaken by Belfast City Council and the Community Relations Council has attempted to address some of the underlying issues of segregation and sectarianism in these communities. This research expands on the previous work of these organisations by undertaking an assessment of the importance of building social capital in disadvantaged segregated communities. It specifically targets young people as evidence reveals that much anti-social behaviour, crime and interface violence is orchestrated by disaffected youth who have not experienced the benefits of Belfast's 'transformation'. By genuinely engaging with young people the research will identify a practical approach to deal with criminality and anti-social behaviour, the consequences of which only adds to the vulnerability of these already vulnerable communities.

Gormally, S.

University of Strathclyde

What is the agreement between youth gangs and their local communities? An in-depth analysis of two inner city areas in Glasgow

This paper will look at the initial stages of a PhD process concerned with exploring the question- what is the agreement between youth gangs and their local neighbourhoods? This question is designed to explore youth gangs and the type of relations that may exist between them and other members of the local neighbourhood. In order to gain a full understanding of their usage in this piece of research I shall begin by exploring the denotations and connotations of terms such as 'gang,' 'local neighbourhoods' and 'agreement'.

The paper will then describe and discuss methodological approaches adopted, especially the importance of using reflexive recordings to address practical issues that may arise when working with young people. There will also be a discussion around the theoretical underpinnings that have been useful as a lens to explore the agreement; as well as other theories relating to territoriality and poverty.

The paper will conclude with some interim findings and emergent themes from the ongoing fieldwork. This fieldwork is being carried out in two inner city areas of Glasgow where interviews with young people who have, or still do, associate with gang membership are being conducted. Similarly, there are interviews being carried out with other members of the local neighbourhood including, local police, local businesses, local residents and community workers. The aim of these discussions is to gain an in-depth understanding of the differing views and opinions on the interactions and agreements that may, or may not, exist between the young people and other members of their local neighbourhood.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Dooley, O. & Dolan, P.

Dublin Institute of Technology

Self presentation, home comforts and sustainable consumption

Despite a growing awareness of the ecological harm caused by practices such as washing, cleaning and grooming in the home, it seems Irish people are nowadays adhering more and more to such practices rather than shying away from them. It is argued here that in order to address the problem of excessive consumption in the home and to try to find ways to achieve a more sustainable way of living, it is first necessary to understand the social processes and pressures which underpin such stringent practices. By understanding such practices as socially instilled rather than as individual habits a more rounded and in-depth analysis can be formed. The theories of Norbert Elias will be used as a theoretical framework, with growing social complexity being used to explain advancing needs in relation to consumption norms and ideals. These norms and ideals are derived from increasing social pressures brought about by the changing nature of relations and dependencies between different groups in Ireland. Through an exploration of changing bodily-care and home care practices this study will explain the development of such everyday practices prevalent in Irish society today. Initial data collected, through the use of family interviews involving three generations of the same family, has emphasized generational differences in relation to household practices and self presentation and sees the existence of surrounding emotions such as shame and embarrassment as being more pronounced in the younger generation interviewed.

Franklin, A., Tranter, B.

University of Tasmania

Ethical Consumerism? Towards a sociology of second-hand consumption

Over the past forty years the shame and stigma associated with second-hand consumption has given way to a more confident and exuberant championing of second-hand shopping as an ethical alternative to unregulated and uncontrolled 'consumerism'. This paper will seek to explain the arrival of second-handism and the second-hand consumption movement using a number of theoretical and empirical works including those of Walter Benjamin (1955), Zygmunt Bauman (2000), Wolfgang Welsch (1997), David Ley (1996) and Barbara, Kirshenblatt-Gimblatt (1998) as well as some of the more recent ethnographic studies, particularly the works of Russell Belk (1991), Nicky Gregson and Louise Crewe (2003), Alison Clark (2000) and others. The paper begins by analyzing the ways in which second-hand consumption became reconfigured in ethical ways by the environmental and ecological politics that grew alongside critiques of modernity. To what extent has this changed consumer lifestyles, created alternative circuits of exchange and an alternative second-hand economics? The paper will then situate the economics and aesthetics of second-hand consumption within broader patterns of social change that began during the 1970s and 80s. Thirdly, the paper will look at how the consumer herself has performed new forms of ethical consumption through participation in new forms of second-hand market. Fourth, the paper will analyze the role that collecting cultures have had in the wake of these new markets and enthusiasms. Competing explanations from psychology, sociology and cultural studies will be evaluated within the context of what Welsch has called the aestheticisation process.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Winkelmann-Gleed, A.

London Metropolitan University

Demographic Change and its consequences on workforce ageing in Europe

Demographic change, workforce ageing and the management of older workers is increasingly becoming an issue of policy concern for governments and employers. Social stability, physical security, improved living conditions and economic as well as medical progress have contributed to longer life expectancy and improved quality of life. Based on figures from the 2009 European Commission Ageing Report, demographic change is transforming the population of all EU membership countries. This transformation is characterised by longer life expectancy, low fertility and inward migration, all affecting the extent and speed of population ageing. While the European political agenda to prolong working lives is largely driven by the economic arguments related to the funding of health care and retirement, this paper focuses on individual choice to remain in work and the importance of balancing work and non-work related commitments.

The paper draws on research related to demographic change carried out by the WLRI over the past five years with the aim of identifying what policies employers and employment related organisations need to adopt in order to extend the labour market participation of older workers. The findings presented relate to key employment areas and are explored based on the organisational identities/commitment literature. The paper concludes by arguing that the debate on workforce ageing among trade unions, employers and policy makers needs to be focussed on deeper understanding of the work and non-work related identities of older workers and aim to facilitate flexible working arrangements.

Mueller-Hirth, N.

Goldsmiths, University of London

'If you don't count you don't count': Auditing and Governing in South African Development NGOs

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) today are increasingly challenged to demonstrate accountability and relevance and to apply a range of complex auditing techniques. Drawing on interviews and observation research, this paper examines the impact of intensified reporting requirements on a number of South African NGOs working in economic and social development. It explores the types of expertise that auditing requires and produces over and above NGOs' core developmental activities. Auditing is shown to transform the organisations in this study, for instance by favouring particular ways of measuring success and failure, by impacting on staffing structures and by shaping the types of services provided.

In applying the insights of governmentality studies to the neoliberalisation of Post-Apartheid development, this paper argues that apparently mundane techniques like monitoring and evaluation (M&E) serve as technologies of governing in the development domain. Rather than NGOs being merely at the receiving end of such practices of governing however, they can be conceived of as translators of evaluation techniques between the transnational level of donors and that of community-based organisations. This paper demonstrates that – contrary to NGOs' emancipatory claims – their expert positioning and own 'reformist practices' in relation to the country's strong social movements effectively limit the organisational forms available to wider civil society in Post-Apartheid democracy. It is argued that, given the vast challenges facing the majority population and the deeply felt betrayal of the liberation struggle, this has potentially devastating consequences.

Roche, S.

University of Huddersfield

Double Stigma and the possible implications upon the identity of Older Restaurant Workers

Due to the demographic changes emerging, the UK restaurant sector needs to employ a greater number of older workers. The restaurant sector is renowned for having a predominantly younger workforce, and despite making attempts to employ older workers through policies and practices, ageism is still salient. The ideologies and stereotypes that surround both the industry and older workers is constructed and deeply embedded within society.

Previous research has considered the attitudes and perceptions of older workers being employed within the industry; however the identity and social constructs impact upon older workers in the restaurant sector has not been fully explored. The research has been taken forward by exploring the implications that the double stigma of age and occupation may have upon the identity of older restaurant workers.

The seminal theory of social identity integrated with current research have highlighted a fresh epistemological approach of social constructionism to exploring older workers and the effects that double stigma of age and occupation may have upon their identity. From this conceptual viewpoint a further exploration of the social identity of older workers can provide a new understanding that could benefit the older workers, the restaurant sector and the UK economy.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Rollock, N., Vincent, C., Ball, S., Gillborn, D.

University of London

Exploring intersectionality: education and the Black middle class

In debates about education, a common assumption about Black Caribbean families is that they are disadvantaged and their children underachieve at school. Further, while recent research has explored the educational strategies of white middle class families, Black families have traditionally been undifferentiated by social class and uncritically positioned as occupying working class locations. This paper draws on preliminary findings from current research on the educational perspectives and strategies of middle class Black Caribbean parents. The study explores, through a series of qualitative interviews, the interaction of social class and ethnicity as potential factors influencing how these parents experience the education system and navigate its demands and their aspirations for their children's education. It will also draw on the findings of previous studies that have focused on White middle class parents in order to explore the kinds of capitals upon which Black middle class parents are able to draw to support their children and in particular to help identify ways in which parents seek to overcome racism. Initial findings appear to suggest a complex picture vis a vis the apparent contradictions in being positioned as both middle class and Black and draw attention to the challenges such parents face despite their relative class advantage.

Taylor, Y.

Newcastle University

The ordnance survey of educational advantage: class, sexuality and parenting

This paper draws upon data from the British Academy funded research Lesbian and Gay Parenting: Social and Educational Capital (Palgrave, 2009) based upon 60 in-depth interviews in the UK. It offers an insight into the spatialities of parenting, sexuality and class, hoping to illustrate their linkages and mediation in relation to parental locational – and educational – ‘choices’. Lesbian and gay parents seek to ‘resource’ their children in similar ways to heterosexual parents but such strategies tell a classed, gendered and sexualised tale in that these are not always successful, variously compromising efforts to replicate class privilege and/or to simply ‘make up’ for a loss of educational and societal affirmation. Middle-class parents face a more complicated journey in securing advantage in a context where their sexualities are formally marginalised and grounds for disaffection. Yet strategies and resources do contrast between those in different class circumstances. The relevance of the intersectionality of class and sexuality as pertaining to parental (im)mobilities and geographies of choice is provided.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Wray, S.

University of Huddersfield

South Asian women growing older: Social capital and life-course inequalities

This paper is based on a pilot qualitative research study examining the nature and extent of social capital available to older (aged 60+) British South Asian women living in the north of England. A main argument is that South Asian's women's experiences of growing older have been overlooked within social gerontology and the sociology of ageing. In particular, the interrelationship of racism, sexism, and ageism remains under theorised. One outcome of this neglect is a lack of theoretical insight into the cumulative effect of life-course inequalities on older South Asian women's quality of life. The paper builds on the recognition that older women are not a homogenous group but instead have different resources and capital available to them and face different forms of disadvantage and discrimination. The aims of the paper are three-fold. First, to examine how social capital influences and is influenced by personal and social injustices and inequalities, encountered across the life course and in later life. Second, to consider how gender, migrant, and ethnic identities and roles shape South Asian women's opportunities to develop familial, friendship, and community networks in later life. Third, to problematise the concept of social capital and explore its capacity to explain the experiences of South Asian women, as they grow older.

Moore, E., Timonen, V., O'Dwyer, C., Doyle, M.

Trinity College Dublin

Divorce and Intergenerational Support: Comparing the Perceptions of Divorced Adults and Their Parents

Many studies have indicated that intergenerational support may be required when people separate from their spouse. The variation between the younger and older generation's experience of such intergenerational support at a time of divorce is less explored. The central focus of this paper seeks to characterise the differences in perceptions between younger and older generations experience of support at this time. This paper explores how care providers' and recipients' narratives of the support they give and receive upon divorce compare. The data for this paper comes from two different sample-based sets of in depth interviews, which were recorded in 2008. This article highlights that the younger and older generation have different perceptions of intergenerational support that is provided upon divorce. By examining practical and emotional support offered and received, this paper identifies the main variations that emerged from the data. Whereas the older generation believe they are involved in emotional and practical support (financial, childcare and housing), the younger generation felt they received and benefited from practical support over and above emotional support. The key finding highlights that there is a striking divergence in perceptions of emotional support between the two generations. As such, this paper contributes to the discussion of the structure and meaning of intergenerational support at a time of divorce and outlines the factors which impact upon the experience of such support.

Hubble, N.

Brunel University

Mass Observation Generations: Rethinking Ageing as an Extra/Ordinary Process

This paper uses responses to Mass Observation directives between 1992 and 2009 to examine the changing experience of ageing during the period. After an overview of the way succeeding Mass Observation generations understand ageing across both their own life courses and the life course in general, I focus on specific case studies which illustrate the existence of at least two distinct generations in the post-retirement age range. I draw on my analysis, in the new edition of Mass-Observation and Everyday Life (Palgrave, forthcoming in 2010), of members of the current Mass Observation panel as 'extra/ordinary people' in order to establish the wider social significance of these self-reflexive accounts.

By making brief references to comparable representations of post-retirement generations in the Academy of Medical Sciences' 2009 report, Rejuvenating Ageing Research, and David Lodge's 2008 novel, Deaf Sentence, I will conclude by mapping out some aspects of the role played by the interaction between representation and personal experience in the shaping of self-image and social attitudes. These findings will directly contribute to a public policy report on ageing, including specific guidelines and recommendations, which will be published in association with the think tank, Demos.

This paper summarises the initial phase of one of the three strands of research undertaken as part of the cross council funded New Dynamics of Ageing project 'Fiction and the Cultural Mediation of Ageing' (FCMAP) based at Brunel University and involving collaboration with the Third Age Trust, the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex, and Demos.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

GLOBAL HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Gislason, M.

We are all in this together: Climate justice, ecology and medicine

Climate change is a global environmental challenge that is characterised by profound social injustice. Working at the interface between health, medicine and justice this paper introduces the concept of climate injustice and proposes a way of thinking about the health implications of key anthropogenic drivers of climate change using an eco-climactic-social model. Drawing on the strengths of the social sciences to make links between multiple variables, this paper uses a classic health model to illustrate the usefulness of the eco-climactic-social model. Primary health impacts are defined as phenomena such as heat waves, injuries after floods or fires, or infrastructure collapse; secondary consequences as vector-borne diseases, food and water-borne infections, and allergies; and the tertiary consequences as issues such as famine, local and regional conflicts, displacement, refugees, and developmental failure. This paper concludes with a focus on the tertiary consequences as they are anticipated to cause the greatest health impacts in this century and discusses ways in which medical sociology might be able to work at the interface between social medicine, ecology and justice in order to identify ways to mitigate against society's march towards environmental brinkmanship.

Gottlieb, N., Davidovitch, D., Filc, D.

Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

State, Citizenship and Health in an Age of Global Mobility – Migrant Workers' Health Rights in Germany and Israel

Labor migration is a worldwide phenomenon. Migrant workers (with and without legal status) often remain excluded from national health schemes. The proposed paper investigates rationales and implications of states' health policies towards documented and undocumented migrant workers. Germany and Israel serve as test cases because they have in common a) large migrant worker populations, b) exclusionary conceptualizations of citizenship, and c) a commitment to universal health coverage.

Our methods include the analysis of policy documents and in-depth interviews with key-informants in Germany and Israel, and the analysis of socio-demographic and health-related data retrieved from NGOs that serve as main healthcare providers for uninsured persons in Berlin and Tel Aviv.

Health policies towards migrant workers reflect tensions between different rationales, such as a public health-, economical, nationalistic and human rights' logics. These tensions engender inconsistencies in the actual healthcare delivery to migrant workers. On the whole, states tend to shift responsibility for migrant workers' healthcare to the private healthcare market and NGOs, none of which offer adequate and comprehensive responses to migrant workers' healthcare needs. Patterns of disease and healthcare-seeking among migrant workers reflect inequalities in terms of underlying determinants of health, health risks, and access to healthcare. Genderized impacts of policies and practices put migrant women at specific risk for health rights violations.

We recommend to take the rationales of public health ethics, human rights and health economics stronger into account when determining health policies for migrant workers and to reconsider the integration of migrant healthcare into existing healthcare structures.

Whybrow, P.

University of Edinburgh

The viability of structural metaphors for explaining social inequalities in health

"There are inequalities in the health of people in Scotland which are unfair and unjust, because they are based on social structures and factors such as how much money people have." Scottish Government, Edinburgh 2008.

In this paper I ask what we mean when we say that inequality is based on social structures. More specifically, I consider how research in health inequalities has drawn on the various modes of explanation provided by a notion of 'social structure'.

Health inequalities can be broadly understood as the uneven distribution of health outcomes along demographic categories such as income, gender or ethnicity. It may be understood as an 'epidemiological problem' in the sense that it is an empirical phenomenon that requires theoretical articulation. Epidemiologists and sociologists have endeavoured to develop a satisfactory theory of health inequality, particularly since the Black Report advocated 'structural materialist explanations'. In this paper I argue that in the thirty years since the Black Report accounts of health inequalities have tended, either implicitly or explicitly, to draw on a structural language when they reduce it to a limited number of factors such as 'material conditions'. I suggest that 'social structure', as a theoretical metaphor, enables a deterministic discussion of complex phenomena. In conclusion argue that the structural

analogy can both either advance or obscure our understanding of health inequality.

Rozanova, J., Miller, E., Wetle, T., Mor, V.

Brown University

Inequalities of successful aging: Newspaper portrayals of nursing homes in America, 1999-2008

Population aging remains a key social challenge of our time, and as governments strive to reduce costs of eldercare, the notion of successful aging has become immensely popular to refer to simultaneous reduction of disease and disability, maintenance of cognitive and physical functioning, and active social engagement. Yet despite abundant research into the preconditions and outcomes of successful aging, little attention has been paid to media representations of successful and unsuccessful aging, and their meanings. This is a missed opportunity addressed in this paper that sheds light on the polarized discourse of (un-)successful aging in the context of nursing homes in national American newspapers, and how these portrayals have changed over the past 10 years. Based on content analyses of 1400 articles focusing on nursing homes and their residents and issues, published from 1999-2008 in The New York Times, The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post, and The Los Angeles Times and retrieved from the LexisNexis database, and thematic analyses of systematic samples of 60 articles from each year, this paper explores stereotypes of individual responsibility and personal control permeating the representation of the frailest and the oldest persons, and splitting their portrayals into further dichotomies of failure versus relative success. The paper reflects on political preconditions, economic foundations, and socio-cultural outcomes of media reinventing of nursing homes as sites of successful aging, and sheds light on the dark side of this discourse that devalues and excludes from the public space the most underprivileged older persons whose lives become virtually disposable.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

TEXT & IMAGE 2: BSA VISUAL SOCIOLOGY STUDY GROUP PANEL

This panel brings together three presentations from the BSA visual sociology study group responding to the theme 'text and image'. Each of the presentations engages with the invitation to re-think the ways in which we might work with and combine words with still and moving images when doing social research. In 'Poetry and photography in social research', Terence Heng introduces the photograph as a visual poem, exemplified through his work on ethnic marginalisation in Singaporean Chinese weddings. In 'Photographs and text: re-thinking social research', Beatriz Véliz Argueta reflects on the role of images in the process of knowledge construction and on the parallel role of the researcher as 'image maker'. In her work, Beatriz uses images to understand society, visually documenting globalisation in emerging economies. Finally, in 'Showing and telling with video diaries', Charlotte Bates discusses the ways in which video can capture the sensorial body. She uses video both illustratively and substantively in her work on illness and the body, asking participants to 'show and tell' about

Bates, C.

Goldsmiths, University of London

Text & Image 2: Visual Sociology Study Group Panel (Charlotte Bates)

In this presentation, I introduce video diaries as a novel method of encounter, in which people are asked to show and to tell, and in which the body is allowed to be simultaneously biological and social. As an audiovisual medium, video diaries have the potential to capture the affective qualities of illness and the vital signs of bodies, making the body audible, visible and visceral. Showing extracts from video diaries made by people with long term physical and mental conditions, I discuss how video can be used to both illustratively and substantively present a 'live' sociology of illness and the body.

Heng, T

Goldsmiths College, University of London

Poetry and photography in social research

Poetry is an unlikely method of social research, yet like photography has the potential to deepen our understanding of our chosen field of study. In this paper, I will argue that it is possible to see the photograph as a visual poem. This analogy affords the researcher a new array of vocabulary in which to read and interpret an image.

I will also show the efficacy in combining poetry and photography when presenting visual data through the use of a photo essay on ethnic marginalisation in Singaporean Chinese weddings. Poetry is especially useful in acting as subtle photographic captions, creating an extra layer of meaning that can textually enrich the photographs

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

Runciman, C.

University of Glasgow

Aluta Continua: South Africa's New Social Movements and the Second Struggle for Citizenship

The South African constitution recognizes the need to overcome the legacy of apartheid by addressing the social inequities created by the system of racial segregation particularly with regard to housing and access to basic services. However, the ideals of social justice and human rights contained within the constitution find themselves at odds with the macro-economic framework adopted by the ANC government. The privatisation of basic services guaranteed by the post apartheid constitution has meant that services are no longer guaranteed to citizens but to consumers based on their ability to pay. In the face of these struggles, new social movements have arisen in South Africa, such as the Anti Privatisation Forum (APF), to oppose the commodification of life spaces and to claim the basic rights enshrined within the post apartheid constitution. The movements of "the poors", as they have come to be known, have significance beyond their geographical specificity as these community organisations arguably offer an alternative frame through which to view a meaningful practice of citizenship and democracy. Utilising an ongoing ethnographic study of APF organisations in Gauteng Province, South Africa this paper will discuss citizenship as a theoretical construct, a political tool for social change and as a lived experience within Gauteng's townships and informal settlements. A central concern of this paper is to critically explore the possibilities and limitations that citizenship poses "as an organising principle for egalitarian politics" (Armstrong, 2006: 4).

Stanley, L., Dampier, H.

University Of Edinburgh

Networks across the 'race' divide: using Olive Schreiner's letters to rethink white radicalism and black activism in South Africa 1890-1914

It has become an intellectual commonplace to refer to the 'post-apartheid moment' in South Africa, with academics invoking this as an opportunity for re-thinking society and freeing thinking from the elisions and constraints of apartheid. However, surprisingly little re-thinking of the South African past (compared with the recent present) has taken place, with the constraints and silences of apartheid still exerting considerable influence over the past and historiography. Some important things that have been 'forgotten' include the active networks and activities of white radicals, black political uprisings and the formation of black intellectual elites in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Our source for 'remembering' is the letters and writings of the feminist writer and social theorist Olive Schreiner (1855–1920), produced by one of the acknowledged leading social commentators of the time. Three examples are discussed, concerning: Schreiner's vocal public condemnation of 1896 massacres in Matabeleland and Mashonaland and her 'behind the scenes' meetings with black political leaders about these; her involvement in campaigns against the so-called 'Black Peril', debates about which erupted in 1911 and around which Schreiner emphasised the gendered character of racial oppression and that it was black women who were most at 'peril'; and her assistance to the 'native delegation', some of whom were founders and protagonists of what became the ANC, in Britain in 1914 to voice opposition to the 1913 Land Act but excluded from mainstream political arenas.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Kollmeyer, C

University of Aberdeen

Globalisation and democracy: the triumph of liberty over equality

This article uses T.H. Marshall's (1950) well-known typology of citizenship rights to reconcile divergent views about how globalisation affects democracy. Despite numerous studies on this subject, the resulting literature has not reached an overarching consensus. Some scholars conclude that globalisation generally promotes democracy, especially in less developed countries, by fragmenting the political power of entrenched elites, by creating powerful demands for the rule of law, and by making democracy the global norm for governance. Other scholars, however, draw very different conclusions. They argue that globalisation generally weakens democracy by reducing the autonomy of national governments, by generating 'democratic deficits' between international policy makers and ordinary citizens, and by significantly enhancing the class power of transnational capital. To bridge these two literatures, the present article draws on Marshall's scholarship to highlight that democracy has two normative charges: (1) it should promote civil and political liberties (its liberal dimension), and (2) it should promote social and economic equality (its social democratic dimension). When viewed from this perspective, it becomes apparent that globalisation does indeed promote democracy, albeit a particular form of democracy in which the maintenance of civil and political liberties takes precedence over the realization of socioeconomic equalities. Importantly, this perspective suggests that globalisation is simultaneously promoting democracy in some parts of the world (i.e. by encouraging authoritarian countries to adopt civil and political liberties), but undermining it elsewhere (i.e. by curtailing social rights and heightening socioeconomic inequality in established democracies).

Verma, M.K.

Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar

Development Paradoxes: A Sociological Introspection Of Selected Projects

Involuntary displacement, ecological changes and environmental degradation have always been a companion of development. Every developmental project requires large chunk of land which is not easily available in the urban areas. As such, the planners generally fall back to remotest rural and tribal areas. Consequently, overtly the victims of industrial development lose their dwelling and livelihood and covertly their culture, civilization and bonding with the natal place. The main findings of the research suggest that in the absence of watertight policy, advanced planning and inexperienced administration, the industrial development project took toll in the form of the plight of the rural natives. Result was breakdown of social and economic structure, landlessness and joblessness, cultural degeneration, ebbing values and beliefs. The new relocation site carried with it trauma, fear, uncertainties, cultural shock, food problem, health hazards, adjustment problems and most importantly the opposition and conflict with the host population. In its widest sense, involuntary displacement is proved as the total deprivation of the community life, amenities, facilities, assets, access to natural resources, and the hardships involved before, during and after the process.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN 3

GOVAN MBEKI A426C

Bolzonaro, F.

University of Cambridge

What do we mean when we say social justice? A comparative approach to its definition

Though frequently used in the political debate, the concept of social justice is still poorly defined. Historically, it has most often been employed by left-wing organizations as socialists and social democrats have claimed for themselves the role of defenders of social justice. However, the ideal of social justice played an essential part in the birth of social Catholicism and it formed a constant element in its cultural vocabulary. One of the early definitions of the term can be found in the papal encyclical *Divini Redemptoris* and the importance of social justice is stressed in many passages in the famous social encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno* issued in 1931. Moreover, social justice has been an inspiring principle for the action of Catholics engaged in the social questions of their times. As acknowledged by the comparative welfare state research, in some countries where the population was largely catholic, the political mobilisation of catholic parties and unions successfully promoted extensive systems of social protection quite different from those introduced by social-democratic parties. The key elements of these social programs still constitute the basic features of many contemporary European welfare states. This paper analyses the idea of social justice by comparing catholic and socialist or social-democratic conceptions. The aim is to better define this highly controversial concept in order to enhance understanding of the approaches of various welfare regimes towards social inequalities.

Bailey, N., Winchester, N.

Cardiff University

Making sense of 'global' social justice

Global inequality and social justice are central concerns in a social world marked by increasing interconnectedness. Traditional understandings of social justice concern the equitable distribution of goods and burdens within a community of entitlement and are deeply embedded within state bound explanatory frameworks. Hence the raising of justice claims in global or non-state territorial space is seen to be intrinsically problematic. However, it is argued that globalisation has led to the emergence and entrenchment of forms and structures of power and influence that operate beyond and across national boundaries and that are capable of perpetrating inequity and injustice. In response theorists have begun to argue for the need to recognise the demands of social justice in non-state territorial contexts. This paper examines the global seafarer labour market as an example of a multicultural workforce operating in a global context and subject to inequality and social injustice in terms of their conditions of employment. The inherent tensions and dichotomies between the national and global are highlighted and presented as challenges to be addressed to make sense of social justice in this 'global' context.

Scott, G.

Glasgow Caledonian University

'Social Justice and Social Inequality: The Lessons of Contemporary Scotland'

This paper emerges from ongoing research around different aspects of social welfare in Scotland. Following devolution for the 'Celtic nations' in 1999, there has been considerable discussion of the possibilities of policy transfer and of the emergence of new forms of policy emerging from the devolved 'policy laboratories'. Here we explore the ways in which social inequalities have come to be understood in the policy approaches adopted by different Scottish governments since 1999, exploring how this has also been entangled with questions and issues of social justice. In particular the focus of this paper will be on the development of social justice and poverty policy in an environment shaped and constructed around questions of national identity and of nation-building and informed by prevalent views that a new Scotland is a globally competitive society driven by economic growth, prosperity and contributing to greater levels of solidarity and social cohesion. Such issues have a resonance beyond Scotland, overlapping as they do with other debates around the solidity of UK social welfare and social citizenship and with the potential for states within states to make a difference to social policy. As we approach the UK general election in 2010 and the next Scottish elections in 2011, it becomes even more important that Sociology engages with the new and rapidly changing environment that is the multi-national UK and how this matters for our understanding of social inequalities – and of social justice.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

RELIGION

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

RELIGION AND PROBLEMS OF MODERNITY

Bennett, M.

Nuffield College

Minority Religious Groups and Cultural Integration in Britain: Islamic Exceptionalism?

This paper answers two main questions; whether Muslims in Britain have significantly different attitudes and behaviors with respect to cultural integration compared to all other non-Muslim minority religious groups; and whether cultural integration is a relatively slower process across time for Muslims relative to all non-Muslim minority religious groups. Very little is actually known about the cultural integration of Muslim and non-Muslim minority groups in Britain. Some studies suggest Muslims are integrating less and at slower rates than other minority religious groups (Bisin et al. 2007, 2008), while others suggest that this is not the case (Manning and Roy 2007; Maxwell 2006; Saeed 1999).

I incorporate Reactive Identity Theory with New Assimilation Theory, which posits that Muslims in Western polities will have different preferences for integration. The theory suggests that British Muslims experience optimal social and institutional conditions that increase the likelihood of reactive and oppositional Muslim identities, increasing the likelihood of Islamist mobilization and non-integration.

I test this theory by analyzing English language use and general attitudes towards integration using the 1993 Fourth National Survey of Ethnic Minorities and the 2007 Citizenship Survey. My logit and ordered logit models suggest that Muslim levels of cultural integration are not significantly different from those of other religious groups at both time-points. Likewise, Muslims have not made the lowest increases across time-points, and actually make the second highest increase with respect to their attitudes towards integration.

Page, S., Yip, A. K. T., Keenan, M.

University of Nottingham

Young People's Perceptions of Religious Gender Inequality: A Multi-faith Exploration

In recent years, academic research has explored the extent to which gender inequality features in religion, concerned especially with women's exclusion from certain roles and responsibilities (Juschka 2001). This paper will explore young people's attitudes to gender and perceptions of inequality, drawing upon both qualitative and quantitative responses of religious people between the ages of 18 and 25 from a variety of faith traditions. In this work-in-progress paper, it will be explored how young people are often very aware of the gender requirements within their faith tradition, these being conceptualised both in terms of bodily performance (e.g. what one wears and how one acts) as well as relationships – being a good provider for the family, or being the emotional caregiver. However, although young people were familiar with such gender scripts, interpretations differed widely, with some young people being extremely critical of them, often choosing to move away from belief systems and places of worship where traditional gender roles were encouraged, whilst others actively endorsed traditional scripts. The latter group premised their narratives on fulfilling conservative gender roles in future heterosexual relationships and in such interpretations, religious discourses relating to gender were not seen as discriminatory, but rather an 'equal but different' narrative was conveyed. This highlights the variety of ways young people negotiate and frame their religious beliefs, where both contestation and accommodation feature.

Francis, M.D.

University of Leeds

In God's name? The role of an external legitimating authority in the move to violence in religious and non-religious groups.

My paper will present findings from my research, exploring how groups make the move from strongly held belief, to violent action. Working from a number of case-studies of groups that have acted violently I have produced a matrix of factors that helps us theorise about the causes of violent potentialities within groups. My case studies include Aum Shinrikyo, al Qaeda, and the Red Army Faction.

Through textual analysis of their statements I have coded data into a number of markers which are suggestive of the violent potentialities of these groups. In this paper I will be focussing on one of the markers, 'external legitimating authority', and presenting a comparative analysis of the data from all three of my case-studies. Through an examination of neo-Durkheimian theories on violence, such as those espoused by Georges Bataille and Rene Girard I address the idea of sacred boundaries, in the context of group identity and beliefs (through their application in ideological, chronological and spatial characteristics). As part of a broader role these boundaries help to define the nature and purpose of an external legitimating authority used in justification of violent acts.

Through including the Red Army Faction in my case-studies my findings also deal with questions about the methodological boundaries surrounding religion, the sacred and secular. In comparison with the religious groups I studied I am also able to address what is unique, or otherwise, about religious violence, through for example examining the characteristics of religious and non-religious justifications for violence.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Matthewman, S.

The University of Auckland

Foucault as Technological Thinker

This presentation advances a case for taking Foucault seriously as a thinker of technology. While his influence on social theory is undisputed, this is seldom extended to the issue of technology. Yet much of Foucault's conceptual genealogy is traced back to technology, and he locates his intellectual output within a technological framework. We will look at what may be profited from considering him as a technologist in his own right. The discussion will include Foucault's thoughts on technological innovation and technique, in addition to the (largely unacknowledged) intellectual debt Science and Technology Studies owe him. His position on non-human agency, materiality, technological neutrality, power and the nature of the social have all been highly influential. In consequence, theories like Actor-Network Theory may be far less original than we might think.

Castiello, R.

University of Trento

Virtual reality at the crossroads of STS, feminism and the ontology of multiplicity

Talking about virtuality necessarily implies addressing reality. My paper addresses the discourse about virtuality framing it within a vast and complex cultural transformation that has gone through several fields of knowledge, marking a turning point in the way we look at knowledge and the nature of reality.

Intersecting across two different theoretical fields, namely, feminist epistemology and Science and Technology Studies (STS), I try to focus on the contact points of these two traditions in the light of the fact that in recent years both share a shift of interest from epistemology to ontology. This shift goes hand in hand with a recent and rather marked interest in materiality and the complex intertwining of knowledge and power that underlie its provisional stabilization (or destabilization) in the light of a recently discovered (or renewed?) realist sensitivity, (after years of social constructivism), and a newly accomplished performative turn (after centuries of representationalism).

I will draw suggestions from the work of Karen Barad, who relies on the theoretical apparatus of quantum physics to investigate reality by tracing the points of contact and distance between feminism and STS. Finally, accepting the suggestions of the philosophy of Deleuze and in particular his rich elaboration on the concept of the Virtual, I propose to investigate virtual reality with an after-ANT sensibility, in the light of a political ontology of difference and multiplicity, with a realistic approach, an interest in material aspects of virtuality, and a commitment to situatedness and accountability.

Wakeford, N

Goldsmiths, University of London

"Experience modelling": user research in design and the challenge for sociology

Based on research amongst experience designers, who tend to work for high tech corporations or consultancies hired by these corporations, this paper discusses the origins and use of 'experience modelling' in design practice. This activity is a central way in which knowledge of the social world is understood to be produced in a form that can lead to design thinking and technology or product innovation. Showing how this process, and the visual representations which it produces, contrast with other design research visualizations (such as the "persona"), I explore the ways in which experience modeling might challenge the ways in which social research and sociology are produced in the context of an orientation towards the present and the future. Drawing on the literature in Science and Technology Studies about the visual work in technology production, I will argue that we need to pay attention to the ways in which models are positioned in terms of 'real' experience.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Khan, N.M.

University of Sheffield

Ambivalence and Anxiety in Everyday Life of Second and Third Generation British Pakistani Muslims

The paper argues that whilst British Muslims feel they have full citizenship rights, their personal experiences are characterised by ambivalence and anxiety. The paper will explore how ambivalence and anxiety arise from their mundane day-to-day experiences of living in British society which leads them to question their sense of belonging. Themes covered include day to day practice, local and transnational identity, family and children and being Muslim in contemporary British society.

Hussain and Bagguley (2005) have shown how British citizenship operates as a source of identity for second generation British Pakistani Muslims. At the same time other empirical studies have highlighted the tendency for second and third generation British South Asians (Pakistanis and Bengalis) to promote their Muslim identities (Sukkur 1994; Werbner 1996).

Respondents in this study draw upon popular ideas of citizenship and rights to assert their identities and belonging but at the same time feel excluded in everyday life. Markers of this exclusion include alcohol related activities, social 'values', religious 'practice' and essentialisation of their identities by both Muslims and non-Muslims. Data is based on semi-structured interviews of second and third generation British Pakistani Muslims, both male and female, who are married with children and have been educated in the UK.

Preston, J.

University of East London

Racism and intentionality in advising the general public on emergency preparedness

Preparedness for disasters and emergencies has been part of public information campaigns in the United Kingdom such as 'Protect and Survive', 'Preparing for Emergencies' and recently the Swine Flu preparedness campaign. These campaigns are frequently mocked in the media and popular culture for their kitsch value or their triviality in preparing for a catastrophic event. However, these campaigns are highly sophisticated ideological devices, employing multi-modal and pedagogical techniques, and conveying messages concerning the desirability of survival for different groups. With regard to this last point, preparedness materials have been critiqued for their social class bias, heteronormativity, scripting of gendered roles, assumptions concerning ability / disability and particularly their racism. Using critical whiteness studies, and critical race theory, several commentators have considered that whiteness is 'scripted' as the proper category of survival in contemporary preparedness materials. However, the question of intentionality remains in that, unless we imagine a Strangelovian figure at work, notionally anti-racist civil servants, designers and copyrighters produce violently white supremacist (in the critical race theory sense of the term) advice. This paper analyses historical documents from the national archives and interviews with scientists and policy makers who construct preparedness materials. It considers that the construction of preparedness materials is a site of contestation rather than consensus although ultimately there is an implicit 'asocial contract' between the state and the white middle classes that guarantees their survival above 'others'.

Winter, A.

University of Abertay Dundee

Fear of A Black President: Obama, White Supremacy and Terror in America

With the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American president, discussion has focused on the legacy of civil rights and the possibility of a post-racial America. Yet on the margins lie two other realities, that of continued institutional racism and socio-economic inequality for African-Americans and that of renewed organised racism and racist violence. On 7 April 2009, the Department of Homeland Security issued the report Rightwing Extremism: Current Economic and Political Climate Fueling Resurgence in Radicalization and Recruitment. At the same time, the Southern Poverty Law Center reported on an increase in hate groups and hate crimes. Because civil rights was seen by white supremacists as representing the loss of white power and road to black political rule (leading to the paramilitarization of the Klan and white separatism), the resurgence of such groups in response to Obama should come as little surprise. Yet it has been to those who had consigned racist extremism to the past (e.g. Klan bombings in the 1960s or the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995) and/or defined it as Islamic following 9/11. While one should not overestimate its significance, this resurgence raises important questions about the legacy of civil rights, racism and extremism in American history. This paper will examine the resurgence of the extreme-right and their response to Obama and his policies in relation to their predecessors' response to civil rights. In addition to this, it will look at how this resurgence relates to the declining fortunes in the Republicans and the America economy.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Jones, H

Goldsmiths, University of London

I Love Hackney/Keep It Crap: negotiating the meanings of place in local government practice

This paper is about the ways ideas of 'place' are implicated in negotiations of regeneration/gentrification in an inner London borough. It addresses the discursive struggle over the right to speak 'authentically' for a locality and its future, and how such struggles are played out within wider structures of power.

Using interview and documentary evidence from research with policy practitioners in the London Borough of Hackney, this paper considers how aspects of 'place' and place-based identity are used as tools of local governance. The history of a branding campaign using the phrase 'I Love Hackney' (based on the more famous I Love NY iconography) is used as a case study to unpick how places acquire meanings, and how those meanings become reconfigured and re-inscribed, through processes of government. Contestations of the right to speak for an authentic Hackney (and one's love for it) by local government officers, politicians and others are examined through the re-appropriation of a discredited Hackney 'brand' (as a place of crime and poverty) and its re-imagining (as a place of vibrancy and diversity).

The case study is set in the context of debates about gentrification/regeneration and the marketing of place. It also engages with literature on affect and psycho-social approaches to policy-making, to understand how individuals within institutions negotiate their own political, ethical, personal and professional commitments to a particular place.

Kullman, K.

University of Helsinki

Moving child-assemblages

This paper contributes to research on children's everyday geographies by exploring an overlooked topic in recent writings: the shifting collectives children participate in during their daily travels in urban settings. Engaging with ethnographic material on school journeys in Helsinki, Finland, the aim of the paper is three-fold. First, it argues against the tendency of childhood studies to explore children's geographies against an ideal of independent mobility, claiming that this conceals important spatial and experiential features of children's agencies and relationships. Most children in Euro-American settings move about as part of different assemblages composed of parents, friends, pets, mobile phones and various other materials. Second, exploring how children interact with these formations during their school journeys, the paper brings out the shifting ways in which children's agencies are enabled and limited through the assemblages they voluntarily and involuntarily enter. Third, the paper explores the broader implications these assemblages have for children's belonging in urban spaces.

Smith, R.J., Hall, T.

Cardiff University

Tinkering in the City: The Accomplishment of the Outreach Encounter

In this paper we apply interactionist and ethnomethodological principles to the spatialised and interactional elements of the outreach encounter as a practically managed accomplishment between outreach workers and rough sleepers. These encounters take place in public settings, on the street, in the city centre. We situate outreach work as employing various spatial practices centred around the concept of patrol and also as a trade concerned with social repair and maintenance. In this analysis we mobilise Goffman's spatial apparatus, not as metaphor, but in order to identify territories and material frames of interaction tied to the accomplishment of various stages of the outreach worker's 'repair cycle'. We demonstrate that the settings in which the outreach encounter takes place are no mere backdrop but form multimodal resources, as well as restrictions, for rough sleepers and outreach workers alike and, further, that the securing of an intensely personal interactional space in a wider context so axiomatically public requires careful management by all concerned.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

DEBATING NEOLIBERAL SCOTLAND WORKSHOP/DEBATE

Miller, D, Davidson, N, McCafferty, P, Mooney, G., Law, A, Paton, K.

University of Strathclyde

Academics based in Scotland, might have been expected to analyse the effects of neoliberalism here. Such expectations have, however, been disappointed—and not because neoliberalism has miraculously bypassed Scotland. Britain, along with the USA, was one of the first sites for the neoliberal experiment. Indeed, one of the flagship policies of the second phase of British neoliberalism, the Private Finance Initiative, was launched in Scotland with the construction and operation of the Skye Bridge. As part of the British state, Scotland has experienced, and continues to experience, the effect of these policies to the same extent as the rest of the UK, with only minor variations since the establishment of devolved government in 1999. Indeed, in many respects, the application of neoliberalism actually became more extensive under the Labour and Liberal Democrat governments than even under their Conservative predecessors, and this has yet to be addressed, other than at the margins, by their minority Scottish National Party (SNP) successor. Yet only with the onset of a new period of capitalist crisis have commentators outside of the radical left apparently noticed that Scotland has been subject to the same neoliberal regime as the rest of the world, and even now it is journalists rather than academics who show the greatest awareness of this fact. This workshop/Debate will provide contending accounts of how to understand 'Neoliberal Scotland' and explain why the academy has failed for so long to engage in debate on the issue.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

'REAL' VIOLENCE IN A 'HYPER-REAL' WORLD

Inspired by two recently completed research projects (one in cosmetic surgery and hyper-reality and other on violence and social justice) the seminar workshop examines the representations and representative transformations of violence and its various expressions. Through a combination of speeches and images, audio and video presentations, this seminar-workshop emphasises the difficulties in conceptualisation, definition and identification of violence and the related challenges of prevention, intervention, reparation/indemnification, reform and rehabilitation. The authors offer a psycho-social and socio-psychological analysis of violence and introduce what they have coined as the 'language of violence'. The participants will be induced to reflect on definitions, aspects and representations of violence in their own lives and to experience the fused/unified nature of real and hyper-real experiences of violence. The authors suggest that violence is a mode of communication and a communicative expression and needs to be addressed through a re-education in new avenues for personal expression and reframing and resolution of past associations and traumas. The authors proceed to present some of the more significant effects of a normalised 'language of violence' and examine its substantial implications for the individuals, the society and social policy, including a variety of issues such as prevention and management of violence (violent crimes, issues of individual safety, domestic violence, child abuse, etc.) and mitigating its effects and outcomes (victim programmes, rehabilitative approaches, etc.). The session format will be (speech, workshop, speech, comment/questions). The length of the session can be adjusted to 1.5 to 2 hours as need be.

Megele C., Buzzi P.

A Sense of Self

'Real' Violence in a 'Hyper-real' World

Inspired by two recently completed research projects, this paper presents the various representations and representative transformations of violence in our hyper-real risk society and the divergent lived experiences, definitions and treatments of violence based on culture and social class. Examining the effects of 'reality' and 'hyper-reality' on the concept, identification and expressions of violence in everyday life, and the different coping mechanisms/systems for dealing with it, the paper explores its uneven effect on different individuals, social groups/classes and societies. The authors compare and contrast the historical 'quasi-sterile' experiences/treatments of violence by aristocrats vis-à-vis the working class, and draw parallels between the aristocratic experiences and our hyper-real experiences of violence. The authors suggest that there is a conflict between individuals' lived experiences and their hyper-real perceptions of violence which pose a great challenges to individual identity and psyche. The authors argue that various perceptions and experiences of violence and their associated reconciliation attempts and coping mechanisms offer a new definition/categorisation of social class. The authors warn that such division of social class can lead to an 'engrained culture/system of violence' as a self-perpetuating mechanism with substantial negative implications. The authors conclude that a reorientation and/or resolution of this spiraling cycle of violence is possible only through a lengthy and painful 'unwinding/rewinding and reprogramming' of socio-cultural and communicative media; and that the configurations of hyper-reality and post-modernity offer powerful mechanisms and methodologies to expedite such resolute processes, albeit they can also enhance the negative effects of violence.

Buzzi P., Megele C.

A Sense of Self

The Language of Violence

Inspired by two recently completed research projects, this paper presents a psycho-social and socio-psychological analysis of violence within contemporary society. The author argues that the overpowering and constant barrage of conflicting and mixed media/commercial messages have created a profound dissonance on both individual and societal level which is both a reflection and a cause of many of our individual, social, cultural and political challenges. This has led to a narcissistic culture obsessed with 'self' and 'ego', aggravated by post-modern fragmentation and magnified by hyper-reality. The authors argue that the race to display window of 'hyper-reality' has increased social friction and harsh conflict/confrontations, as the individual need for 'significance' has been accentuated and has become a zero sum equation, where one's gain is at the expense of others' loss. In this context, individual and social expressions, juxtapositions and frustrations are manifested through violence and aggression which are normalised as self-assertion. The authors suggest that violence is a mode of communication and a communicative expression and must be addressed through re-education in new avenues for personal expression and reframing and resolution of past associations and traumas. The authors proceed to present some of the more significant effects of a normalised 'language of violence' and examines its substantial implications for the individuals, the society and social policy, including a variety of issues such as prevention and management of violence (violent crimes, issues of individual safety, domestic violence, child abuse, etc.) and mitigating its' effects and outcomes (victim programmes, rehabilitative approaches, etc.).

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Deeming, C.

University of New South Wales

Inequalities in food, diet and social justice: Evidence from the United Kingdom's Expenditure & Food Survey

Securing adequate food and nutrition is essential, not just for our survival, but also for the maintenance of our health and function. In modern societies we leave the supply of food to the market, yet inequalities in diet and nutrition are increasingly discussed as a matter of concern in many developed countries including the UK. This article examines the factors associated with poor diet in older age. Data are taken from the UK Expenditure and Food Survey (EFS), a continuous cross-sectional survey of household expenditure, food consumption and income. Survey data for 2002-5 provided a total sample of 5,600 households. Household food consumption is evaluated using national Dietary Reference Values (DRVs) recommended by the British government. A multivariate logit model examines inequalities in diet and nutrition by individual and household characteristics. The human rights approach to food has not gained much currency in Britain yet the results presented here suggest that food is an important issue in the campaign for social justice in the UK.

Zhu, D.

University of Manchester

The taste of Chinese middle class

This paper is concerned with judgment and justification of middle class taste in contemporary China. According to 30 interviews in Beijing, there are three significant features of middle class taste. Middle class has preferences on cultural goods and services, refined but low-profile goods, and relaxation and leisure related activities. Gender and age play important roles in the variations of tastes among middle class. Two more reflective features of middle class taste are (1) distance from popular taste, i.e. middle class people keep distance with whatever becomes trends or popular, which is also how their own taste is regenerated; (2) inconspicuousness, consistent with 'low profile' and also limited by economic affordability.

Chinese middle class also differentiates each other by their taste, from which they recognize social positions of other people. The judgment of taste relies on two factors, economic power and cultural aesthetics. Middle class justify their consumer patterns through (1) utility, because such a consumption practice is useful or functional; (2) pleasure, 8 out of 30 informants prefer certain activities or material goods because 'it brings pleasure to your life', 'it makes my kids happy', or 'it is delightful to own premium articles with fine quality', and some of them just make pleasure, fun or relax as their pursuit. Participations in hedonism-motivated practices, however, are not homogeneous across social hierarchies, and such a consumer pattern is more significant among middle class than non middle class, which can be seen from my quantitative data.

Yount, C.

Centre Edgar Morin

The shame in eating out: Taste, respectability, and solidarity in Dakar, Senegal

Citizens of Dakar interpret the recent proliferation of restaurants in their city to indicate the disintegration of Senegalese traditions and values. Yet, Western style fast food restaurants are judged far less severely than small establishments called gargotes, which sell individual portions of Senegalese food at low prices. This article explores how the stigmatization of gargotes in Dakar, Senegal, reveals anxieties concerning social transformations and the pauperization of the population. Through investigation of the social significance of the family meal and the interdiction of eating in the street, it sheds light on the relationship between the space chosen for food consumption and one's social identity. Drawing on in-depth interviews and ethnographic fieldwork in Dakar, I argue that gargotes' Senegalese fare and their association with poverty are the sources of their reputation for contributing to the breakdown of social networks, solidarity and hospitality.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Darbaz, B.

University of Essex

Modernity as a Key Historical Moment in Child Labour

For some scholars, it is thought that child labour is a product of industrialization so if children were allowed to work then it would mean that the society is going back to the horrible times of child labour in industrial Britain. Historical research shows that this claim is not true and child labour is not a product of industrialization but was also a significant part of pre- industrial economy and only the modern ideas emerging around the time of industrialization that come to deem child labour as a problem which has raised its visibility. According to John Holt, the very first reason of why children's labour power has been exploited in such horrific amounts in the 19th century is that children had no chance to choose what type of work they do or to reject the work that has been already given to them. Holt claims that if it is not given children the right to work, it would not be possible to protect their rights. This paper explains how modernization as a key historical moment has an effect on child labour issues in international community. The paper also supports children's right to work and giving a voice to children on issues related to them.

Westaway, E.

University of East Anglia

Working girls and boys in rural Uganda: a gendered and generational analysis of children's work in a fishing community

This paper explores the gendered and generational aspects of children's working lives in a rural fishing village on Lake Kyoga, Uganda. The findings of in-depth qualitative research with 24 children indicate that work both in and outside the home is an important part of the everyday lives of children growing up in this community, and that households are heavily reliant on children's work contribution. Girls and boys undertake a variety of unpaid jobs, which include domestic chores and productive work that may or may not be rewarded in cash or kind. Some unpaid jobs are gender-neutral, whereas others are gender-specific, such as fishing. Girls and boys start working for their household when they are five or six years old and jobs change as they get older due to greater physical strength, competence and responsibility, and by offloading onto younger siblings. The AIDS epidemic has had a profound impact on the working lives of children in this community resulting in girls and boys undertaking different unpaid jobs, such as serving in the household's shop/drinking joint or herding cattle, and having increased workloads. Despite a range of incentives being used to encourage compliance, girls and boys express their agency, often by trying to avoid disliked jobs; nonetheless parents are quick to punish disobedience, resorting to caning, denial of food, quarrelling and threats. The paper concludes with a call for changes in current international child labour regulations which do not take account of the reality of children's working lives in rural Uganda.

Yu, W., Chau, C M

Hong Kong Baptist University

Flexibilisation of the Labour Market and Youth Unemployment in Hong

Since 1997, Hong Kong has been repeatedly affected by financial crises at local, regional and global level. This has major impact on the local job market. While some companies have been forced into bankruptcy, closure and downsizing; many employers seek to reduce the cost of production by offering more flexible terms for their employees. Unemployment and underemployment rate in general have been consistently high. Latest figure shows that youth unemployment rate hits 28.7%. To ease the problem of youth employment, the Hong Kong government has introduced various training and subsidized work schemes. This paper is based on a study on the effectiveness of two of these programmes in helping young people gain security in the labour market. These are the Youth Pre-employment Training Programme (YPTP) and the Youth Work Experience and Training Scheme (YWETS). By applying the concept of flexibilisation, this paper examines the key features of the current youth labour market. Based on the findings of the study, the paper examines whether these features have been adequately addressed in the two training programmes; and how effective they are in helping their participants gain security in the labour market. It is argued that one-sided emphasis on enhancing the employability of young people may not be enough to resolve the problem. A systematic analysis of the youth labour market may shed light on the weaknesses of the training programmes and the labour market itself; and provide insight for improvement in the future.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEDI A005

Hollinshead, A., Gill, W., Sutton, P.

Edinburgh Napier University

Student Identities – the interaction of meaning, power and identity in relation to assessment feedback.

This paper is based on a C-SAP funded research project on assessment and feedback policy and practice in two HEI's. Drawing on an Academic Literacies approach (Street 1995, Lea & Street 1998, Street 2004), the project had two interrelated strands. Firstly, an analysis was undertaken of University College Plymouth: St Mark and St John and Edinburgh Napier University policies regarding assessment and feedback. Secondly, semi-structured interviews were used with students and staff at both universities with the aim of understanding perceptions of and responses to assessment and feedback. Our aims were twofold. Firstly, to explore the interaction of the personal experiences of students and staff with institutional policies and how this facilitates or hinders the development of a 'successful' student identity. Secondly, to explore the consequences of policy and practice for staff workloads. Initial findings indicate that whilst there is a diversity of individual student experiences, nevertheless there are similarities. For example, students are uncertain about the use and meaning of academic language in feedback; assessment and feedback impact upon self esteem; and the role of power asymmetries in learning and teaching. There are also fairly clear indications that institutional constraints impact on the ability of staff to respond to institutional demands and the diverse needs of students. We therefore explore both the micro-social and macro-social aspects of assessment and feedback processes as they are shaped by the face-to-face relations of learning and teaching and by university policies on assessment, employability and widening participation.

Ward, M R M.

Cardiff University

'The only games played are like football and rugby...': Alternative working class masculinities in the South Wales valleys.

During the last few decades the South Wales valleys (U.K) have undergone considerable economic change. In these 'transforming communities' the decline of heavy industries such as coal mining and the so called 'feminisation' of the labour market, has altered the lives of the white, working classes. This research is drawn from a pilot study I undertook as part of my masters course for my PhD. It looks at the attitudes of different groups of young men ('The Geeks', 'The Sporties' and 'The Emos') aged 15-16 in an all male secondary school, during their final weeks of compulsory education. A qualitative approach was taken which combined a micro-ethnography with focus groups over a six week period. Theoretically a post-structuralist framework was adopted, which explored the discursive construction of subjectivities with a particular emphasis on the relationship between school and locality. In this paper I wish to concentrate especially on one of the groups of young men, 'The Emos', that emerged as the study progressed. Here I explore how these young men adopted alternative versions of masculinity which differed from those of their peers in the locale, which would seem to fit in with a more globalised youth identity. I argue that even though these young men adopted alternative or in some ways alien leisure pastimes, e.g. skateboarding, they still perform old masculine discourses of strength, power, machosim, working within new masculinities.

Meo, A.

University of London

Students' class and gender identity making. Evidence from a qualitative study in the City of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

This paper presents some results of an ethnographic study carried out in a secondary school in the City of Buenos Aires (Argentina) between March 2004 and December 2004. It encompassed a variety of data collection techniques such as participant observation, interviews of different kinds (including individual and group interviews with teachers and students, and photo elicitation interviews with students), surveys and documentary analysis. Secondary schooling is a crucial site for class and gender identity making. This paper argues that attending secondary school (in the context of a historically exclusionary Argentinean education system) and students' cultures played a central role in the production of class and gender identities of a group of working class and marginal students, who I call the 'triers'. In the first section, I will succinctly describe the socio-economic and educational context and key features of my study. Secondly, I examine how a group of working class and marginal students viewed attending and completing secondary schooling as central for the production of their social identities as different from those of their families and social class. Thirdly, it analyses the identification of the 'triers' with the middle classes and their distancing from those who were socially excluded and those who were rich. Then I explore how central aspects of students' cultures in Low Hill such as 'mirar mal' (aggressive staring), verbal abuse and fights operate as ways of performing and producing class and gender identities

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Holmes, L.

Missing People, registered charity No. 1020419

When a Loved One Goes Missing: How families' beliefs about a disappearance shape their experience of trauma and affect their behaviour, expectations and ability to cope.

This paper proposes a model to show how families' beliefs - about whether their missing family member is still alive and whether they went missing intentionally - affect their emotional experience, expectations, search and coping strategies, and willingness to seek out support.

UK police forces receive in the region of 210,000 missing person reports every year.

In 2004 Tarling and Burrows found that 97 per cent of a random sample of 1,000 Metropolitan Police missing persons cases were resolved within one month. (Tarling and Burrows, 2004: 20). However, for a significant number of families, the missing person remains missing for many months, years and even decades.

Recent research by the charity Missing People explores the impacts and experiences on the families left behind. Alongside the financial, legal and practical effects, families experience a range of emotional and social impacts. Families who took part in this research described feelings of despair, sadness, guilt, hope, anger, stress, pain and rejection. The concept of 'ambiguous loss' provides a framework for understanding how this unique trauma affects the families left behind. This research goes step further to examine how families' perceptions shape their experience, with important implications for those who seek to provide investigative and emotional support.

Woodiwiss, J

University of Huddersfield

Childhood sexual abuse: a contemporary story

There are many 'stories' (Plummer 1995) which can be told of childhood sexual abuse (CSA) and recovery but our contemporary (Western) storytelling of this issue draws heavily on the therapeutic culture of the 21st century. Although it allows for a variety of plots and sub plots it is a story that tells of inevitable and devastating psychological damage and the need for healing. It is also a story that can be told not only by women who have 'concrete' memories of sexual abuse in childhood but also by those who have no such memories.

This paper is based on a research project funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (UK) which looked at women's engagement with the self-help literature aimed at female victims of childhood sexual abuse. The majority of the participants did not have 'concrete memories' of sexual abuse but based their belief that they were sexually abused in childhood on a correlation of perceived 'symptoms' with assumed past abuse. This paper explores how women, often starting from a position where they have no knowledge or memories of having been abused, engage with discourses around sexual abuse, healing and recovery, in the ongoing process of understanding their life course and relationships, both with themselves and others. (Re)writing their life stories and sense of self in this way enabled women to not only make sense of their past and their present, but also to plan for their future.

Gay, L

Effects of images in French gay magazines: do they help or fail to provide a positive representation of gay men?

Upon observing gay publications over the last 30 years in France, it is possible to notice their huge contributions, first to inform gays and lesbians about their rights and to provide social visibility to homosexuals.

Focused on the current gay publications, analysis of images shows that men tend to be always depicted in the same way. In *Têtu* and *Préfmag* (the two main French gay magazines at present), male models are mostly portrayed in suggestive poses, well-shaped, hyper-muscular and topless. According to this, masculinity seems to echo eroticism and sexuality because the images are enticing and seducing: men portrayed are physically appetizing. What effects has this manner in which masculinity is depicted in gay magazines? In another way, do images aim at providing a positive representation of homosexuality to gay men and in broader society?

The goal is to understand masculinity as a process depending both on the social and the economical context. According to this, this paper will show this constraint for gay publications to face the media crisis. Magazines such as *Têtu*, need to offer attracting « cover-boys » notably in order to catch more readers and thereby increase cover sales.

If this marketing strategy may help to stabilize or increase sales, are the use of masculinity and the way to portray men in homosexual magazines favorable or not to gay men? Stated differently, do gay publications succeed in providing homosexual visibility in society via the images they provide?

Thornham, H

City University

Cross-Generational Gender Constructions: Women, Teenagers and Technology

Despite the supposed inroads of feminism, gender equality and new 'democratic' means of technological communication, adult women and teenage girls continue to emphasise what Valerie Walkerdine has termed the 'habitual "feminine" position of incompetence' (2006, 526). This paper draws on two complimentary research projects in order to investigate the cross-generational gender constructions women and teenagers articulate. Drawing on McRobbie's notion of 'disarticulation', I suggest that we can read the claims and practices of the women and teenagers as a wider indication of gender construction. Further, the continual recourse to an essential feminine position of exclusion is detrimentally shaping not only technological use, but the wider operationalisation of gender in public and private arenas. Focussing specifically on the female populations of the research projects, I demonstrate how gender continues to emerge and be produced by women and girls in negotiated, but highly problematic ways. Rather than considering gender as a determining force, it emerges here as a carefully constructed tool for engagement, and as a distancing device facilitating a claim of, and towards, inaction. Taken together, the research suggests implications for future mediations and relations with that technology; it also suggests that across generations, women are detrimentally fixing and restricting potential and actual performances of gender through the evocation of a more traditional femininity.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

DEATH AND DYING

Kirkman, A.

Victoria University of Wellington

Revisiting 'social death': the case of dementia

This paper revisits the concept of 'social death' and its application to people with Alzheimers Disease. Sociologists have identified the concept of 'social death' since the early 1900s with Alzheimers Disease being specifically identified in the 1990s as a form of social death resulting from loss of essential personhood. Much has happened in the field of dementia care over this time and considering the degree to which the concept is still applicable is timely. The revisiting takes place through an exploration of the narratives of field workers for Alzheimer's Societies, publications aimed at health professionals and examples from popular culture (print media, film and television). The paper demonstrates that while aspects of 'social death' persist, the increased exposure to, and awareness of dementia, brought about through the work of advocacy organisations has helped reduce this conception of people with Alzheimers disease as 'bodied without selves'.

Mackintosh, N. , Sandall, J.

King's College London

The construct of the 'avoidable death': challenges and consequences

Clinical deterioration in a patient's condition is often preceded by physiological and psychological cues in the period six to 24 hours before a patient becomes acutely unwell. However, changes in clinical signs are often missed, misinterpreted or mismanaged. Reflecting the current safety discourse of prediction, control and avoidance, 'failure to rescue' (failure to recognise and respond appropriately to early signs of deterioration) has become a legitimate arena for professional scrutiny and the subject of international and national patient safety policy.

The construct of the 'avoidable death' in relation to the acutely ill patient demands closer inspection. This paper will draw on findings from a two year ethnographic study of the management of complications in medicine in two UK NHS Trusts. Data will be presented from observations and interviews with patients, relatives and staff.

Our findings suggest that interpretation of numerical mortality data appears to frame generalisable knowledge about social phenomena. The current challenge to prevent all deaths resulting from deterioration in a patient's condition not only seems to shape the classification of these deaths, but understandings of and reaction to these events.

This paper will illuminate professional and lay frameworks utilised to interpret and generate knowledge about the 'avoidable death'. It will also explore tensions between aspirations of control and standardisation and the reality of a 'messy' world, furthering our understanding of the distributed decision making, multiple viewpoints and conflicting knowledge bases influencing the 'brokering' processes around life and death.

Theodosius, C.

Anglia Ruskin University

Emotional labour as a defence against death

The avoidance of anxiety in nurses produced by a fear of death was first introduced in the seminal work of Isabel Menzies-Lythe (1960). This paper explores how nurses use emotional labour as a defence mechanism against death. It also examines the conflict that might arise in the inner dialogue between the need to draw on aspects of self that are personal and integral in the giving of emotional labour when dealing with the dying, and the protection of self when confronting one's own mortality and the anxiety this produces. In doing so it challenges the belief that nurses must always be defending against an anxiety of death when dealing with the death of others. The paper presents this discussion by drawing on theories of emotional labour, personal and social identity and the inner dialogue and psychoanalysis and analysing them through an exploration of empirical examples drawn from a case study of nurse's emotional labour.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

NARRATIVES AND ACCOUNTS

Einarsdottir, A., Heaphy, B.

The University of Manchester

Stories we tell, relationships we live: Interviewing couples together and apart

To date, most couple studies have been based on interviews with heterosexual couples, where partners are either interviewed together or apart. This approach has largely been taken to counteract gender inequality in interview settings, to increase the participation of men in couple studies and/or to keep research costs under control. In this paper we present a novel approach to interviewing couples together and apart. Our ESRC funded study, *Just like marriage? Young couple's Civil Partnerships* involves qualitative interviews with same sex couples who have entered Civil Partnership. Unlike some couple studies, we acknowledge that there are several stories that can be told about any one relationship. By generating three narratives, one from the couple itself and two individual narratives, we argue that it is possible to situate couple accounts of 'married life' in terms of partners' different relational orientations and broader cultural scripts for marriage and relating. Despite research that suggests same sex relationships to be egalitarian, in our study some couple stories had a leading narrator who often seemed to dominate the structuring of the relationship itself. The paper will explore and illuminate this through an analysis of how same sex couples begin to tell their relationship stories and the way in which direct and indirect negotiations are made between partners. It will also consider the insights that combined couple and individual interviews generate into the links between the stories couples tell and their lived relationships.

Doyle, J.

Mount Allison University

Say it or picture it? Using audio and visual diaries to access everyday life

Diaries have been used in social research for their reported ability to provide in-depth detail on everyday behaviours and feelings. Types of diaries include structured and unstructured written diaries, visual diaries and audio diaries. This paper draws on a 3 year research project on the breastfeeding experience of more than 30 women from New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, Canada which used both visual and audio diaries. In our study, participants alternated between visual and audio diaries. Both types of diaries were used as a technique to access and record daily life and everyday experiences. Visual diaries and associated photo elicitation interviews are increasingly used in social research while audio diaries are only occasionally used; rarely have they been used together. This paper will compare both types of diaries in terms of ease of use, completion by participants, and quality and quantity of data generated. It will also discuss the practical challenges and strategies of using these two types of diaries.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

Taylor, B. Piper, H., Garratt, D.

Copenhagen Business School

Don't Touch Me Coach - Presumed Guilt And The Development Of Mistrust

In this paper, we focus on issues of touch in sports coaching, arguing that policy implementation, implicit and explicit, in coaching and other sport contexts where adults engage with children and young people, has fostered the development of a culture of defensive practice. This culture inhibits both coach effectiveness and the development of positive coach-athlete relationships. Touching practices have been affected by an increasingly risk adverse society and an institutionalised moral panic which encourages the re-definition of all touch as inherently untrustworthy and sexual.

Data from initial interviews with coaches in the North West of England highlights the emergence of inter- and intra-generational mistrust, a culture of self policing, and the disembodiment of practice (Foucault, 1988). Coaches report being disabled in administering basic pitch side first aid; feeling disempowered by having to refer behaviour and coaching practices to parents and sporting governing bodies; and experiencing anxiety that normal social and tactile interaction may be misconstrued as inappropriate or criminal. This culture of fear and defensiveness in coach-athlete relationships has both undermined individual coaches' ability to act in social and welfare capacities and reduced some coaching interaction to sterile, relatively ineffective technical instruction. Coaches report doubt and concern about their role and engagement. This emotional and physical distancing has been compounded by a reduced level of professional trust and the imposition of government policy based on a limited appreciation of the realities of community volunteer coaching in the field

Smith, A.

University of Chester

Young People, Sport and Leisure: A Study of the Sporting and Leisure Biographies of 15-16-Year-olds in North-West England and North-East Wales

This paper draws on data from a broader study, the central objective of which was to explore the place of sport and physical activity in the lives of 1,010 young people in north-west England and north-east Wales. More particularly, the paper reports the findings of 24 focus groups conducted with 153 15-16-year-olds and examines: (i) young people's participation in leisure-sport; (ii) the leisure behaviours and sporting biographies of young people in the context of wider social processes; and (iii) the extent to which participation in leisure and sport contribute to existing social divisions between the sexes and social classes. The findings revealed that for many young people participation in sport and physical activity was an integral aspect of their lives but, as with other leisure behaviours, this was strongly related to, among other things, gender and social class. It was also clear that, particularly for the more frequent participants, playing sport was just one component in their generally busy and wide-ranging leisure lives that did not prevent them from engaging simultaneously in commercially-oriented leisure activities and consuming legal and illegal drugs that impact negatively on their health. In this regard, it is argued that it is only possible to understand adequately where sport and physical activity fit into the multi-dimensional lives of 15-16-year-olds by examining those lives 'in the round', and by locating young people within the increasingly complex and dynamic relational networks to which they have belonged in the past, and which they continue to form in the present.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Kaspersen, I.b.

copenhagen business school

Associative democracy – a political response to the new multicultural Europe? The Case of Denmark

Many western European countries have been undergoing severe changes in recent decades. All countries have become more sociologically heterogeneous in terms of wider plurality in family types, level of individualization, religion, ethnicity and nationality. The smaller states used to be the most homogeneous in particular in relation to ethnicity and to religion. Denmark is an interesting example. Until recently it was one of the most homogeneous countries in the world and in less than four decades this ethnic and religious homogeneity has been turned around and challenged by a not insignificant process of immigration and asylum-seekers who have contributed to a more heterogeneous society in terms of ethnicity, religion and cultural practices.

Some form of organized political response to this increasing pluralisation is necessary if Denmark and others shall remain with a high degree of social cohesion and high level of welfare. A possible response could be a further development of the Danish version of associative democracy. Associative democracy has been an important part of the Danish democracy for more than 150 years. By including the British pluralists, the work of Paul Hirst the paper discusses whether associationalism can be revitalized in Denmark and elsewhere. Associative democracy is defined as a social theory arguing that as much autonomy as possible must be transferred to voluntary associations and these associations must be allowed to compete with state and market institutions in terms of offering welfare services.

West-Newman, C.L

University of Auckland

Who belongs in the Pacific? Aliens, 'illegals', and migrants in Aotearoa

Judgments of 'legality' and 'illegality' are increasingly significant in the achievement of successful migrant or refugee status in many western states. Processes of assigning legal status regularly implicate decisions about desirability that rest on arbitrary markers of assumed ethnic origin and religious affiliation. In Aotearoa New Zealand constructions of migrant and refugee identities are shaped through cultural representations of particular ethnic groups as more or less likely to threaten both domestic security and images of cohesive nationhood through their transgressive presence. At the same time, as enthusiastic signatories to international human rights instruments, the nation's politicians have at times occasioned criticism for selective policing of those whose presence may be opportunistically defined as currently 'illegal'. I am interested in the construction of perceptions of national security as a fragile achievement under recurring threat by transnational movement of peoples and beliefs about the source and intensity of the alien as dangerous. Comparing legal responses to and popular cultural constructions of Polynesian 'overstayers' in the 1970s and migrants and political refugees who might be connected with Islam in the post 9/11 'terrorism alert' consciousness of the twenty first century I ask about the terms and conditions under which 'illegal' identities might be transcended and those where identity could be irrevocably spoiled.

Freitas, A., Godin, M.,

Université Libre de Bruxelles

"New female migration to Belgium: a case study of Latina domestics workers in the global city of Brussels"

On a global scale domesticity, based on an international, naturalised division of work between men and women, features a global chain of women hired to cook, clean and care. This chain manifests itself in the increasingly female character of domestic work in western societies where domestic duties are the first to be neglected by established women. This global demand for domestic services contributes to the feminization of many migrations and also to the development of a new and specific female migration. Women, although they have always done it, move more often alone and with the help of other women living in the country of relocation. The position of Brussels in this global market for services, also called 'Global care chain' (Hochschild, 2000), is at the heart of this research project. Brussels as a 'global city' (Sassen, 2001) has known over time an increase in jobs related to personal service. In this research project, we will focus mainly on new female migration from Latin America working in the domestic sector. However, whereas it is a dominant figure, there is diversity behind the profile of the domestic female migrant: Between educated and non-educated women, between women from rural areas and urban ones, between Brazilians women and other women from Latin America. It is one of the main goals of this research project to go beyond stereotypical description of what a domestic worker may be. The economic niche in which they are working tends to this homogenization as a group despite the diversity of migrant careers.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

RELIGION

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

RELIGION AND EDUCATION

Scott Jones, J.

Manchester Metropolitan University

'Should I worry about 2012'? Apocalyptic Visions in the Post-secular era.

Apocalypticism has been an enduring discourse throughout western culture, serving to frame social events with meaning and to reinforce and reinvigorate cultures that perceive themselves (rightly or wrongly) to be under threat. Western apocalyptic beliefs secularised alongside modern, western society. The late twentieth century saw apocalyptic visions and 'scares' abound throughout popular culture. The advent of the new Millennium was framed by apocalyptic events; the non-event of the 'Millennium Bug' and the real events of 9/11. Apocalyptic 'scares' remain popular as do the media's continuing use of the apocalyptic genre. In the Post-secular era, apocalypticism remains a powerful 'tool', in western society, for understanding 'reality' and thinking through meaning. This paper explores some populist representations of the apocalyptic and discusses the reasons why apocalypticism retains such a hold on the popular imagination. It will argue that late modern society creates a 'meaning gap' due to a number of inter-related factors, including the cultural distrust of grand narratives and the emergence of the reflexive self. At the same time, society has remystified, creating a seemingly endless consumer-style choice of potential meaning providers. Apocalypticism, as this paper will demonstrate, can be a potent means to explain and account for 'meaning threat' situations, while also allowing individuals to confront and explore their own 'meaning' insignificance.

Patrikios, S., Curtice, J

University of Strathclyde

Choosing a school: shopping around or keeping the faith?

Labour's drive for diversified public services typically regards the provision of choice between different types of schools as a way of meeting the needs and aspirations of the individual user. An implicit assumption is that parents view faith schools as yet another alternative in the education marketplace on a par with other diversified forms of provision such as specialist schools and City Academies. Our claim is that attitudes towards faith based schools reflect social identities rather than individualised choice. Empirical studies of attitudes towards public service reform tend to ignore this possibility, even though recent research suggests religious identities still play a considerable role in shaping attitudes and behaviour in Britain. Using recent survey data collected in all four parts of the UK, this paper finds that people do not favour diversity in the provision of services as a general principle. Instead, they tend to support structures of provision that favour their group interests. Therefore, if parents are inclined to promote their religious identity, school choice could well reinforce segregation along religious lines rather than help improve academic standards. The paper considers implications of this finding for our understanding of longer term social developments in 21st century Britain.

Breen, D.

University of Warwick

Qualitative Narratives of the Transition from Independent to Voluntary Aided Status: A problem for Conceptualising the 'Muslim School'

This paper draws on in-depth life history interviews which were conducted with a head teacher who had overseen two Muslim primary schools through the transition from independent to voluntary aided status. The interviews were not based on the life course of the head teacher, but rather focused on the historical narrative of each school. The paper will largely draw on the narratives of the first school which the head (referred to as 'Nasira') saw through the transition to voluntary aided status. To simplify discussions the terms 'School A' and 'School B' will be used respectively as pseudonyms to refer to the first and second school Nasira saw through the transition. Although primarily drawing on life history narratives observation also informed the narrative of each school. The paper will describe the narrative of the transition from independent to voluntary aided status at School A and School B, initially outlining each school's background and history before discussing processes and changes which took place over time. Having demonstrated that acquiring voluntary aided status resulted in fundamental changes to infrastructure at both schools, the paper concludes arguing that such fundamental changes raise questions regarding the conceptualisation of the 'Muslim school' in the context of the wider faith schools debate.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Metcalf, A.

University of Sheffield

Re-making Waste Markets: Performativity, the Private Finance Initiative and the Reconstruction of the UK's Waste Industry

Prior to the economic crisis, Public-Private Partnerships, and the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) in particular, were increasingly promoted as a means of bringing knowledge, business practice and finance into public services, while fairly distributing financial risk. However, the credit crunch reduced the capacity of private sector companies to secure the finance needed to complete deals. Into this gap the state has appeared, guaranteeing credit and so seeking to bring stability and security back to the fold. This crisis in the money market though merely reveals what is already the case – not only that the state is the guarantor of last resort, but that the public sector ultimately retains responsibility for the service and so much of the risk involved – particularly the unaccounted for and the uncertain. With this in mind we turn to the UK's market in waste services. PFI has here been used to transform an 'immature' market into one capable of delivering huge infrastructural, environmental and social change. In this, the PFI is central to the 'agencement' of a particular market – while the state provides credit, bureaucratic procedures and standardised contracts it is through the operation of the PFI that governance and finance are brought into articulation and the waste industry is reconstructed. Yet, in an era of uncertainty, such acts of public investment are organized around a new politics of risk and responsibility.

Sandall, J. Mackintosh, N.

NIHR King's Patient Safety and Service Quality

Enacting patient safety strategies on the frontline: the importance of understanding professional boundary work

International patient safety policy documents explicitly acknowledge that tackling 'failure to rescue' (failure to recognise and respond appropriately to early signs of deterioration) has become a key international and national patient safety policy objective in health care. There is widespread recognition that escalation is often linked with difficulties relaying and interpreting information across inter-professional boundaries. Standardised risk assessment tools and structured communication tools have been recommended as a means of improving the management of latent risk and escalation of care with the aim of licensing and empowering frontline nurses and midwives to speak out and ask for help.

Thus these tools are designed to override occupational and institutional hierarchies by facilitating transfer across organisational and professional boundaries. However, there has been little scrutiny of how such strategies are enacted in the workplace. Risk scores and communication protocols can be seen a classic example of a boundary object; that is an object which inhabits several social worlds and which fulfils a role in structuring relations between them. We discuss how sociological literature on boundary objects and boundary work would suggest that the implementation of such communication tools may be more problematic than assumed.

This paper will draw on findings from a two year project exploring the implementation of such tools in maternity and acute medical settings, combining elements of ethnographic research from two maternity and medical service providers in the UK. Data will be presented from observations and interviews with patients, relatives and a variety of staff.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Bailey, G.

Keele University

Enemies of the State? Mainstream and 'extremist' engagement across the divide

Despite recent government attempts to keep the two concepts apart, the partial conflation of 'radical politics' and 'violent extremism'/'terrorism' seen in rhetoric against the far-right and Islamism contributes to a stereotype of 'extremists' as standing outside society. The clandestine Muslim terrorist cell, or lone-wolf white bomber, are quintessential examples of the 'outsider', reflecting into a wider population of 'anti-establishment' parties (the BNP), and those 'outside the fold' of moderate Islamic thought (Al-Muhajiroun). Furthermore, when Trevor Philips argued that we are 'sleepwalking to segregation', he suggested that the associated lack of integration allows 'separate values' and hence urban riots, terrorism and extremism.

However, my ethnographic research in deprived communities and interviews with active Al-Muhajiroun and BNP members finds that these 'extremists' are very much engaged with the 'other'. A social life that crosses supposed ethno-religious divides was a feature of their lives both before and after joining the group. Furthermore, by dint of their activism they talk to and work with people who do not share their views, and some who actively oppose their views.

These extremists embody the 'parallel lives' argument much less than the 'ordinary racists' found throughout society or elderly and 'quietist' Muslims. I therefore suggest that their political ideals do not arise through a lack of integration and hatred of others, but through perceptions of injustice in a society that is structured by ethno-religious identity.

de Lima, P.

UHI- Millennium Institute

Making visible the presence of minority ethnic households in rural areas: an example of evidence based policy making?

While discourses on the neglect of 'Others' in the rural have provided an important opportunity for focusing on ethnicity and 'race', the tendency until recently to promote specific conceptualisations of rural has led to rendering minority ethnic groups 'invisible'. However, a changing policy and legislative context at the turn of the 21st century in relation to race equality, as well as a growing interest amongst sociologists on 'place' and spatial aspects of society combined with what is described as the 'cultural turn' in geography has led to an increased focus on exploring the complex relationship between rurality and ethnicity. Drawing on research undertaken by the author, the paper will critically explore three issues : (i) the ways in which the need for evidence based information on ethnicity and 'race' by public agencies has influenced the nature/type of research funded and the portrayal of rural minority ethnic households; (ii) the response of public agencies to the evidence, highlighting the problematic, complex and contingent nature of the relationship between evidence and policy making; and finally (iii) how a growing critique of the early research has created the possibilities of developing a more nuanced understanding of ethnicity 'race' and place.

Myers, M.

Open University

Gypsies in the UK: 'Bad Neighbours' and 'Good Citizens'

The marginal status of Gypsies in the UK (and elsewhere) is well-documented. This paper emphasises how such marginalisation, and in particular how discrimination against Gypsy groups, sits comfortably within liberal discourses such as that of citizenship. The paper will use concepts such as 'good citizens' and 'bad neighbours' to examine the relationship between Gypsy groups in the UK and the dominant population. It suggests that the balancing of the rights and obligations of citizens does not promote a liberal and equitable societal structure but works to protect the interests of the many against those of the few. Using examples from planning law and educational policy targeted at improving conditions for Gypsy communities the paper argues that potential acts of civil repair work against the interests of the people they were intended to help. It will argue that this reflects the active use of the social and political functions associated with citizenship by 'good citizens' to aggressively promote their interests over the interests of Gypsies who are characterised as 'bad neighbours'. The consequence of such action calls into question the degree to which citizenship might be seen as a liberal means of mitigating against the worst effects of state, market and self-interest groups.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Jackson, E.

Goldsmiths

Fixed in Mobility: Young homeless people and the city.

Based on a multi-method ethnography in a London day centre for young homeless people, this paper draws on interview material and mental maps made by the participants. The paper will point to the tension between the extreme mobility of the young homeless person and the layers of surveillance that limit and shape their movement. Focusing on movement within London, the paper argues that while the lives of young homeless people are characterised by high levels of mobility, when examined closely, movement is revealed as heavily restricted. The paper will suggest that the official borders of borough councils, the gaze of the police and the non-official (and much maligned) territories of young people feed into an experience of the city as a series of bounded areas. I will suggest that the dichotomy of mobility/fixity is of limited use here, rather the young people move, and are moved, but this very process is something they become fixed into. While emphasising how the interplay of the homeless system and council policy contributes to fixing people in mobile states, the paper emphasises the multiple attachments and feelings of belonging that effect young homeless people and the disruptions and

re/disorientation that these movements bring.

Radu, C.

University of Edinburgh

Traveling bodies, or souls? Romanian Gypsy street peddlers living and crossing contexts of alternative spaces

The paper aims at exploring the spatialization of migration as a process revealed by the movements of the Romanian Gypsies across various countries: Spain, Ireland, UK etc. Empirical research is based on ethnographic fieldwork carried out in Scotland (Edinburgh and Glasgow) and Romania (Arad) with people who are street vendors or performers of begging. Mainly, I inquire into some sites of contextualization and reflexivity people could get through movement across spaces. More concretely, I am interested to understand the ways in which Romanian Gypsies visualize spaces and contexts they cross and whether there is a home in their trajectory and how do they conceive it. I attempt to understand the relation between the multitude of migration contexts they experience and their uncertain temporalizations of migration (for example, the unclear decision to move or to stay). One of the hypotheses is that the lack of certain social relationships (as they are too treacherous) in the places they transgress, as well as their own temporal experience that is not based on transferable skills (as they have never been employed) push them to cross spaces. They look for opportunities that are less internalized and developed and their knowledge is conditioned and practiced by the means of complicated referentiality provided by the contexts they transgress. Begging is more than an economic practice; it is the key to surviving within this complicated geography of movements and to controlling the uncertainty of places.

Stella, F.

University of Glasgow

The politics of in/visibilty: carving out collective 'lesbian' space in urban Russia

The mainstreaming of gay pride parades in the 1990s, now a common occurrence in different parts of the globe, is evidence of the importance of political strategies based on visibility in global LGBT/queer politics (Luongo 2002; Markwell 2002; Brown 2003). While queer activism has made use of public performances to challenge heterosexism (Fraser 1999; Kates 2003), more traditional forms of LGBT politics also emphasise the importance of laying claims to public space and public recognition (Richardson 2000; Moran and Skeggs 2004). However, these strategies are far from unproblematic: while commonly assumed to be universally effective, their implicit Western bias has often remained unacknowledged. As a result, such approaches may have the unintended effect of globalising homophobia, rather than challenging it (Binnie 2004). Drawing on an ethnographic study on lesbian communities in urban Russia, this paper problematises the politics of visibility by exploring collective strategies to appropriate public space as 'lesbian' in urban Russia. The paper explores the controversies caused in the local lesbian community by the organization of the first gay pride marches in Moscow (2006-2009), while also considering less overt and visible ways in which public is claimed by informal lesbian networks in the capital and in the provincial city of Ul'ianovsk. While claims to these spaces are mostly contingent, precarious or invisible, collective agency emerges as central in carving out 'lesbian/queer' space. The paper also explores the meanings and values women associated with 'lesbian' space, and their motivations for frequenting it.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

STRUCTURE, AGENCY, RULE

Elder-Vass, D.

University of Essex

Rules and the construction of social reality

John Searle has argued that social reality is constituted by rules, implemented by speech acts that confer institutional status, and dependent on collective recognition. The consequence is to generate potent facts “like money, marriage, property and government that objectively exist only because we believe them to exist”. But despite recognising the objective existence of these social facts, Searle denies that they are social structures with causal power. This paper analyses Searle’s position from a critical realist perspective and argues that his position is not viable as it stands. Searle makes a valuable contribution to understanding the logic of social structure by identifying many of the elements that contribute to the creation of social reality, but his ontology is compromised by a failure to recognize that there can be emergent social structures with causal powers. Once we add this element into his ontology, we see that these emergent social facts can indeed have causal powers beyond those of the individuals that “make them up”.

Kemp, S.

University of Edinburgh

Does Social Scientific Prediction Have a Future?

Many of the important theoretical movements of the last thirty or so years have been critical of the idea that social science can engage in justified prediction about the future of the social world. Proponents of the cultural turn, such as Charles Taylor and Peter Winch, argued that agents could creatively transform their understandings and activities in a way which undermined attempts at predicting the future on the basis of present action. More broadly, approaches that emphasized the role of human agency, from structuration theory to critical realism, argued that the exercise of this agency means that existing patterns of social activity can be broken up and reformulated at any time. Even approaches like complexity theory, which still take inspiration from the natural sciences, have argued that the existence of non-linear cause-effect relations makes the development of social systems unpredictable. Despite these doubts about prediction, however, much social science is implicitly or explicitly predicated on the idea that if the understandings, policy advice, and/or institutional arrangements promoted by the social scientist are taken up by the appropriate actors, specified predictable benefits will ensue. In this paper, I take up the challenge of articulating a justification for social scientific prediction which makes sense of the future-oriented claims of the social sciences. I argue that this requires a conceptualisation of the relationship between agency, actors’ knowledge and social form that throws existing approaches into question.

Akram, S.

University of Birmingham

Re-conceptualising structure and agency in the dialectic: the importance of habitus and the unconscious

How much power do individuals have to direct their own lives and to what extent is this power curtailed or enhanced by the societies in which they live?

The precise relationship between ‘structure’ and ‘agency’ is said to be one of the central questions of concern to Social Theory. Critical Realists argue that the relationship between structure and agency is dialectical, that is interactive and iterative. However, in this paper I will argue that authors such as Margaret Archer and Colin Hay develop a conception of agency premised on notions of agential reflexivity and full-consciousness, thus neglecting the agent’s capacity for pre-reflexive and pre-conscious actions. This leads to an over-emphasis upon agency, which, in turn, neglects the idea of structural constraint and facilitation, consequently undermining the idea of a dialectical relationship between structure and agency. After critically examining Giddens’ acknowledgement of pre-conscious actions, I turn to Bourdieu, arguing that his concept of ‘habitus’ offers a way to develop a realist conception of the structure/agency relationship. In particular, I suggest that the concept of habitus, by incorporating the unconscious, provides a better understanding of the dialectical relationship between structure and agency.



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Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

YOUNG PEOPLE, LIFESTYLE AND CRIME

Johnson, P.

Queen's University of Belfast

"I am what I am". Youth, selfhood and definitional autonomy.

The teenage years are typically seen as a key transitional period where social identity and selfhood are progressively developed and displayed. Childhood and Youth Studies routinely chart the ambiguous nature of this time of life where teenagers are marooned between the no longer "child" but not yet "adult" social statuses. Moreover, within the context of this dubious social location, teenagers are routinely subject to the definitional power and normalising judgements of adult others. This paper draws upon focus group interviews with 14-15 year old Northern Irish teenagers, exploring how young people themselves make sense of their contradictory positioning within adult society. Although the respondents were keen to champion their possession of adult-associated competencies and maturity, at other times their responses demonstrate implicit acceptance of their subordinate social status. As such, although explicitly and ostensibly denying its validity, the teenagers did not totally reject the reified adult-responsibility verses teenage-irresponsibility dichotomy. The concluding argument suggests that it is the mere fact of being defined by others and the resultant loss of definitional autonomy which are the key concerns for these young people, rather than the actual substantive content of the definitions which others advance on their behalf.

Hannaford, S., Millier, R., McCrystal, P.

Queen's University

A Qualitative study into young people and risk calculation in Belfast, Northern Ireland-A theoretical examination

Background.

Participation in risk activities is sometimes seen as an irrational, uneducated decision by inexperienced youth. In response to this many initiatives have been put in place to educate young people about the dangers associated with 'risky' activities. This research addresses the misconception between education and prevention and examines the societal, cultural and individual factors that influence the process of risk calculation using theories from Beck, Douglas and Foucault.

Aim. This paper aims to gain an understanding of the patterns of risk calculation of young people living in Belfast through a theoretical examination of the factors that influence participation in or abstinence from risk activities and the resultant patterns of behaviour.

Method.

A sample of young people aged 16+ living in Belfast and attending youth clubs, religious groups and sporting organisations participated in the study. Qualitative methods were used and included eight focus groups which were supplemented by one on one follow-up interviews with a sample of young people.

Results.

The findings of this study report the experiences of young people aged 16 to 25 living in Belfast through applying the theoretical perspectives of Beck, Douglas and Foucault. This research has gained insight into how young people define and calculate risk both positively and negatively and use 'risk' in social processes such as identity formation.

Conclusions.

The findings provide insights into how young people calculate risk and inform prevention policy and practice initiatives for young people in relation to 'risky' activities.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Šafr, J.

Institute of Sociology, Academy of Sciences of the Czech

Conspicuous Consumption, Taste of Necessity and Social Classes in the Czech Republic

The post-socialistic era in Czech society can be characterised by two rather opposing trends influencing social stratification: advancing individualisation and increasing economic inequalities that is accompanied by the gradual process of class culture formation. The question is what cultural resources become pivotal for placement in symbolic space in a newly established capitalistic society? Is conspicuous consumption related to the upper social classes, whereas its antipole—the taste of necessity—is associated with the lower classes? To answer this question we analysed data on consumer and leisure tastes from the Market & Media & Lifestyle TGI 2004 survey. Conspicuous consumption is operationalised as preferences for branded, luxury customer products and habits such as spending holidays abroad, while taste of necessity is operationalised as modesty in consumption, with a preference for economy commodities etc. The results of the regression analyses confirm the significant relationship between social class (ABCDE grades of households) in both domains, underpinned by the influence of educational attainment and household income. Nevertheless, there are other influences mainly gender and age. In general terms, there are two types of cultural capital that should be regarded separately: the highbrow (knowledge and aesthetic preferences in beaux arts), and the competence in symbolic resources that support the ability to impress when interacting with others. The latter, which encompasses ability to conspicuous consumption, can be considered more important in the formation of symbolic boundaries among classes, especially during the post-communist transformation. Finally, the consequences of the legitimacy of wealth and inequality will be discussed.

Wardle, A., Li, Y., Savage, M.

University of Manchester

Social mobility, social capital and cultural practice in the UK

This paper is concerned with the relationship between social mobility, social capital and cultural participation. On the basis of a national random sample survey of the population of the UK, it will be shown that class of origin and possession of social capital are, contrary to much common wisdom, key factors behind cultural consumption. Using an innovative measure of inter-generational class trajectory and applying the position-generator technique for the mapping of volume and status of social contacts, we analyse frequency of participation in a broad range of cultural activities. The findings bear upon debates about the nature and role of social class, the applicability of concepts of social and cultural capital, the debate on cultural omnivorousness, and the effects of both upward and downward mobility on cultural engagement.

Undurraga, R.

University of Warwick

Policies and Politics on women and the labour market: The case of Michelle Bachelet's Presidency in Chile

Despite Chile's accelerated and 'successful' process of modernization, its benefits have not been distributed to all in the same way. There are huge gender and class inequalities in Chile. I argue that inequalities between men and women in the private and the public sphere are related to structural and cultural factors. The ongoing gender gap is also associated with the political framework. In this context, the paper analyses some policies regarding women and work promoted by the current government, led by Chile's first female president: Michelle Bachelet.

This paper is threefold. First, it aims to analyse policies and laws that Michelle Bachelet's government put forward and looks at their impact on women's lives. Secondly, the paper discusses the underlying assumptions of these policies in relation to gender. Thirdly, it discusses how these new policies challenge longstanding cultural barriers. These questions are explored in a twofold manner covering both macro and micro perspectives. An analysis of policy documents proposed by the Committee of Work and Equality - 'Consejo de Trabajo y Equidad' will be complemented by qualitative interview data from my doctoral research with women from Santiago de Chile about their working lives. To conclude, the paper explores to what extent these new (gender) policies challenge or reproduce inequalities – from its inception to practice.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Turgo, N.

Cardiff University

Saliva Capitalism: Some Local Ways in the World

Much has been said about capitalism as impersonal, unitary, singular and totalizing. This paper takes a different view. Based on a six-month fieldwork in a fishing community in the Philippines, this paper elucidates the dynamics of a localized capitalist practice in fish brokerages never before addressed in studies concerning fishing communities. Generally, it seeks to contribute to the demystification of capitalism as a homogenous, natural, inevitable and logical force by focusing on fish trading in fish brokerages as it is practiced in a fishing community, being as it were, an alternative capitalism which is both a product of and a reaction to the global economic capitalist developments. Specifically, I would like to bring to the fore the market exigencies and practices in fish brokerages in the community as they are being played out in a specific geographical continuum that is both insinuated into and working its way out of the disciplinary logics of formal economic and market institutions of the state. The market participants – small-scale fishermen, fish vendors, fish dealers and fish brokers – face to face and interacting with one another constantly, create and re-create their own rules of market engagement which while adhering to some of the basic tenets of capitalism have to take cognizance of and accommodate the socio-cultural imperatives of their milieu and community where market transactions take place.

Ailon, G.

Bar-Ilan University

The Cultural Grammar of Capitalist Reflexivity: A Case Study

Theorists of political economy, institutional sociology, and late-modernity have recently embraced "reflexivity" as a pivotal concept in their accounts of change in capitalist society and institutions. Despite significant differences between them, these theorists jointly promote an image of reflexivity as a discourse that is to a great extent culturally and institutionally "unfilled," representing a look from an abstract or disembedded "outside" upon conventional ways of conceiving the provisions and practices of the capitalist world. The paper turns this joint theoretical image into an empirical question. Focusing on the reflexive discourse sparked by the Enron scandal in the U.S., it offers a discourse-analysis of all Enron-related articles published in the popular BusinessWeek magazine in 1997-2007. The analysis explores the rise and fall of the Enron icon and examines the sense-making process that followed its bankruptcy which, at that time, was the biggest in American history. It reveals that capitalist reflexivity has an underlying cultural grammar that parallels that pertaining to the management of money. Its four primary principles are: minimizing "costs" entailing loss of discursive status or persuasive effect; maximizing the use value of a core truism; quantitatively cueing morality ("more-lizing"); and conducting discursive competitions. Capitalist reflexivity, it is argued, is based on an underlying grammar cast in the shape of its own beliefs.

Thiel, D.

University of Essex

Making Capitalism: Economic embeddedness and Ethnic Stratification in London's Construction

Recent debates in economic sociology over the structure of economic markets tend to neglect the empirical variability of capitalist marketplaces and, in particular, fail to recognise the specific qualities of labour and contract markets. Based on one year's participant observation on a London construction site in 2003/4, this article demonstrates that labour and contract markets were informally regulated and reproduced, characterised by alternative forms of exchange that, in some cases, involved illegitimate practices. Chains of informal social networks, their ensuing mores, methods of exchange and canalisation of information, closed down the markets to competition and framed the development of ethnic stratification patterns. These patterns were 'locked-in' by strong network ties that had formed as a backdrop to the formally deregulated construction marketplace, and which simultaneously constituted that market. This reveals the construction economy as largely socially embedded in a 'moral economy', which was ultimately underpinned by violence; putting into question a number of the claims of the contemporary economic sociology of markets.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Wright, K.

The University of Melbourne

Therapeutic education: an historical perspective

The embrace of a therapeutic ethos in the sphere of education has been widespread and pervasive. Student wellbeing has become a central policy concern, counselling services are growing in number, while pedagogical and educational goals are increasingly aligned with therapeutic ones. Whilst a therapeutic approach to education has been widely embraced by educators and policy makers, the focus on emotional wellbeing as a central concern of schools has also aroused significant disquiet. Such concerns reflect broader social-theoretical critiques of therapy culture, which argue that the therapeutic ethos incites social and personal decline. Drawing on a study of the history of child and adolescent guidance in Australia, this paper offers some historical perspectives on current concerns about the rise of therapeutic education. With insights gleaned from oral history interviews with people who were students in the middle decades of the twentieth century, it historicizes concerns about the focus on emotional wellbeing and the decline of authority in schools. The paper questions the idealisation of autonomous selfhood that underpins concerns about diminished selfhood and vulnerability, and draws attention to how the therapeutic ethos has challenged traditional forms of coercive authority. While not advancing an overly optimistic view, an argument is made for the importance of recognising the complex and contradictory dimensions of the therapeutic turn in education.

Cobb, F

University Of East London

PhD completion in a changing HE environment: what are the new barriers?

The PhD has evolved from an elite 'preserve' into a widely available jam. Over the last decade, there has been a distinct shift in the demographic profile of the 'typical' research student in the UK. The increase in widening participation activity, changing HE environment, and the current HE review places issues of postgraduate completion high on the political agenda. In this respect, there is increasingly important research focusing on factors influencing completion and withdrawal from PhDs in the UK. What is missing from this body of work is a focus on these issues specifically within post-1992 universities – which comprise a distinct and different group.

This paper will discuss case study research carried out at a post-1992 university. The paper will present new qualitative and quantitative findings on key social, economic, personal and demographic factors linked to completion rates. Findings, from statistical analysis of demographic data, and ten focus groups carried out with former students (both completed and withdrawn), will be drawn upon to observe the limits of widening participation policy. Framing this discussion is a critique of the application of Bourdieu's theory of 'the forms of capital' (1986), in an HE environment that promotes widening participation.

This paper follows on from a literary review and project outline presented in poster format at the 2009 BSA Conference.

Bhopal, K., Takhar, S.

University of Southampton

A Study of the Experiences and Aspirations of South Asian and Black Caribbean Women in Higher Education: motivations and choices

This paper will present the findings of two research projects examining the experiences and aspirations of black and minority ethnic women in higher education. The first research project focussed on the experiences of South Asian women and the second on Black Caribbean women's experiences and aspirations. Both projects were based on twenty case study interviews with women studying at 'new' (post 1992) universities in the South East of England. The paper highlights women's motivations for attending university and the decisions they make when attending university, such as choice of course and choice of university. We found that the 'localism' and 'critical mass' of students from minority ethnic backgrounds affected the decisions women made. The desire to study and work has been well researched over the last two decades or so (Taylor, 1991; Modood and Shiner, 2002). It has been continuously pointed out that students' experiences of higher education institutions and employment differed (Mirza, 2009). BAME students were less likely to secure employment after graduation and if they did, they had lower salaries. The findings also show that there is a strong desire to study for higher education qualifications, to find suitable employment and to develop their careers. In the face of structural inequalities the women in both projects have been able to achieve their objectives with reference to education and now they aspire towards achieving similar objectives in the labour market. In this context, the narratives of these women were used to explore their subjective experiences of being at university.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Scherger, S., May, V., Nazroo, J., Savage, M.

University of Manchester

Generational and gender differences in family and employment roles: Quantitative and qualitative findings from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

This paper focuses on the relationship between family formation and employment in older cohorts of the English population. Based on retrospective life history data of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), we will trace the ways in which the current older generations have solved the problem of combining family and waged work. This allows us not only to chart over time the differences and similarities between men and women's strategies, but also to examine differentiations within "older" cohorts, during whose working lives Britain shifted from a male breadwinner society with strict norms around marriage and divorce to one where women's employment has become the norm and divorce more acceptable. Based on our quantitative analysis we discuss how the logic of combining family and employment has changed over time (and in which respects it has not changed). We will also identify the groups that have been in the vanguard of innovative life course patterns, which have then spread to other groups. Our presentation of the quantitative relationship between family, employment and gender in different cohorts will be enriched by a qualitative analysis of narrative data. A subsample of the ELSA participants have written short narrative accounts detailing the most significant events in their lives. Many of these accounts focus on family relationships and employment and provide us with a more in-depth understanding of the kinds of choices that the ELSA participants have had to make regarding family and employment, and the meanings they give to these experiences.

Nicholson, L.

Loughborough University

Emotion management and the overlap between the military and the family

Changes in perceived threat, force structure, and major mission definition for the armed forces (Moskos 2000) has significantly impacted on the operational demands for new generations of service families since the ending of the Cold War (Karney and Crown 2007). Members' unconditional and increasing commitments to the military are juxtaposed with a shift towards family responsibility and changing expectations of marriage in wider society. The work-family interface generally refers to the management of work roles and family responsibilities, and the greater or lesser degrees to which these place conflicting demands on employees. Consequently, both the military and the family have been constructed as 'greedy institutions' competing for the resources of service families. Whilst the 'traditional' conception of the family in the military is now viewed as outmoded by many commentators, a number of tensions are emerging for service families. Moreover, concerns about family issues and marital breakdown are constructed as problems for the military in relation to the retention of personnel. In this paper I will be discussing one of the main findings to emerge from my Doctoral research on marriage breakdown in the UK armed forces: the role of emotion management and the interface between work and home. Whilst the spousal role is argued to be 'removed' in terms of the Postmodern military, little attention is given to the emotional labour demanded by this role; a role that has become more labour intensive for service spouses. Such emotion management is vital in maintaining the unique culture of the military.

Shirani, F., Henwood, K.

Cardiff University

'Do you think about the future much?' A QLL insight into the impact of life course transitions on temporal understanding

Although time is increasingly a subject of sociological interest, the intangibility of temporal experience raises challenges for its study, particularly in relation to the future. However people are continually engaged in creating the future, making it an inescapable aspect of our existence. Using data from a qualitative longitudinal (QLL) study of the transition to first-time fatherhood, which forms part of the Timescapes network, the paper explores men's future orientations over time in relation to both planned and unanticipated life events. Whilst planned events are often experienced as confirmatory to anticipated life course trajectories, unexpected incidents challenge imagined futures. Studying these ruptures also highlights the life course pathways the men had expected to follow, which holds implications for debates on the persistence of standardised life course trajectories. In addition, even the planned birth of a child appears to have a significant influence on men's conceptions of the future, particularly with regard to ageing and mortality. These events have long-term implications for the men's understanding of temporality. By examining these issues from a QLL perspective, we can gain insight into how understandings of temporality change over time in relation to life experiences. This demonstrates the particular contribution QLL research can make to temporal study, which holds implications for future research.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

MEDIA

GOVAN MBEKI A426C

Perkins, C.

Royal Holloway

The Banality of Boundaries: Performance of the Nation in a Japanese Television Comedy

This paper analyses performances of national identity in the Japanese media through the framework provided by what Billig (1995) terms 'banal nationalism'. The specific target for analysis is an episode of *Nodame Cantabile*, first broadcast on the Fuji Television Network in 2006. Through textual analysis a number of bordering processes are identified, in particular: the presentation of a Japan-The West dichotomy; the re-presentation of social relationships and semiotic markers of Japanese-ness; narrative devices that promote confidence in the Japanese mode of social organisation; and the role of 'trickster' played by a 'foreign' conductor. The significance of these processes becomes clear when placed within the context of what, in the literature, has been termed the emergence of a diverse and multicultural 'New Japan'. Although the observations contained in this paper do not refute this thesis, they do add a cautionary note. As will be shown, the representation of Otherness found in this episode, and the way in which 'Japanese-ness' is placed in relationships with the Other, highlights difference and instrumentalizes foreigners in a way that reinforces ideas of national and cultural boundedness. In order for a 'New Japan' to emerge it is argued that alternative forms of representation are needed; however the possibility of this or any kind of neutral representation is called into question. The paper concludes by considering avenues for further research, as well as the limits and potential of this type of interpretive research.

Wozniak, W.

University of Lodz

Same problems, different approaches: poverty and inequalities in public discourse in Poland, as compared to the United Kingdom

Political discourse is largely influenced by media and the way they address some crucial issues shapes public debate. Child poverty and inequalities constituted important topics of the public debate in the United Kingdom during the past decade. They were present both in political discourse and electoral campaigns, as well as in media debates. The latter were sometimes stimulated by the resounding events which made it to the media headlines. These could be exemplified by the Victoria Climbié affair and the publication of the so-called Innocenti Report on child well-being. Having also large scale child poverty, growing inequalities and several examples of tragic events caused by poverty and inadequacies of social services, Polish public debate lacks similar liveliness. Mainstream media present no interest in discussing social affairs apart from tabloid-style stories, neither do they stimulate the political debate, nor demand political actions which could be undertaken in the face of challenges such as the growing inequalities and child poverty.

The presentation is an attempt to analyze the Polish media discourse regarding social affairs such as growing social inequalities, poverty (especially child poverty), its extent, causes and outcomes. Taking as a starting point public debate in the United Kingdom, the paper points out factors which hinder the development of the similar debate in Polish reality, paying special attention to the manifold and ambiguous role of the media as the communication channel between the elites (politicians, intellectuals) and the public opinion.

Ashe, S.

University of Glasgow

The Modernisation of the British National Party: How the BNP use the local media to 'sink teeth' into local communities

In terms of election results, the British National Party (BNP) is the most successful extreme right-wing political party in the history of British politics. Since Nick Griffin took over as party chairman of the BNP in 1999, the BNP has been committed to a strategy of local-based political campaigning, often referred to as 'sinking teeth into local communities'. Drawing on local media outputs in Barking and Dagenham, this paper will demonstrate how the BNP have used the local media as part of their strategy leading up to their breakthrough by-election victory in September 2004 and the election of twelve BNP councillors in the 2006 local elections.

This paper will outline how the BNP have used 'ethnic candidates' to overcome labels such as 'Nazi', 'fascist', 'racist' and 'anti-Semitic'. Drawing on Miles (1993) and Billig's (1995) notion of 'banal nationalism', this paper will explore the relationship between racism and nationalism, demonstrating that it is by fitting into pre-existing local racist-nationalist narratives that the BNP have been able to appear as a more 'moderate', 'legitimate' and 'mainstream' political party. Furthermore, it will be argued that since 2006, the BNP have used the local media, and that the local media has helped the BNP, to routinise an Islamophobic narrative central to Nick Griffin's desire to tap into what he considers to be '...already a huge and growing groundswell of support for greater recognition of and rights for England and Englishness' (Identity December 2006: 7).

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

HEALTH AND STIGMA

Scales, K. Bailey, S. Schneider, J. Repper, J. Verhaeghe, M. Bracke, P.

University of Nottingham

Stigma in inpatient mental health settings: A cross-national comparison

Building on the pioneering work of research partners at the University of Ghent in Belgium, this study investigates the determinants of stigma experiences among persons receiving mental health care in inpatient treatment facilities. The original and replication studies are unique in exploring stigma from the perspective of those who are stigmatised and in identifying stigmatising factors within rather than outside of the treatment context. In line with current care priorities, we are specifically focusing on the impacts of peer support and the individualisation of care. Although self-stigmatisation is the primary outcome measure, this study also measures respondents' self-esteem, mastery and quality of life. Following a multi-level design, the study has been conducted in ten psychiatric inpatient wards across three mental healthcare trusts in England using a structured questionnaire. This paper will present preliminary findings from our data analysis, which has been conducted in close collaboration with our Belgian research partner and compared against their findings and against evaluation data from a local peer support intervention. This study is contextualised in two important national initiatives – the Time to Change anti-stigma campaign and the Recovery approach to mental health care – and it is also consistent with a regional campaign against stigma. Our findings will feed back into these initiatives as well as informing policy on inpatient mental health care and forming the basis for larger-scale cross-national comparisons in future research.

Pérez, I.

Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano, Chile

AIDS in Chile: how discourses of normality and moral panic legitimate discriminatory practices in the health sector

Discrimination has been identified as one of the main obstacles for the prevention of AIDS and represents one of the most difficult situations for people with HIV, who are excluded from different spheres of society. This paper reports the results of a qualitative study developed in a public hospital in Santiago-Chile, at the end of 2003. The methodology consisted of role play in the form of an adaptation of the 'news game' technique created by the Glasgow Media Group, followed by seven group discussions with 180 health workers.

Drawing upon cultural theory and understanding that cultural meanings influence our conduct, producing real practical effects; it is argued that health workers' discriminatory practices are influenced by the meanings circulating in the culture. These are the same meanings that initially served to 'construct' the epidemic as a 'gay plague' in Western countries, and created a moral panic around it.

The paper provides evidence that AIDS is perceived as contagious and importantly related to homosexuality. Health workers identify discrimination as a serious issue within the hospital. Many of them situate the problem outside themselves. They blame other care professionals for discrimination and people with HIV for acquiring the virus in the first place. However, others reflect on their own practices disclosing their contradictions and fear. It is in the dialogic process of co-construction that alternative humanitarian discourses emerge in the discussion, ideological dilemmas are revealed, and stigmatising meanings are contested by the same actors challenging discrimination.

Bailey, R.

Doing Impairment: towards a non normative, socially shaped understanding of impairment

There has been ongoing debate within and between Disability Studies and Medical Sociology about how impairment/chronic illness should be conceptualised. This paper will contribute to this debate by exploring the insights gained by using the concept of "doing impairment", which refers to the everyday practices that the embodied self has to "do" to the body-as-object in order to live (and live well) through and with an impaired body in a disabling world. The concept was used to analyse data generated from qualitative interviews with 27 disabled people about their experiences of healthcare. This revealed that participants' everyday life included mundane tasks in which the impaired body was implicated and these necessitated participants doing a range of physical, emotional and cognitive acts. Particular attention was paid to what influenced this doing. One of these influences was the enactment of impairment, the way impairment affected movement, function emotion and cognition. But other conditions of the body, such as age, biography, social status, also influenced doing. Similarly, as the embodied self is always experienced in a context shaped by social structures, context influenced both the tasks that had to be done and the doing of them. Thus the doing impairment concept understands impairment as embodied action, which is shaped simultaneously by agency and structure, thus avoiding the over-socialised approach of some within Disability Studies and the individualised approach of some within Medical Sociology. It is also rooted in a non-normative view of the body which in turn is fleshy but always experienced through the social.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

HOW METHODS SHAPE KNOWLEDGE

Gunson, J.

The University of Edinburgh

Virtual negotiations of menstrual suppression: exploring Internet debates about extended cycle oral contraception

This paper is drawn from a doctoral study of the public debates about the use of extended cycle oral contraception (ECOC) to suppress menstruation. The first FDA approved ECOC called Seasonale was released in the USA in September 2003. Seasonale provided women with a hormonal regimen that reduced the frequency of periods from 13 a year to 4. Prior to this, many Western women were already informally extending the use of traditional oral contraceptive pills (or using other methods) to suppress menstruation. This paper will focus on the Internet as a source of qualitative data and its role(s) in the public debates about menstrual suppression using ECOC around the time of Seasonale's release on to the consumer market. Given the ever-expanding use of the Internet by all fields (professional, commercial and lay) it now plays an integral and dynamic part in the construction of dominant and alternative understandings of health, medicine and bodies. In the online material relating to ECOC, biomedicine, pharmaceutical advertising, news-media, academia, and lay individuals all had presences on the Internet and used it to create, negotiate and disseminate information. Whilst these fields have never been entirely distinct, the Internet enables a new and elaborate fluidity between sources and types of information. By mapping the virtual negotiations of menstrual suppression this presentation will explore some of the challenges and complexities involved with using the Internet as a source of qualitative data.

Davies, K., Heaphy, B.

The University of Manchester

Interactions that Matter: Researching Critical Relationships

This paper considers a number of methods we have deployed in researching the multidimensionality of critical relationships. The 'Critical Associations' project, funded as part of the Realities node of the National Centre for Research Methods, is researching relationships (with friends, neighbours, colleagues and the like) that were/are critical in people's lives for good or ill. We have focused particularly on relationships that can be seen as 'critical' in the sense that they are not always positive, thus we are interested in relationships that are difficult, jealous or cloying as well as those that are life affirming, supportive and fulfilling. We have employed a number of methods to study these critical associations including 'Era memory workshops' which involve remembering and narrating relationships in a collective setting, a Mass Observation directive comprising 'privately' written memories and narratives in response to a research directive and qualitative interviews involving the narration of relationships with an unknown interviewer – individually or with others. In this paper we evaluate the extent to which the particular kinds of relationship memories and narratives generated in our different research interactions helped us to get behind the gloss of 'good' relationship stories and we explore how research interactions themselves can shape the memories and narratives people conjure of the interactions that matter.

Irvine, A., Drew, P., Sainsbury, R.

University of York

Mode effects in qualitative interviews: A comparison of semi-structured face-to-face and telephone interviews using Conversation Analysis

What difference does it make to our data when we conduct qualitative research interviews by telephone rather than face-to-face? This is the central question being addressed by a current study funded by the ESRC.

While there has been discussion of the pragmatic and ethical reasons as to why one or other of these data collection modes might be preferable, the ways in which the spoken interaction and resulting data are affected by qualitative interview mode have received little attention. This study therefore aims to increase knowledge about whether – and if so how – interview mode influences the structure and content of researcher-participant interactions and to consider the methodological implications of these findings. The study uses telephone and face-to-face interview data gathered in a recent UK-based study on mental health and employment. The method of Conversation Analysis is being used to explore in fine detail the interactional patterns in interviews and to identify (using qualitative and quantitative measures) whether differences exist between the two modes. This presentation will introduce the methodology and emerging findings of the investigation, which concludes in June 2010. The study addresses an important methodological issue in qualitative data collection, about which little is currently known. Additionally, it demonstrates methodological innovation in the application of Conversation Analysis to research interview data for comparative purposes. Findings are relevant to qualitative researchers across a range of disciplines and may be of wider interest to other practitioners who use semi-structured interviewing approaches, for example, in the delivery of telephone counselling services.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

Thurnell-Read, T. P.

University of Warwick

Liminal leisure and the grotesque male body: the case of stag tourism in Eastern Europe

The Eastern European premarital stag tour has come to represent a malign example of British masculinity as errant, drunken and offensive. In this paper I will draw on participant-observation research into stag tourism in Krakow, Poland. As a collective tourist leisure practice, the stag tour is a site of male friendship and homosocial bonding and of pleasure, playfulness and release. Such is characterised by liminal or carnivalesque behaviour. It is argued that through ritualised and collective alcohol consumption, and its associate effects, the male body becomes more salient. During the stag weekend, the loss of control of the body and the bodily transgressions of vomiting, urination and public nudity occupy a central motif in the boisterous masculinity enacted by stag tour groups. Such illustrates both social and physical aspects of masculine embodiment and, further still, highlights the interconnection of social and physical constructions of the body. Findings run counter to the assumption that masculine embodiment calls for the presentation of a tough and resilient male body. I suggest that much of the bodily comportment of stag tourists amounts to a self-destructive and self-parodying engagement with the male body and with performative and embodied masculinity.

Bogdanovic, D.

University of Salford

"There was this woman I needed to impress!": Forging, negotiating and contesting masculinities through doing the band (please note: word 'doing' in italics)

Informed by the interdisciplinarity inherent in popular music studies, the paper relies on ethnographic findings achieved through participant observation and semi-structured interview, as well as drawing on visual semiotics to examine popular music masculinities.

By foregrounding the multiplicity of "everyday" musical masculinities it shifts the focus away from the most visible, popularised and the spectacular masculine types that dominate the writing on popular music and gender.

Furthermore, the paper examines the setting of "the band", often perceived as a microcosm of patriarchy, a space populated and dominated by men and masculine practices. In order to scrutinize the notions of bandhood, homosociality and hegemonic masculinity associated with popular music identities and practices, it engages with a range of gender and music acculturating activities.

By understanding music as practice and in context of everyday life, and by exploring gender as constituted through a series of culturally and musically informed activities, the paper demonstrates that a wide range of masculine gender identities comprise creative and cultural dynamics within bands. It challenges the understanding of popular music masculinity as a monolithic entity, providing an opening for further dialogue between all musicians, hoping to result in enhanced understanding of practical and ideological challenges faced by both men and women involved in making and performing music.

Cheung, O.

Royal Holloway, University of London

Making sense of being at risk: how female sex workers conceptualise and manage risk

Women involved in the sex industry have been universally recognised as facing different forms of risk. It is presumed that by the very nature of prostitution, risks are inevitable negative features of the business. In the last two decades there was a high level of interest in the type and extent of risk experienced by female sex workers. Yet, little attention has been paid to women's perception of risk and how the social meanings of risk have been produced in such an occupation.

This paper presents findings from a PhD study on risk-related experiences of sex workers. Previous studies in Western countries help us to understand occupational risks faced by sex workers, but research on the experiences of women in non-Western cultural contexts is still limited. With an attempt to move beyond conventional ways of thinking about commercial sex related risk as a presumed universal phenomenon, this paper concerns the symbolic and instrumental meanings of risk held by sex workers in Hong Kong. In-depth interviews were carried out with 30 women working from privately rented premises. Through examining women's accounts of occupational risks, this paper explores how dominant (Western) ideas and local knowledge of commercial sex and of risks affect the ways in which individuals actually conceptualise work related risks. Also, it investigates how women's perceptions of risk have played a significant role in risk management.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

**ECONOMY AND SOCIETY ROUNDTABLE: THE STATE OF ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY:
CURRENT AND FUTURE**

The economy, and more specifically work relationships, were central to classical sociological theory, and remained a key feature of the discipline in postwar Britain. However, since the 'cultural turn' the sociology of work has played a decreasing role in undergraduate syllabi. Fewer Sociology PhD students study economic topics. Moreover, for a long time the site of economic sociology has been split, with many industrial and organisational sociologists located in business schools. The discussion will address issues such as: what is the current state of economic sociology in the UK, defined both narrowly (the American definition, focusing on markets and their regulation) and more broadly (the sociology of economic phenomena, which includes work)? What is its institutional base? Is there sufficient support from departments? What is happening to the teaching of it at ug and pg levels? How is it placed within the discipline of sociology as a whole? What are its contributions in terms of research and scholarship? What will be its future concerns and how might its fortunes be restored?

Speakers:

Harriet Bradley, University of Bristol

Tim Strangleman, University of Kent

Chris Warhurst, Strathclyde University

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

RELIGION

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

RELIGION AND THE GLOBAL

McKenzie, J., Caswell, G.

University of Aberdeen

Exploring the Implications of Reflexive Modernization on Tradition: Comparing a Transplanted with an Indigenous Tradition in Contemporary Scotland

The purpose of this paper is to explore and compare the effects of reflexive modernization (Giddens, 1990) on a tradition transplanted into Scotland and a tradition indigenous to Scotland. It has been argued that in contemporary global society traditional practices are subject to a process of detraditionalization (Heelas, 1996) and that they are reflexively re-written from a modern perspective. Traditions do not disappear, but it has been suggested that reflexive traditions are 'traditions in sham clothing' (Giddens, 1990:38), in the sense that the practices described as traditional continue to exist largely because those who use them act through habit. It will, however, be argued here that continuing traditions can negotiate the 'sham' label. To illustrate this claim, the paper will examine the implications that the processes of detraditionalization have for two separate traditions. The authenticity of traditional Tibetan Buddhism which has been transplanted into Scotland will be contrasted with the current state of traditional Presbyterian funeral practices. By drawing on research into transplanted and indigenous traditions, this paper will go on to highlight the important factors in both the maintenance and corrosion of traditional authenticity.

Laurie, N., Baillie-Smith, M., Hopkins, P., Olson, E.

Newcastle University

Envisaging social justice and global community: young evangelical volunteers in Latin America

This paper explores what happens to the religious identities and spiritual understandings of young evangelical Christians when they participate in faith-based international volunteering. It focuses on how young people's faith-based volunteering influences what it means to be a religious adult and how they envisage global community and social justice. It examines the experiences of volunteers working with 'Latin Link', an evangelical Christian organisation which sends teams of young people on short term programs to Latin America. As a non-denominational organisation Latin Link attracts young people from a variety of UK churches including Anglicans, Church of Scotland, Baptists, Presbyterians and other nonconformist denominations to work with Latin American evangelical churches on a range of projects requiring basic building input. Even though the majority of these volunteers would identify as evangelical, the church contexts into which they are placed are often more conservative than their 'home churches'. With increasing engagement from British youth and British evangelical churches in wider social justice movements like Make Poverty History and Jubilee 2000, greater awareness of development questions can challenge the overall approach of faith-based volunteering and the value of the actual work carried out in specific projects. The negotiation of such tensions is a focus for exploring the ways in which faith-based volunteering influences how young people understand the relationship between global citizenship and religious identities and how young evangelical Christians' personal journeys through international volunteering shape their articulations of becoming or being a (global) citizen as part of and beyond their faith community.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDIES

GEORGE MOORE M140

Wang, S.

National Chengchi University

A Critical Investigation of Public Understanding of Science: the Case of Global Warming

In this paper, I pick up the issues of 'global warming' as entry points to explore the following perspectives: First, how scientific knowledge is presented on the media; and second, how scientific knowledge is 'consumed' by the public; that is, how the public understand the knowledge of global warming, domesticate the knowledge as parts of their values and identities, and further perform in their everyday practices. Qualitative methods, mainly ethnographic in-depth interviews, were employed to see how and what people actually do and say. I generated a list of practices that were advocated by Taiwanese media on the Earth Day 2009 in order to decrease the continuing deterioration of global warming. I asked interviewees about details in their everyday life and visited their homes to see how they commute, do recycling, and use energy, etc. Based on my empirical research, I point out that one's practices are not necessarily related to her scientific knowledge. Some may have profound knowledge in relation to 'global warming' but would not sacrifice any convenience, while some may have never heard of the term but live a green life. I will argue that traditional values, social roles, living conditions, and economical concerns, together influence people's practices. For the reference of policy making, we must understand global warming as a result of social transition and have a broader consideration that goes beyond scientific communication.

Peggs, K

University of Portsmouth

Bodies at risk: the commodification of nonhuman animals bodies for human gain.

In May 2009, the journal Nature published an article by Erika Sasaki and her colleagues outlining biomedical research that provides additional potential for using nonhuman primates in experiments for human health gains. In developing a scientific technique for the reproduction of transgenically modified marmosets who would have a predisposition to develop human diseases, the research has been greeted in many quarters as a milestone in biomedical research. Discourses associated with such experiments are typically located within evaluations of the human health advancements that might ensue from the research. By conducting a critical analysis of the article, this paper explores principles and moral questions connected with nonhuman animal experimentation in order to reflect upon assumptions central to human claims about the progress that such nonhuman animal experiments represent. Drawing on sociological work on the body, this paper explores ethical questions associated with using nonhuman animal bodies for human gain and concludes by rejecting the contention that genetically modifying marmosets represents human progress in ethical questions associated with biomedical research.

Halford, S., Pope, C., Turnbull, J., Calestani, M., May, C., Prichard, J.

University of Southampton

Contingent outcomes and strategic interventions? How STS can inform policy debates

Science and technology studies has insisted that we attend to contingency, particularity and the local when thinking about technologies in use. However this raises questions about if and how research which takes these arguments seriously can come to wider substantive conclusions and inform policy audiences to have social and economic impact.

These questions take on special significance in healthcare where it is well established that many technologies have notoriously difficult implementation pathways. At the same time growing demands are being met with policy interventions premised on a 'technological fix'. In this context it is vital that sociologists use their insights to build a more sophisticated approach to the use of technologies in contemporary healthcare.

This paper explores the conflicts and tensions between macro policy concerns and the focus on the micro. We draw on a 2-year project which combines ethnography and survey methods to examine a computer decision support system (CDSS) in different healthcare environments. CDSS are positioned as key for rationalising and modernising health services yet we still do not understand how they are brought into use. Funded by NIHR SDO our project is positioned at the crux of the tension outlined; we seek to analyse technologies in local use and speak to wider health service imperatives. As one route into this endeavour we have begun to use the normalisation process model to see if / how this might come into constructive dialogue with STS and help bridge the gap between our localized case studies and wider policy concerns.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

May, V.

University of Manchester

Belonging: The link between self and society

One of the central interests of social theory has from the beginning been the relationship between the social and the individual. From Marx to Putnam, social theorists have offered us theories of how social change affects individuality, constraining or liberating the selves that we can be, with further negative or positive effects on community and social cohesion. This paper proposes that the concept of belonging is crucial in theorising not only what connects the individual to the social and what 'makes' community, but also, how we constitute our sense of self – not in relation to some abstract 'social', but in the context of concrete, imagined or virtual relationships we have with other persons and with objects and our built and natural environments. In examining belonging, the focus is on the relationship between our self and our social, cultural, geographic and interpersonal contexts, which enables an examination of both how our contexts are structured and patterned, and how we interact and react with/in them in both regulated and creative ways.

Shaw, S.

University of the West of England

'We're Not Chavs!' Living Between Rhetoric and Reality: A Critique of Widening Participation Policy in the Regeneration of a West Yorkshire Coalfield

Education is high on the current political agenda as a key route towards social and economic well-being. Widening participation plays an essential role in this rhetoric whereby educational success is not only linked to the competitiveness of the nation as a whole, but also with the prosperity and development of individual regions and community regeneration. With regards to the latter, this paper will explore some of the implications of embodying a culture of widening participation within a local college in the centre of a small ex-coalmining community. When judged against simplistic criteria such as motivating students from the immediate vicinity into higher education, it certainly seems to be a successful strategy. Despite serving an area that has been identified as one of the most deprived wards in the district, an increasing number of the college's students are applying to go to university. However, in talking with students as part of my Phd study, it became apparent that regeneration through education might prove to be a more complicated concept. In 'becoming somebody' the young people had already internalised what could be seen as traditional middle-class attitudes. These attitudes are not only incongruous with the idea of living/working in a locality characterised by high unemployment, isolation, and low aspirations, but has also resulted in the young people 'othering' those who they believe have already failed. Consequently, there is a distinct possibility that those endowed with the knowledge and attributes that are so valued in regeneration policies may ultimately choose to 'succeed' elsewhere

Fahmy, E., Levitas, R. & Gordon, D.

University of Bristol

Multidimensional disadvantage amongst working age adults without children in Britain, 1997-2005

Despite considerable policy emphasis upon tackling poverty and social exclusion in recent years, much less policy attention has been directed at the situation of working age adults without children. This paper seeks to redress this balance by presenting evidence on the structure and dynamics of multidimensional disadvantage amongst working age adults without children over the 1997-2005 period. Using data drawn from the General Household Survey (GHS) and British Household Panel Survey (BHPS), the research explores the dimensionality of disadvantage and the factors associated with vulnerability to multidimensional disadvantage over time.

Building upon earlier work by the research team, this research presents an operational measure of multidimensional disadvantage amongst working age adults without children based upon the Bristol Social Exclusion Matrix (Levitas et al., 2007). Cluster analysis methods are used to develop a taxonomy of multidimensional disadvantage which can be applied to both pooled cross-sectional (GHS) and panel data (BHPS). On the basis of this classification, Cox regression methods are used to examine the hazard of entry to and exit from multidimensional disadvantage for different populations. Finally, we discuss implications for research and policy arising from this research.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Aldred, R., Tepe, D.

University of East London

Mobile Cultures: imagining the car in Germany and the UK

This paper considers how the car-system is differently structured in two European countries, Germany and the UK. Building upon a concept of “regimes of mobility” we consider three cases; motorway cultures, car advertising, and the “scrappage bonus”. We discuss how these cases vary between the two countries and potential implications for theorising the internally differentiated car system.

In the case of motorways, we find that historically the motorway has a heroic function in Germany, which even stretches to justifying past atrocities. By contrast in the UK, the motorway has been constructed as banal, even laughable by contrast to American highways. Car advertising we consider as related to different patterns of vehicle usage in Germany and the UK, particularly when viewed through a gender lens. And finally distinctive discursive constructions of the scrappage bonus sheds light on the power struggles between car industry and environmental movements in both countries, and the different recent historical trajectories of both.

Our paper speaks to the development of sociologies of mobility, and in particular aims to consider how, in different socio-political contexts, distinctively different “compromises with the car-system” have been constructed. In particular the final example – of the scrappage bonus – allows us to theorise and critique attempts to tame this car-system through environmental policy-making.

Thorpe, H.

University of Waikato

“Have Board, Will Travel”: Global Physical Youth Cultures and Mobility

There has always been movement between countries, yet an increasingly mobile global labour force, as well as European and Commonwealth legislation, has enabled young people with the financial means (or a strong desire), to move more freely between nations. While scholars have offered insightful theoretical and discursive analyses of the transnational flows of youth cultural discourses, products and images, few have explored the voluntary migration of youth cultural participants themselves. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach (e.g., youth cultural studies, social and cultural geography, tourism studies, critical sport sociology) and employing global ethnographic methods, this paper offers an examination of the travel, lifestyle and sporting experiences of contemporary youth via a discussion of global snowboarding culture. Developing in a historically unique conjuncture of transnational mass communications and corporate sponsors, entertainment industries, and a growing affluent and young population, snowboarding has spread around the world at a phenomenal rate and far faster than many established sports and physical cultures. In a little over three decades, it has gone from a marginal activity for a few aficionados to an Olympic sport and global culture with mass appeal. In this paper I examine snowboarders’ transnational mobility to illustrate how cultural values and styles are being communicated across borders, and how these global forces and connections are negotiated in local spaces and places. In so doing, I reveal fresh insights into the lived transnationalism and global migration of contemporary youth facilitated by the ‘extreme’ or ‘alternative’ sports economy.

Hui, A.

Lancaster University

Following elements of leisure: the interrelated mobilities of things, people, and practices

Though, as the new mobilities paradigm has argued, movement is a pervasive aspect of everyday practices, limited research has thus far studied the complex relationships between moving people, objects, and ideas. Everyday practices are indeed made up of many different elements - including objects, understandings, mental activities, and bodily activities - that are both linked to the people who use and perform them and yet can travel on their own. Drawing on theories of practice, this paper demonstrates how methodologically following such elements of practice contributes to new insights into the mobility of and relationships between elements, the practices they are a part of, and the people who perform these practices. Interviews with birdwatchers and patchwork quilters about their leisure participation form the empirical basis for this paper, which follows the movement of binoculars, sewing machines, birding field guides, and quilt patterns. In addition to articulating the importance of recognizing the diverse material and representational forms that elements take, the paper argues that elements’ portability has a significant impact upon the travel of leisure enthusiasts, for example by necessitating particular forms of transportation. Though elements move around, they do not do so independently, and it therefore becomes necessary to consider the containers, carriers, and contexts that help to support their mobility. With concrete examples from the experience of interview participants, the paper discusses how the mobilities of elements and people intertwine, and how the portability of elements can impact the spaces in which one can perform a leisure practice.

Thursday 8 April 2010 at 15:30 - 17:00

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

BIOSOCIALITY AND POLITICS

Hird, M., Clark, N.

Queen's University

The In/Organic Juncture: Exploring the Boundary between Life and Matter

There have been several decades of intensive work in sociology and cognate disciplines around the interchange between the human and the nonhuman – much of which articulates a concern about the extent to which humankind is impacting upon the biophysical world and the way that other-than-human entities react back. In many ways, these concerns have reinforced the assumption that the most significant ontological juncture is that which lies between humans and everything else. This paper introduces a larger project which aims to interrogate this premise by redirecting attention to what is, arguably, a much more important juncture on the planet we happen to inhabit: that which divides and connects the living and non-living, life and matter, the organic and inorganic, the biosphere and geosphere.

Many contemporary issues – from climate change to energy crises, pathogen emergence to extinction – demand not only that we explore the inter-zone between the human and the nonhuman, but that we push on into regions where constitutive processes involve entities, forces and encounters that are overwhelming other-than-human. This has implications for sociology beyond simply affirming that the social is assembled out of heterogeneous materials or co-enacted with nonhuman others (Latour, relational materialities). In this paper we ask what is at stake in shifting social scientific attention to a juncture that includes unequivocally nonhuman-nonhuman interactivity, we identify some of the issues hinging around the living/nonliving inter-zone, and we sketch out possible avenues of empirical research that attend to this juncture.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND POWER

Barker, L. H. L.

White Rape

This paper examines sexual consent and its relation to racism. Personal accounts from men who advocate sexual consent or an arrangement of mutual or turn-taking initiation in their sexual relationships with women indicate that such favour is not the result of respect for or consideration of their female partners, but a desire to have a mutual and equality-driven sexual experience. UK Home Office anti-rape campaign posters focus on prison-avoidant sex: the obtaining of sexual consent in order to avoid going to prison. The lack of emphasis on respect for and consideration of female partners is repeated. There is also a pointed focus on verbal consent: non verbal communicators, partners of non verbal communicators and partners who do not share a lingua franca are not catered for, suggesting that prison-avoidant sex is not for everyone.

The paper focuses on who verbal consent serves and how white men may utilise verbal consent to differentiate themselves from men of colour, who are still widely perceived by the white community to be sexually aggressive criminals. Accounts of sexual activity are analysed closely to explore whether this opportunity for upholding whiteness necessarily cancels out the satisfaction that men can gain from raping women. Situations where verbal consent may serve women are looked at, as well as situations where verbal consent is irrelevant for women. Attempts to revamp consent in recent feminist criticism are examined alongside radical feminist rejections of consent as rape remodelled.

Harrington, C.

Victoria University of Wellington

Politicization of Sexual Violence and Post Cold War Peacekeeping

In the 1990s, feminist scholars on the politics of rape experienced a sudden surge of interest in their, until then, marginal field. Why suddenly in the 1990s did rape become problematized as an international issue not just by the feminist fringes of protest movements but also by intergovernmental bureaucracies? By historically tracing international political discourse on sexual violence this seminar draws attention to how contemporary peacekeeping

actors have conflated notions of human rights violation, bodily violation, and psychological trauma. This paper argues that such a conflation allows peacekeeping actors to universalize a liberal construction of personal freedom as a necessary condition for both psychological health and democracy and thus to represent their international interventions as therapeutic. Contemporary peacekeeping involves psychosocial democracy building programs alongside projects for political and economic reform and the deployment of international armed force. Women's NGOs and feminist experts have been able to claim influence within these new international governmental structures as sexual violence experts who can assist in the rehabilitation of victims. The seminar ends by reviewing some consequences of on-going political struggles over integrating feminist sexual violence expertise into international peacekeeping and democracy building projects.

Saunders-Hastings, K. E.

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime

Classing Crime, Producing Pacification: Gendered Violence in Guatemala

Guatemalan women today live in a climate of physical insecurity comparable to that at the height of the 1980s genocide. Thousands of women's corpses, often brutalised in specifically gendered ways, have been dumped in and around Guatemala's cities, with little widespread public indignation or official response. Discursive tactics deployed by state authorities have normalised and naturalised this violence. Despite highly public, communicative dimensions to women's murders, gendered violence is treated as private, interpersonal, apolitical and thus marginal to the public sphere and its citizens. Political and legal institutions circulate strategic narratives that operate to diminish both the value of female victims and the impact of their deaths on Guatemalan publics and politics as a whole. Echoing justifications for wartime campaigns against indigenous communities, the particular gendered and classed identities attributed to the victims and their assailants locate them firmly within an undesirable, dangerous element of society. While the vocabulary has shifted from that of the subversive to the criminal, from the politically to the socially objectionable, the state continues to devalue the lives of those who exceed and inconvenience its governance. The depoliticisation of Guatemalan feminicides serves to maintain an image of social and political transition vital to postconflict elites. The state constructs as private violence that is being enacted with impunity in public as it struggles to preserve the currency of its recent "pacification." This violence urgently needs to be problematized and politicized as a site for contestation of the meaning and content of citizenship in the neoliberal era.

Policy, Impunity, Safety and Community: Women, Rape and Asylum

Research into rape in conflict has, in recent literature, begun to emphasize the impact of rape not only as a devastating event for the individual, but as a significant factor in segregating and separating communities, developing new community structures and influencing mobility and asylum.

This paper discusses problems in policy implementation and the effects of rape in conflict as an underlying, but hugely consequential, contributor to asylum and the shifting and dynamics of localised community groups. Although rape experiences continue to be documented, research and policy making processes can neglect to consider the ongoing effects of rape in localised post-conflict environments, and the implications this can have on the complex gendered differences in asylum processes in globalised contexts.

Throughout this paper, we consider two ongoing pieces of research into gendered experiences of conflicts, specifically Tobin's empirical research into community projects supporting women in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, and Canning's ethnographic research into the experiences of conflict and rape with asylum seeking women in Merseyside.

We consider the complex issues in discussing rape with research participants and the significance of memory, reflection and stigma on developing and implementing relevant and suitable methodologies for exploring sensitive issues and personal experiences. Drawing from this, we conclude that social attitudes to change are more significant than policy or legislation have sometimes assumed, and that further practical steps are necessary in challenging social stigma and reducing impunity for perpetrators to aid in the creation of successful preventative strategies for rape in conflict.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Edgar, F.

University of the West of Scotland

'C'mon take a drink': The Social Context of Alcohol Consumption in Scotland

Women's alcohol consumption has become the focus of much attention. Young women specifically are often highlighted and much of the existing literature focuses on younger people's consumption. As such, there is a dearth in understanding about how and why other members of society drink. Arguably, to enhance our understanding of alcohol consumption for other members of society must be explored alongside the younger cohort.

This paper presents a qualitative Study that explores these issues amongst women in Scotland. Forty two women aged 18-79 years participated in a focus group or individual interview, which were transcribed and thematic analysis conducted. This paper reports themes relating to social context and Scottish identity.

Drinking was viewed as sociable and 'expected' in Scotland. Participants constructed their consumption as enjoyable and purposeful. Analysis identified shared systems of meaning across the sample, and the role of alcohol appeared to be social context specific. Contrasts were made between private drinking worlds where alcohol symbolised relaxation, and public drinking worlds where it signalled belonging. Across the sample 'going out' was associated with consuming a larger quantity of alcohol and hangovers were largely accepted as part of this drinking experience. This also raised questions about what constitutes 'having a drink'; it was associated with the weekend, 'going out' and the potential for excess. The paper concludes that more needs to be done to examine consumption across the age spectrum and to acknowledge that young people experience and make sense of alcohol within this wider social context.

Seaman, P., Ikegwuonu, T.

Glasgow Centre for Population Health

Social Networks and Young Adults' Decision Making about Alcohol

Research indicating a doubling of the number of alcohol-related deaths in the UK between 1991 and 2004 coupled with younger drinkers (16-24 years) reporting higher consumption than other groups (with associated media furore), suggests alcohol related harm is set to increase over time. Policy responses need to take account of the perceptions and understandings of young people driving these trends, discussions of which have centred around pricing controls proven in other countries to reduce population level alcohol related harm. However, the manner in which such a response will play out across sub-groups of the UK population is less well understood as it has been argued that the UK does not have a single drinking culture but an array of drinking cultures with differing values and associations relating to alcohol.

Social networks can be seen as key sites in the reception, interpretation and negotiation of cultural values for young people and offer an appropriate level at which to analyse the transmission of drinking cultures and values. Using social network mapping, interview and focus group data this study explored the role of social networks in framing meanings around drinking occasions, what and how much is consumed, intentions and what might reduce consumption over time. We found heavy episodic alcohol consumption was viewed as transformative by young people and contextualised within the liminal space between youth and adulthood. Consequently, differentiated transitions to adulthood would structure differentiated experiences and decision making processes around alcohol which should be understood by policymakers.

Smith, O

University of York

Late License: Contemporary Adulthood and the Night Time Economy

Drawing on my recent ethnographic research into the lives of committed adult consumers of night-time alcohol-based leisure, this presentation will investigate a number of interconnected theoretical propositions. First, to what extent is it true to suggest that the journey into a traditional 'adulthood' has now become an anxiety-inducing and risky undertaking? Second, how can we position the rise of consumerism, and in particular consumerised alcohol-based leisure, in relation to the core identities of both young and 'adult' people? Third, to what extent is it true to suggest that we have seen the collapse of the traditional symbolic order and consequently the proliferation of infantile narcissism in Western liberal democracies? And fourth, how can we utilise Zizek's idea that we have seen a fundamental reorientation of the cultural super-ego to make sense of contemporary leisure cultures, and the unwillingness of ageing populations to 'give up' the consumer preoccupations of youth? By using this framework, I hope offer an empirically grounded and intellectually provocative insight into the nature and meaning of contemporary urban leisure spaces and the populations that occupy them.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Dutta, M., Husain, Z.

Presidency College

Satisficing And Structured Individuation - A Study Of Women Workers In Kolkata's It Sector

It was initially believed that the rapid growth of the Information Technology (IT) industry in India would generate less exploitative avenues of employment for women. Further, economic empowerment would strengthen the bargaining power of women within the household and improve her self-esteem. However, recent studies argue that the IT sector has been unable to isolate itself from the social context, so that the organizational process continues to be shaped by the conflicting and asymmetrical gender relationships that prevail in Indian society. This leads to the imposition of a dual burden (of work and home commitments) on working women.

Based on a survey of women workers in Kolkata's IT sector, this paper argues that contextual developments have weakened the patriarchal foundations of the family. This has allowed women workers to break out of a passive mould and attempt to carve out their individual destinies. However, organizational constraints and the family structure impose structural constraints on their agency, so that women workers have to adapt their aspirations to contextual realities. Decision-making of working women may, in this emerging situation, be conceptualized in terms of Simon's satisficing model. The paper examines the process of decision-making and outcomes in areas like choice of occupation, provisioning of care services within the household, pregnancy and child care to show that women possess considerable agency. These decisions are taken deliberately to balance household needs and pressure of the office, and reflect the individual identities and aspirations of the women workers.

Quinlan, M.

Trinity College

Gender and career progression in the Financial Services – an Irish case study

This paper will explore the issue of gender and its impact on career progression, drawing on empirical evidence from the Irish financial services sector. This paper will also examine recent international research and feminist debates in this area.

According to Ogden (2006), the financial services sector "...is a rather conspicuous example of the pervasively powerful and gender unequal effects a male culture can have on the careers of females" (2006: 42). Both Irish and international studies have found that the so-called 'glass-ceiling' of invisible barriers to women's career progression is still prevalent in the financial services (Gammie, 2007; Ogden 2006; Catalyst 2002; Heard, 2001; Barker and Monks, 1998). The gender pay gap in the financial services is the biggest of any sector in Ireland, a finding echoed in UK (Ogden, 2006; Brennan and Nolan, 1998; Barker and Monks, 1998; CSO, 2008).

This paper will examine findings from a mixed quantitative and qualitative study of male and female employees of three Dublin-based multinational financial services companies. Exploring whether women's under-representation at senior levels is down to their 'choice' not to progress as has been posited by many theorists (Pinker 2008; Cross and Linehan, 2006; Hakim, 1995; 2004; Whiting and Wright, 2001; Gammie and Gammie, 1995; 1997), or whether women merely have what Gerson has termed 'a series of unsatisfactory trade-offs', masquerading as choice (Gerson, 1985: 112). It will also examine to what extent traditional social constructs of work and gender stereotypes are a causal element in so-called 'self-imposed' glass ceilings.

Chiu, C. C. H., Fosh, .P., Ng, C. W.

City University of Hong Kong

Gender, Career Ambition and Organizational Barrier in Hotel and Retail Industries in Hong Kong

This paper investigates gender differences in career ambition of managers. In our study among female and male managers in retail and hotel industries in Hong Kong, female managers expressed weaker ambition for their careers than their male counterparts. We contest the preference theory which posits that women's preference is the main determinant of women's career choice. We examine the effects of organizational barriers that depress female managers' career ambition. Barriers to career progressions of female managers include fairness of opportunities, career help received from senior experienced persons, women's prospects, work practices, relationships, views on female employees within the organization and the organization's sensitivity towards employees' needs to balance their work and family needs. Data for this paper are drawn from a larger study which employed both survey questionnaires and in-depth interviews as data collection instruments.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

CAPITAL IDEAS? FRESH PERSPECTIVES ON CLASS, CAPITAL AND EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

Quinn, J., Allen, K., Hollingworth, S.

London Metropolitan University

Capital Ideas? Fresh perspectives on class, capital and education

The purpose of this symposium is to use, explore and develop socially just methods of analysing and understanding the fraught relationship between social class and education. Specifically, we present three papers which all draw on the theoretical concepts of 'capitals' in the context of education.

The first paper considers how in the face of marginalisation and disadvantage and despite apparent lack of recognised forms of social and cultural capital, learners manage to resist their positioning and create forms of power. The concept of 'imagined' social capital is proposed as an idea which can help explain this process. The second paper looks at the place of cultural capital within processes of self formation among young women in performing arts education and training. It examines the differences in how young women from working class and lower middle class backgrounds accessed, mobilised and displayed cultural capital as they constituted themselves as learners and workers for the creative industries and illuminates some of the dilemmas they faced within this. The third paper explores the rising popularity of the use of the concept of social capital particularly in relation to policy drives around community cohesion, and problematises the way in which it is currently being used and applied. Through the symposium we seek to revitalise old conceptual tools with the aim of developing new conceptual tools which should have the potential to do justice in their application in socio-cultural research. The abstracts for each of the three papers are appended in three attachments to this email submission.

Quinn, J.

London Metropolitan University

'Imagined' social capital and the resistance of marginalised learners

This paper takes the concept of 'imagined social capital' (Quinn, 2005, 2010), which I conceptualise as the benefit that accrues from symbolic and imagined networks, and uses it to analyse research data from a number of research studies. These studies include: research with young people in rural settings who are working in low paid and low status jobs without training, young people who have dropped out of university in provincial areas of decline and homeless people based in a large city. In all of these studies, participants have complex and largely negative relationships with formal education, but are able to access forms of imagined social capital via imagined and symbolic networks of learning which help them to gain power and resist their positioning. The purpose of the paper is to analyse how far and in what ways 'imagined' social capital provides explanations for the patterns of these participants' lives and their relationships to learning, which other concepts of class and capital cannot. It seeks to refine the notion of imagined social capital, by situating it in different local contexts and exploring its relationship to ideas and theories about the natural world, nostalgia, memory and abjection.

Allen, K.

London Metropolitan University

Constituting the self as future creative worker: Young women, self-formation and cultural capital

This paper is concerned with how young women position themselves as particular types of learners and future workers, and how class capital informs this process. Drawing on recent research into the educational experiences and career aspirations young women in performing arts education and training, this paper explores the classed processes of self-formation taken up by these young women as they seek a career in the creative industries. Specifically the paper will build upon Skeggs' (2004) notion of the 'asset-acquiring' self as a normative model of the self under neo-liberalism which excludes the working class. Skeggs claims that this is a subject who is able to acquire, display and optimize the 'right' cultural capital in order to generate value in the self. The paper will explore how young women from working class and lower middle class backgrounds were differently able to access, mobilise and display their cultural capital in order to constitute themselves as the 'right' kind of learners and future workers for the creative industries. It will explore the different tensions and dilemmas these young women experienced within processes of self-formation, and the ways in which they responded to and defended against these. The paper seeks to illuminate what kinds of capital must be mobilised, and in what ways, in order to become a subject of value under neo-liberalism, and specifically within education and training for the creative industries.

Social capital and community cohesion: the uses and abuses of a theoretical concept

Drawing on research in its early stages on young people, schooling and community cohesion, this paper is concerned with the rising popularity of the concept of social capital in the policy arena and examines the various ways in which the term is used (and abused). Specifically I explore the relationship between social capital and community cohesion and the idea that social capital is something that can (and should) be 'built'. This paper argues that this application of social capital places responsibility for (a lack of) community cohesion on individuals (and their 'communities') and contributes to a policy movement which pathologises the working classes for their failings. I examine the process by which a theoretical concept that begun life as a tool to understand middle class privilege, has been hijacked and is now a stick to beat the working classes with. The paper concludes by discussing the future of 'social capital' and the possibilities of its socially just application in research on youth, education, schooling and community cohesion.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Carter, J.

The University of York

The Curious Absence of Love

In a study about marriage views and opinions I asked 23 young heterosexual women their thoughts on relationships, marriage, love and weddings. Love was talked about by all participants and this is unsurprising since, as Jackson notes, love is a central concept to 'familial ideology, to the maintenance of heterosexual monogamy and patriarchal marriage' (1993: 202). Yet, these conversations only came about after I had directly asked about love. One of the most striking and interesting themes to emerge from my data was the apparent absence of discourses or stories about love that arose unprovoked. Instead of relating grand accounts of falling in love, participants were reticent in talking about the emotion. Respondents used a variety of alternative ways of discussing love relationships such as the drift into love, it 'just happening', and employing a number of modern love metaphors. The absence of grand love stories and the alternative ways of talking about love will be discussed in this paper. I shall draw on my own data as well as Tolman's (2005) interpretation of the use of cover stories, Hendrick and Hendrick's (1992) examination of love metaphors and Wouters (2004) evaluation of courting regimes from 1890 to 2000. The absence of love stories and the more general tendency to drift into love relationships will be shown to be part of a wider trend towards more casual relationships and relaxed courting regulations.

Brownlie, J., Anderson, S.

University of Stirling

'The roar on the other side of silence' : Not talking in the time of talk

We are told that we live in a society defined by emotional disclosure (Smart, 2007) and shaped by an obsession with vulnerable selves (Furedi, 2004; Bauman, 1997). Recent findings from an ESRC mixed methods study on emotional culture, The Someone To Talk To Study (<http://www.someonetotalkto.info>), however, suggests that while there is evidence that there is cultural acceptance of the notion that it is 'good to talk' and that we do turn to personal networks to talk about our feelings, this has not translated into a retreat into professionalised therapeutic spaces. Moreover, even with those we are closest to, what Simmel (1950) called the 'second world', a world constituted through what we do not talk about, persists. This paper explores some possible reasons for this persistence given that we are now assumed to live in the time of talk. In particular it looks at people's beliefs about the limitations and constraints of emotions talk; the significance of non-talk-based responses to emotional difficulties; the extent to which the contemporary self is not defined by vulnerability; and the nature of the beliefs we hold about confiding in strangers and privacy boundaries.

Stephansen, H. C.

Goldsmiths, University of London

Another communication for knowledge 'from below': alternative media in the World Social Forum

The World Social Forum has been celebrated by many as a manifestation of an emergent global civil society and a privileged arena for the articulation of alternatives to the dominant neoliberal paradigm. It has been conceptualised as an expression of epistemological plurality (Santos) with the potential to facilitate more democratic, 'bottom-up' processes of knowledge production through convergence across lines of difference. However, little attention has been paid to the concrete mechanisms by which this might happen.

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork carried out at the 2009 WSF, this paper argues that in order to understand knowledge production in transnational activist spaces such as the WSF it is necessary to pay attention to the role of movement-based media. Through an analysis of collaborative media projects organised during the Forum to produce independent coverage of the event, it develops an understanding of alternative media as a means by which activists seek not only to disseminate oppositional discourses but also to put into practice new social relations of knowledge production based on the radical-democratic claim for the right to communication.

Drawing on recent scholarship on alternative epistemological paradigms (e.g. Mignolo, Escobar, Santos), the paper advances an understanding of movements for the democratisation of communication as central actors in a broader project concerned with the decolonization of knowledge. As the infrastructures through which the 'worlds and knowledges otherwise' (Escobar) of alternative globalisation movements may be articulated, movement-based media constitute both the concrete expression and condition of possibility of the WSF's claim for 'cognitive justice' (Santos).

Liu, J.

University of Leeds

Wi-Fi Networks as Materialized Media

Media is a complex of information, tool and approach. The three aspects weave political, social, cultural and economic issue in a material/non-material web. This paper aims to present how Wi-Fi access acts as a media representation in tangible/intangible objects and spectacle.

Wi-Fi networks penetrate deeply and spread widely in Europe and North America, such as Wi-Fi community Freifunk in German and commercial BTOpenzone in UK. Popular Wi-Fi hotspots provide easy and location-flexible access to Internet. Unlike mobile phone, Wi-Fi can create a space to gather users to share the connection and offer low-cost and multi-user facilities than traditional network cables. The ownership and membership of Wi-Fi networks are heterogeneous, such as commercial, personal, institutional, community or public use and the distinctions make Wi-Fi networks create social boundaries among Wi-Fi users. People obtain information through different media, Internet and TV, and the access relates closely to person. Wi-Fi access points integrate users into a bigger and complicated group level, like family member or company employees. Commercial providers try to occupy particular locations to monopolize Wi-Fi access and grassroots organizations want to make Wi-Fi free and liberal. Popular Wi-Fi facilities materialize Internet resource in our daily life and they also produce media spectacle in physical installations and social movement.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

GENDER AND HEALTH 1:

Leppo, A.

University of Helsinki

Care and coercion? Politics of FAS prevention

Women's increased consumption of alcohol has resulted in growing concern for prenatal drinking and heated debates about the mother's vs. fetuses rights. In the last two decades FAS (Fetal Alcohol Syndrome) prevention has been an object of continuing controversy in the Nordic countries, and this paper shows particular interest in the distinctively Nordic idea of using compulsory treatment of pregnant women as an instrument in FAS prevention. This paper sets out to explore how, why and by whom FAS as a public problem and the politics of FAS prevention were constructed in Finland since the 1990s focusing on political debates on compulsory treatment. The primary data for this qualitative study consists of political documents.

The paper links the Finnish controversy on FAS prevention to the Nordic traditions of restrictive alcohol control policy and inclusive welfare and control policy arguing that because these technologies of power build primarily on 'bio-politics of the population', they tend to have an uneasy relationship with individualistic and coercive techniques of power. Anglo-American feminists have argued that 'fetus-centred' discourses displace the rights of pregnant women, and the paper ends by discussing the validity of this argument in the Nordic context asking whether the debates on compulsory treatment of pregnant women reflect solidarity towards the mother or the fetus.

Cramer, H., Salisbury, C., Araya, R.

University of Bristol

'Instead of just thinking I'll lie down, I'll do an activity and ...actually feel better'. Women's experiences of group cognitive behavioural therapy for depression.

This presentation draws on the findings of a nested qualitative study within a pilot randomised controlled trial looking at the feasibility and acceptability of cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) groups for deprived women in the UK. The qualitative work explored women's experiences of attending the groups and if and how the intervention changed their day-to-day lives. We interviewed 75 women at baseline and followed up 64 women at three and six months. The CBT group intervention lasted 12 weeks and there were four intervention groups. Detailed analysis was carried out with the interviews of ten women at the three time periods (30 in total). Observations from each of the four intervention groups were carried out and the interviews and observations analysed thematically. The women reported that the groups gave them practical everyday coping skills and singled out for praise the key CBT idea that changing distorted thinking is possible and can have a big impact. With social isolation as key theme in their lives, the women highly valued meeting others in the groups. Whilst the data analysis at the time of writing is incomplete, the observed therapeutic processes will be linked to anthropological and sociological theories about depression as biographical disruption and group CBT therapy as normalisation and performance in a liminal space. The findings show that group CBT can be a powerful catalyst for change in people's lives and that group approaches bring additional benefits.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

OPEN 4

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

Drabble, D., Doidge, S.

The Tavistock Institute

The construction, maintenance and deconstruction of older workers' identities in the workplace: the role of anxiety

Most of the literature on identity at work has focused on a passive sense of identity; being identified rather than becoming identified. First, this article argues that identity is a process rather than a static condition. 'Identity work' therefore refers to people being engaged in forming, repairing, maintaining, strengthening or revising the constructions that are productive of a sense of self. Once older workers perceive they have been labelled 'old' by others they begin to define themselves as 'old' and become susceptible to identity degradation. Second, this paper introduces the factor of anxiety to the identity debate. The paper will explore the role of psychological defence mechanisms in reconstituting workers' identities.

Sveningsson and Alvesson (2003) argue that identity work increases during times of anxiety. In this paper I explore how anxieties can affect the identities of older workers undergoing multiple anxieties including being put into an unwanted role, plateau careers, and age discrimination through bullying. The multifaceted aspects of identity formation at work are explored in this article using data from an evaluation of the involvement and motivation of older staff at an international public sector organization undertaken by the Tavistock Institute. Although mixed methods were used, this paper concentrates on the content analysis of how older workers reported their experiences. The results suggest that the identity work which older workers undertook was often linked to anxieties around aging, often in reaction to being treated as 'obsolete'. Whilst some workers are able to react successfully against these anxieties by updating their skills and thus their self-identity, many continue to feel sidelined, leading to greater anxiety and paranoia.

Hadfield, L.

The Open University

Encountering the Disabled Maternal Body

The social model has been a dominant paradigm in the disability field for highlighting the means in which disability is produced by social and environmental barriers as opposed to impairment effects. The model however has been heavily criticized for its neglect of disabled people's and in particular women's experiences of their impaired bodies. More recently there has been renewed debate within the disability field over whether the social model of disability should be reformulated or disposed of completely to take into account the complex experience of disability. Using case study data from my current PhD research on disabled motherhood I will illustrate how subjectivity, disability and motherhood can be understood and explored as an embodied relationship taking into account the social and the psyche. An examination of encounters with the disabled maternal body will be used to illustrate the ways in which social, emotional and embodied experience can interact, and the challenges this poses to social model constructions of disability. I will use data including my reflections on the psycho-dynamics within the interview encounter to illustrate how these themes can be explored and understood. Finally I suggest such an approach can enrich our understanding of encounters with the disabled maternal body particularly in relation to interactions between health professionals, social care and informal care providers and disabled women in their transition to becoming a mother.

Wigg, J.M.

Segregation Versus Desegregation among the Demented: Impacts of Transitions on the Social Identities of Elders with Dementia

This paper focuses on segregation among elders living with dementia. Drawing on data collected in two long-term care settings, I examine the experience of elders with dementia in segregated and non-segregated living environments. In contrast to settings where elders were segregated according to their degree of cognitive impairment, elders living with dementia in a less segregated environment displayed various characteristics, behaviors and relationships that suggest potential benefits of a desegregated environment. A comparison of the two environments challenges the medicalization of dementing stages of the disease process and the need to separate individuals living with various cognitive disabilities. The paper explores previous examples of segregated populations such as the mentally ill, considering the role of fear in the creation of social divisions. In addition, the paper explores the realm of social death among the elders living with dementia and the manner in which disease stages and required changes in the environment (transitions) reinforce the social death experience for the individual. The social identities of the elders are affected by the living space transitions they endure. Ultimately, I argue for a reassessment of the benefits and drawbacks to desegregation among elders living with progressive, neurologically debilitating diseases. I suggest that while challenges are present, potential benefits of cohabitation for elders at varying stages of the dementing process deserve attention.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

Compeyron, A.

Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble 2

Inequalities in admission to engineering schools. Some ways to improve equal opportunities

We would like to show how inequalities at school in terms of success rate may entail significant social injustices concerning the access to a career in engineering. We have carried out research in two major engineering schools, in the Rhône-Alpes region in France, that each recruit more than a thousand students per year. These are the National Institute of Applied Sciences in Lyon (INSA) and the various schools composing the Grenoble National Polytechnic Institute (GINP). Through these data we can see how success at engineering school is linked to the parents' occupation. We have developed indicators to measure social representation in these schools so as to take into account the national occupational structure of the population. We have also studied some of the developments since the 1950s, when data are available. Today, the relative representation ratio between children of executives and higher intellectual professions and children of workers has increased to more than 20. We have especially referred to the theory of reproduction and to the theory of justice to highlight the social drawbacks which this entailed. We wanted to know where injustice lies: in the reproduction phenomenon or in the lack of equal opportunity. How to select excellent students with different and representative origins? We have tried to find explanations for this phenomenon, engineering schools can focus on creating policy in order to reform such a trend, thanks to: tutoring in secondary education, special recruiting, individual support, awards, and incentive information toward the less advantaged students

Bawa, S.

Queens University

Women's Education in Sub-Saharan Africa: Dialectics of Empowerment

The United Nations has indicated that while low levels of female illiteracy is a worldwide problem the situation in Africa is particularly worse. For instance, according to a UNICEF report, (2000) 16 of the 22 countries in the world with female illiteracy rate of over 70% are African. Although subsumed under the rubric of empowerment for women, nationalistic discourses on women's education and contribution to development continue to view women's reproductive labour as their main contribution to nation-building (Yuval-Davis and Anthias, 1989). To this extent, women's education is seen as a capacity enhancing tool for the performance of their reproductive roles. For instance, the often quoted phrase that "if you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate a whole nation", has been used strategically to advocate gender equity in education in Ghana. However, critically examined, this reinforces the notion that women's education is necessary only insofar as it enhances their mothering and caring roles in society. This paper will argue, among other things, that, while this approach has strategically led to improvements in women's education in Ghana, it is problematic for various reasons: a), it suggests only a natural, not a socio-cultural connection between women and biological reproduction; and b), it interacts favourably with the global neo-liberal regime to legitimise women's subordination on the basis that women are naturally suited to certain roles that do not require acquired skills.

Taylor, M

University of Oxford

Reading for pleasure: Cultural, Capital or Cognitive effect?

This paper asks whether reading for pleasure in early life has any significant effect on levels of education attained, income, or eventual social class outcome. Drawing on Robson (2003), and also Bourdieu (1973) and DiMaggio (1982) I set out a framework in which we might expect teenage reading to entail greater income, education and social class, and set this against a framework drawing on Kaufman and Gabler (2004) and de Graaf et al (2000), which suggests that the association might be spurious.

I use three basic sets of models: models predicting level of education attained by age 23, models predicting income at 23, 33, and 41, and models predicting social class at 33, given a set of controls including father's social class at age 11, reading ability, school type, and ethnicity. In all models, I'm using NCDS data, using all eligible male cases. I find that, once further controls are introduced, individual's reading behaviour at age 16 has no strong effect on predicted level of education, or on income, contrary to Robson's findings. However, I do find that it's strongly associated with social class at age 33, with greater reading behaviour being associated with individuals consolidating their social position, and with low levels of reading behaviour being associated with individuals from higher social classes experiencing downward mobility. As such, I find stronger evidence for Bourdieu's cultural reproduction hypothesis than diMaggio's cultural mobility hypothesis.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

Mitra, B., Mirza, M.

University of Worcester

Dilutions of ethnography: Ethnography lite

Through our teaching and research in the social sciences we have noted that there appears to be divergent understandings of the term ethnography. For example, within the field of some audience research studies which claim to have conducted ethnographic research, closer interrogation reveals that the researchers have just conducted interviews or in some cases, have only carried out questionnaires. Many of these studies lack the rich multi-layered detail that is commonly associated with ethnography in the disciplines of Sociology or Anthropology. Drawing on the authors' own experiences of research, as well as a consideration of some classic audience research studies, we argue that there needs to be much greater clarification and consistency regarding the use of the term ethnography. Studies that rely solely on questionnaires or semi-structured interviews, or even a combination of the two, should not claim to be ethnographic. We raise this as an important issue that needs to be discussed in order for there to be a more consensual understanding across different disciplines of what it means to conduct ethnographic research. Additionally, we argue that perhaps those less true ethnographic studies should more accurately be referred to as qualitative studies.

Salter, A.

University of Edinburgh

'Very busy writing all the time': Time, Temporality and the Schreiner-Sauer Letters

The importance of letters to sociological analysis has been recognised since Thomas and Znaniecki's influential *The Polish Peasant* (1918/20); while temporal concerns have largely focused on 'time around letters', especially the long *durée*, with relatively little attention paid to letters as temporal, textual artefacts. Drawing on Barbara Adam's (1989, 1990, 1995, 2004) and others' ideas about 'social time', this presentation will discuss letter-writing as predicated on temporality and temporal interruptions, and also as invoking and utilising past, present and future in their contents. In particular, using a set of letters written by the feminist writer and social theorist Olive Schreiner (1855-1920), it will examine the centrality of time to letter-writing and 'a letter' as a form of representation. Schreiner's and other letters inscribe time, use time, are about time, take time and involve time as a key component of what they 'are' in a formal or generic sense as well as in terms of content and context. Schreiner's unpublished c5000 letters are currently being transcribed and analysed by the Olive Schreiner Letters Project, and the presentation will draw on a subset, the c130 letters Schreiner wrote to Mary Sauer between 1890 and 1903. In particular, the paper will discuss temporal issues regarding: first and last letters; examples of the complicated ways in which past, present and future are inscribed and intersect at the 'moment of writing'; and how this 'moment' is represented in the letters themselves.

Smart, S.

University of Reading

Religious and philosophical theories of social justice: is there common ground?

Religious faith has been correlated with social conservatism, ethnic prejudice and essentialist beliefs about race and gender. The correlation between high levels of spending on welfare and irreligiosity has been interpreted as an indication that religion tends to promote economic and social inequalities. However, other researchers claim religious beliefs have been inspirations for prominent social justice activists (Jestice 2004; DeYoung 2007) and many social justice movements (Hondagneu-Sotelo 2008), and that religious values and commitments have been significant in shaping much public policy (Nesbitt 2001). Religious leaders argue that their understandings of social justice should play an important part in creating a just world order (Mische and Merklings 2001). So how similar are theories of justice within religious traditions to some of the theories of justice that sociologists commonly use? Drawing on contemporary Christian, Islamic, Jewish and Buddhist statements of social justice available on the websites of faith organisations, this paper will contrast the principles, goods and justifications of the religious theories with secular theories of justice (including the theories of John Rawls, Iris Marion Young, Nancy Fraser and David Miller).

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

OPEN 3

GEORGE MOORE M140

Scott, S., Jackson, S.

Glasgow Caledonian University

We seek it here, they mostly seek it there: Locating the social sexual self

In this paper we argue for the importance of a social understanding of the (sexual) self. We draw on the work of GH Mead and the interactionist tradition in order to develop a feminist sociological understanding of the sexual self as relational and reflexive. We argue that this approach to the sexual self is the best way to capture and understand the complexity of sexuality in the 20th Century. We also attempt to understand why this approach has not been fashionable in recent decades and why psychoanalytic theorising about the self has dominated feminist theorising in this period. In discussing these opposing accounts of the self we will attempt to explain why feminists, sociologists and others have been drawn to particular explanations and try to account for this in biographical/sociological terms.

King, A, Cronin, A

Kingston University

Power, Inequality and Identification: Exploring the lives of older lesbian, gay and bisexual adults

Despite significant policy developments, such as the Civil Partnership Act (2004) and the Equality Bill (2009), which suggest that inequalities related to the lives of lesbian, gay, and bisexual (LGB) people are firmly on the political agenda, within sociology the lives of older (i.e. 50+) LGB people remain under-researched and under-theorised. In this paper we explore how theories of diversity and intersectionality may be used to improve our understandings of the lives of older LGB adults. We argue that theories of diversity help us to understand both the structural constraints and the advantages that may arise from being an older LGB adult. However, these theories are unable to fully account for differences that may exist within this social group. In order to address this omission, we argue that we need to move beyond a focus on diversity per se, to incorporate the multiplicity of identities suggested by intersectionality theory. We conclude our paper by assessing the implications of this debate for future research. Throughout the paper we draw on existing research as well as our own empirical studies with older LGB adults.

Coleman-Fountain, E.

Newcastle University

Claiming Identities: Gay and Lesbian Youth and the Self

The paper seeks to explore the way in which categories of sexual identity are claimed as a way of understanding and articulating information about the self. The project the paper draws on explores the significance of gay or lesbian identifications for a group of young people in articulating important information about the self.

This paper draws on interview data from nineteen in-depth, qualitative interviews with young gay men and lesbians, aged 16 – 21, living within the North-East of England. The fieldwork has been conducted as part of an ongoing ESRC funded PhD research project conducted at Newcastle University under the supervision of Prof Diane Richardson and Dr Janice McLaughlin.

The paper draws on some themes emerging from the data, looking at how claiming an identity enables the expression of what is perceived to be an 'inner' truth of the self, and the way in which explanations of sexuality (particularly authoritative 'naturalised' genetic, hormonal and psychological discourses) are drawn on in giving substance to subjective experiences of the self.

The paper will argue the importance of claiming sexuality in the lives of young people as a means of expressing the self, and as a way of knowing one's self. The ways in which 'gay' and 'lesbian' identities, as socially constructed abstract concepts, are reified through claims to naturalness is interrogated, not in order to expose sexuality as a social construct, but raise questions about what should be considered as 'real' where it concerns claims to selfhood and lived experience.

THEORETICAL ISSUES IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF RELIGION

Lynch, G.

University of London

An outline for a sociology of the sacred

This paper argues for the importance of a sociology of the sacred which is related to, but distinct from the sociology of religion. The concept of the 'sacred' had been subject to growing critique in the study of religion in the closing decades of the last century, because of its association with the liberal-expressive approach of James, Otto and Eliade. But there has been a renewed interest more recently in the concept of the sacred in the sociology of religion, as researchers attempt to trace the complex motive-forces shaping life in increasingly post-Christian Western societies. The paper draws together current interests in the study of religion with key concepts relating to the sacred emerging from the neo-Durkheimian work of Shils, Bellah and Alexander. It argues that this neo-Durkheimian scholarship might be further extended through attention to the psychosocial significance of intersubjective engagement with sacred figures, the forms of mediation of the sacred, and the implications of plural forms of the sacred within contemporary society. It concludes by arguing that such a sociology of the sacred is necessary in providing a language for public reflection about the nature and effects of deep commitments that shape individual and collective life, and in helping to move beyond understanding contemporary society through simplistic binaries of 'religion' and the 'secular'.

Wood, M., Altglas, A.

Queen's University Belfast

Reflexivity, Scientificity and the Sociology of Religion: Pierre Bourdieu in Debate

Our paper explores the relevance of Pierre Bourdieu's 'epistemic reflexivity' for the sociology of religion, in particular by examining his neglected address to the French Association for the Sociology of Religion in 1982. Whilst sociologists of religion have paid some attention to issues of reflexivity in their practice, there is considerable neglect of the crucial scientific requirement, highlighted by Bourdieu, to break from the 'illusio' of that field and thus avoid alignments with positions taken by religious actors themselves. As a result, many sociologists inevitably participate in religious contestations and stakes, whether or not they affirm or deny their own religious identification with those they study. Whilst Bourdieu's address was a response to a particular national and historical form of the sociology of religion, we argue that it retains much significance today and may therefore lead to fruitful debate within the discipline.

Hjelm, T.

University College London

Legitimacy and authenticity: key concepts in the sociology of religion

With the resurgence of religion in the modern public sphere issues of legitimacy have become central to the positioning of religion and religious communities in society. Despite this, there have been few attempts to analyse and theorise these developments. This paper explores how religious communities legitimate themselves vis-à-vis the wider social framework and how this process in turn affects internal boundary constructions within the communities. The recent legitimisation attempts of contemporary witchcraft in Finland serve as the historical and social context of the study. The paper employs a novel theoretical approach that draws and brings together ideas from the works of Weber, Durkheim, and the social constructionist approach to the study of social problems. The study shows that at the same time that the witchcraft community stands united in legitimating their religion to the wider society, this legitimisation also has divisive effects in the form of authenticity struggles.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Lohm, D

Monash University

If you don't look white and Anglo then a hyphenated national identity is compulsory

Australia's population has undergone massive changes in the past 200 years, along with this Australians' understanding of their national identity has also changed. The image of Australians at the time of federation in 1901 as being geographically isolated Britons is no longer applicable. Given the diversity of Australians' heritages many have constructed hybrid national identities which reflect both their Australianness and heritage. In-depth interviews with thirty-six young Australian residents indicated that they embrace the notion of a multicultural Australia. They unanimously note that there is no such thing as a typical Australian. Whilst they strongly espouse that there are no required physical attributes for Australian identity I argue that Australia's historical ties to Britain retain resonance. Hage (1998) suggests that non-European, non-white Australians may acquire cultural capital but this will never be as valued as that of whiteness. The question, 'where do you come from?' frequently asked of non-white, non-Anglo appearance Australians differentiates them from those with a white-Anglo appearance whose Australian identity is not questioned. I argue that the result is a hierarchy of Australianness where some are free to identify as purely Australian while others are compelled to construct an identity with an attached modifier. The modifier creates a hybrid or hyphenated identity which differentiates them from the more 'authentic' Australians. These findings have implications for social inclusion in any nation where one group's appearance is more readily associated with belonging to the nation and others are potentially marginalised due to the imposition of a hyphenated national identity.

Thomas, P., Sanderson, P.

University of Huddersfield

Unwilling Citizens? Muslim Youth and national identity.

This paper critically examines the conceptual basis of recent policy initiatives, such as Community Cohesion and 'Preventing Violent Extremism', which are designed to address what are perceived as problematic 'religious' identities amongst young British 'Muslims'. Specifically, it argues that the processes of identification amongst such young people are more complex, multi-layered and ambiguous than is allowed for by some interpretations of these policies. Such policies and associated media 'moral panics' (Cohen, 1972) have offered little evidence on how such 'Muslim' young people actually view their 'identity', or on whether such identities are actually problematic. This paper draws on recent qualitative field research, including Identity Ranking exercises, word associations and interviews, amongst young people in Oldham and Rochdale, Greater Manchester to explore how young Pakistani and Bangladeshi-origin young people actually understand their 'Identity' and how this relates to concepts of local, ethnic, religious and 'British' identity. This provides empirical evidence to support the paper's discussion of the reality of religious identity amongst 'Muslim' young people, and the extent to which policy agendas are right to see such an identity as problematic. In doing so, the paper explores reasons for the significant growth in 'Islamic' identity amongst British Pakistani and Bangladeshi-origin communities over the past twenty years (Lewis, 2008; Malik, 2009), the role of 'multiculturalist' policies in shaping changing identities (Phillips, 2005) and the accompanying profound economic changes affecting many of these 'Muslim' communities.

Mooney, G., Law, A. and Morelli, C.

The Open University, Edinburgh

Scotland Divided: Exploring the Dynamics of Class in the Context of Neoliberalism and Devolution

Class and class analysis, we would argue, have been largely neglected in the dominant stories and understandings of Scotland and Scottish society which have emerged since devolution in 1999. In this paper we explore a number of the different though overlapping reasons for this. Contrary to much of the dominant commentary of contemporary Scotland, we argue that understanding class relations and the changing dynamics of class in the Scottish context is crucial to our understanding of social and economic change in Scotland in general. A 'new' Scotland is in the making and crucial to this nation-building exercise are attempts to refashion and reshape the Scottish working class in an effort to transcend the contradictions thrown-up by class society. In this regard Scotland's working class population are constructed and represented as a residualised relic of a past which should be forgotten in the desire to recreate Scotland as a globally competitive economy. In other respects, deeply entrenched social and economic polarisation betrays those oft-repeated suggestions that Scotland is in some ways a more egalitarian, collectivised and social democratic society. Neoliberalism is refashioning work and employment, and wider social relations, reminding us that Scotland does not stand outside transnational and global social relations. In this context the lessons from our analysis of class relations in Scotland has resonance for the sociological understanding of class more widely.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

de Hoyos, M

University of Warwick

Place and progression: Understanding local factors in decision making of young people

The aim of this paper is to discuss the background to a proposed project which will investigate how factors such as place, social networks and mobility affect the decisions people aged 14-19 make in relation to education and work, and the aspirations and expectations they have for their careers. By looking at these factors across disadvantaged and affluent communities the project will uncover variation in the effect of local area factors on such important aspects of young people's lives. Previous work that focused on young people in deprived areas in the UK suggests that the decisions that they make in relation to work, training and further and higher education are often based on both 'objective' and 'subjective' perceptions of the existing opportunities and limitations. These perceptions, however, are likely to be different for young people in different areas. Furthermore, they are shaped over the years and it may be said that the years around the completion of compulsory education are crucial. The discussion will focus on previous studies on young people's transition from compulsory education to further education or work. Relevant policies will also be considered and statistical data will be provided. The aim is to make the case for further research into the factors (social, geographical, etc.) that affect young people's decision-making in relation to education and employment.

Donkersloot, R.

University of British Columbia

A Critical Investigation of Patriarchy and 'Other' Powers at Play in Young Rural Lives

The exodus of young people from the rural landscape is a selective and highly gendered process which suggests considerable differentiation in the way young men and women identify with and experience life in their home communities. Recent research identifies clear gender differences in young people's social and spatial mobility, educational attainment and preference to leave home. These trends have been increasingly linked to the gendered nature of rural space and place; the 'push' of patriarchy. Based on eleven months of research in a rural Irish fishing locale, this paper addresses the gendered dimensions of rural youth experience and the different ways in which young men and women are visible and valued in the rural landscape. Special attention is given to the ways in which relations of power in 'the rural' shape young people's experiences of place in general, and social practices, networks and relations in particular. However, in complementary addition to the ways in which rural space and place is male-dominated, I also bring into purview 'other' pathways of power which research on rural gender relations often passes over on its way to reckoning with the kingpin of patriarchy. It has been argued that masculine and feminine subjects 'do' friendship differently. Here I point to the 'effectivity of girls as conduits of power' and argue that subjectivities of intra-gender relations are a critical dimension of rural youth experience and cannot be overlooked in research on rural youth experience and emigration.

Wilson, S., Bernays, S., Houmoller, K., Rhodes, T.

University of Stirling

Feeling at home in a troubled environment

Much recent work on the spatiality of childhood has focused on discursive constructions of children and young people in relation to 'private' and 'public' space (James, Jenks and Prout 1998), and on different degrees of autonomy and subversion of these discourses in their actual use of different spaces (Holloway and Valentine 2000; Skelton 2000; Punch 2001). This paper draws on this work in analysing data from a study of the family life of young people aged 10-18 affected by parental substance misuse, conducted in the South East and Midlands of England between 2007-2009. It argues that these approaches to children and young people's relationships with space may be enriched by taking greater account of the lived, embodied sensory experience of different spaces (DeNora 2000; Bull et al. 2006; Adams et al. 2007; Mason and Davies 2009). Notably, the respondents often constructed their accounts of home life through sensory experience, and sound, in particular. Family difficulties and a sense of emotional and physical exclusion from certain spaces in the home, or the home itself, were recounted through the sounds of argument and conflict. Numerous recollections of using sound to block out these sounds or to change emotional mood, using music or TV, also pointed to the intrinsic links between sensory experience and the construction of inner and physical spaces. Overall, the importance to these young people's sense of self and home, of having some control over their aesthetic or sensory environment, however reduced, was emphasised in these accounts.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 09:00 - 10:30

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

BOURDIEU

Duschinsky, R.

Selwyn College

Theorising the Politics of Purity: Douglas, Bourdieu and Moral Legitimation

Many forms of culture which reference themes language of innocence or purity have been analysed by empirical researchers. A social theory addressing this topic would be relevant to researchers analysing these discourses, which include gender narratives of domesticity, racial narratives of whiteness, scientific narratives of neutrality, individual narratives of perfection, legal narratives of innocence, sexual narratives of wholeness. This paper aims to move towards such a social theory, using as stepping stones the ideas of Mary Douglas and Pierre Bourdieu. Douglas offers an account of the symbolic and social boundaries associated with classifications of purity or impurity; Bourdieu describes discourses of purity as cultural legitimization for the power of the elite of different social fields. A synthesised theory elaborated from these thinkers will be used to consider the topic of my present research: the mandate provided for the escalation of violence offered by murdered children in the early years of the Second Intifada. In particular, this framework will provide an understanding of the use of the slaughtered child victim as symbol of the innocent nation in Israeli, Palestinian and world-media discourses. In the course of this case study I hope to illustrate the rhetorical and structural links between different discourses of innocence and purity, and show how a social theoretical approach can offer insights into their social use.

Barbour, R.S., Gibson, A., Russell, S.

University of Dundee

Interrogating and developing the theoretical potential of social, cultural and symbolic capital: 'Capital'ising on the TV series 'Shameless'

Taking as its starting point Bourdieu's notion of different 'capitals', this presentation will draw on the television series 'Shameless' in order to illustrate and investigate the development of what might be termed counter hegemonic forms of social, cultural and symbolic capital among stigmatised social groups. Importantly this will be considered against a backdrop of social class relationships and structures and will explore the potential for dissent, subversion and re-definition that this process opens up. In addition to the insights provided by an analysis of the content of a number of storylines, situations, and characters portrayed in this series, we will also utilise data generated through an interview study of residents of a 'Chatsworth-type' estate and a mixed methods project looking at the role of social and cultural capital in the process of reintegration following stroke. Secondary analysis has also been carried out on supplementary material about the writing and making of the TV series (including media interviews with key players). Web-based discussion groups and posted reviews have also been critically mined and utilised as further sources of data. Our findings illuminate the mechanisms whereby alternative forms of capital are developed, invoked, deployed and exchanged and highlight the tensions and contradictions involved in this process, thereby contributing towards theory development in this important area.

Murphy, M

University of Chester

Social class and the relational: Recognition, distinction and intersubjective agency

The 'relational' as a theoretical category has a strong history in sociology, no more so than in the work of Pierre Bourdieu. His well-known assertion that the 'real is relational' is evident in his emphasis on distinction as a crucial mechanism of social reproduction, a mechanism that illuminates the relational aspects of class and the ways in which social classes are active in their own classification. Given that class is arguably a relational concept par excellence, what Bourdieu has done to a large extent is deliver on the promise of class as a concept; he has put the 'classifying' into class.

What has not yet been done successfully, however, is the same for Bourdieu – to deliver on the promise of his avowed relational constructs, and explore in more detailed ways the importance of relations and relationships to people's class trajectories. The current paper argues that, for such a task to be fulfilled, it requires a shift of emphasis away from vertical forms of relation, to more 'horizontal' forms. In effect, it requires the fleshing out of Bourdieu's latent intersubjective analysis of social and cultural life. One way of expanding this relational sociology can be found in the work of Axel Honneth and his emphasis on intersubjective recognition as the basis of social interaction. The purpose of the current paper is to explore this interplay between notions of recognition and distinction, and identify implications for, in particular, debates over agency and ambivalent class identities.

Special Issue 2011 **CALL FOR PAPERS**

Sociology and the 2012 Olympic Games



The 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games provide an exciting focus for sociological analyses of the personal and public, local and global. The special issue, to be published in 2011, provides an opportunity to contribute timely reflections on the sociological interest and significance of this global event in UK and comparative context. This special issue aims to bring together strong theoretical, empirical and methodological contributions from across the field of sociology, demonstrating the ways in which the discipline can use the backdrop of the games to examine sporting, political, cultural, economic and global events.

Possible themes and topics include the following:

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All manuscripts will be subject to the normal referee process, but potential authors are welcome to discuss their ideas in advance with the editors.



Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

DRUGS AND INEQUALITY

Sutherland, A.

Nuffield College Oxford

Adolescent substance use: class, morality and self-control

There are literally thousands of factors which distinguish offender from non-offender (Farrington, 2000), drug user from non-user. The key problem for criminologists is trying to work out which of these is important and why. The principal technique for organising what Petraitis et al. (1995) call the 'pieces of the puzzle' is by theorising. With so many possible relationships, criminology is ripe with theories about what causes crime and deviance. Many of these theories focus on single types of crime (e.g. violence) or approaches to crime prevention. By far the most popular and far-reaching approach to 'explanation' in the last twenty years has been the adoption of the a-theoretical risk and protective factors paradigm – wherein theory plays second fiddle to statistical relationships. However, there are a collection of criminological theories which purport to be general theories of crime and deviance. This paper details two of these perspectives and applies them to drug and alcohol use by young people. The first is Gottfredson and Hirschi's (1990, 1993, 2003, 2006) Self-Control Theory; the second is Wikström's (2004, 2006, 2009) Situational Action Theory. This paper sets out the basic principles of each theory, and attempts to assess both in relation to the explanation of substance use, contextualising the findings in relation to background measures of socio-economic status.

O'Gorman, A.

University College Dublin

Drugs, inequality and risk environments: the individualisation and criminalisation of social injustice

Drugs research traditionally explores the trajectory from recreational drug use to problem drug use through the context of risk factors mediated at an individual level. However, the clustering of drug problems in urban working-class communities indicates that it is the spatialisation of risk factors in polarised urban spaces and its links to structural inequality that is the key to understanding this phenomenon. Drawing on secondary socio-economic and demographic data, as well as findings from a multi-site ethnographic study conducted in working-class communities in Dublin, this paper develops the concept of a risk environment as a heuristic device to explore the multiple and interconnected risks that frame the lived experience of young people and examines the degree of correspondence between patterns of structural inequality and neighbourhood drug problems. An inductive analysis of the data highlights the interactive dynamics at play in which social and structural processes are seen to both facilitate, and be facilitated by, local drug problems. These findings provide a grounded basis for a critical assessment of drugs policy (in the UK, Ireland and many European countries) which increasingly focuses on reforming the criminalised individual rather than addressing the social context of inequality and injustice.

Parkin, S.

University of Plymouth

Habitus and the Logic of Practice in the Field of Public Injecting Drug Use

This paper presents findings from recently completed doctoral research that provides an empirical assessment of Pierre Bourdieu's key sociological concepts concerning habitus, practice and field in the context of public injecting drug use.

This qualitative study focused upon the public injecting experience of 31 individuals and considered their motivations, injecting technique (including associated hygiene) and risk/safety management strategies associated with drug use in public settings. The agency of these public injectors was subsequently analysed within a Bourdieusian theoretical framework. This analysis identified several 'structuring structures' that shape and determine public injecting practice. These aspects of habitus include 'time', 'environment', 'space' and 'materials'; each of which contribute to injecting-related risk behaviours within the field of practice.

Furthermore, in Bourdieusian terminology, the logic of practice within the field of public injecting is characterised by a commitment to a doxic attitude of resistance (situated and symbolic). Moreover, these resistance strategies establish an *illusio* of harm and hazard that is both embodied and embedded within the logic of practice.

Consequently, this paper presents findings that theorise important health and social issues (injecting drug use within a health-place nexus) with specific policy and harm reduction implications at both local and national levels.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Radu, I.

"Babes Bolyai" University, Romania

Music, the social construction of fans and patterns of fandom practices around two alternative rock bands in Cluj

My research purpose is an analysis of the main influences of music on people's social lives, particularly how the music fandom is enacted in everyday lives of two groups following their favourite well-known bands of alternative rock. I focus on how young people use music and implicitly musical practices to express identities and emotions. What exactly is the connection between self, fandom and space? In the literature concerning the sociology of music, there are similar perspectives on music as a social force. Music is theorized as a creative resource in the context of urban spaces, having an active role in the construction of social life. In the context of a post-modernist era, what is the place of music, what role does it fulfil? Does it act like a catalyst between people or like a barrier between them, or both? I am interested in seeing how music constructs individuals and groups and on the other part, how it puts on jeopardy the formation of others and even leads to the deconstruction of some already existent. Moreover, taking into account the multitude of musical preferences, is the music in itself that determines people to choose certain musical styles for listening or its social representation and meaning? I analyzed the formation of the alternative rock music groups of fans and how music becomes to be represented socially different according to its listeners, and also how music can become a form of social inclusion and exclusion and of social resistance enacted in urban spaces.

Connolly, M.

University of Wales institute Cardiff

'The Liverpool Model': a template for urban regeneration?

Within contemporary political and marketing discourses, the 'Liverpool model' has almost superseded the 'Glasgow model' as an exemplar for successful culture led urban regeneration. The 'model', which grew out of Liverpool's strategy for European Capital of Culture 2008, is claimed to pursue both social and economic regeneration objectives. Through a detailed analysis of the genesis of this 'model' within the city's 2008 Capital of Culture bid and interviews with key players in the formation of the Liverpool strategy, this paper will locate the strategy offered by Liverpool within a wider New Labour policy template which moves away from the structural towards the 'cultural' as the locus of policy. The paper will argue that within this template 'culture' has come to colonise all areas of economic and social life and, consequently, cultural policy is represented as a surrogate social and economic policy. The paper will end by arguing that while 'the Liverpool model' may be a marketing triumph in the rebranding of the city from Liverpool to 'Livercool', there is also the real danger that they could yet prove to be a social justice disaster.

Bengry-Howell, A., Morey, Y.

University of Bath

"It keeps us going all year": Music Festivals and the allure of freedom and integration in a neoliberal context

This paper will draw on theories of neoliberalism and escape to examine how young people construct the experience of attending a large-scale Music Festival and position themselves in relation to others within a music festival context. It will explore the meanings that young people attach to such events and their construction as sites of personal and social significance through festival-related talk, which occurs at the events themselves, but is also upon web-based festival forums and everyday interactions, in which young people anticipate, reflect upon and share festival experiences. The paper will argue that in a neoliberal context where young people are under increasing pressure to produce and regulate themselves as individualised rational subjects, festivals are constituted as sites of release, which provide opportunities for 'freedom' and sociality, and experiencing a sense of integration that is rarely encountered in many young people's everyday lives.

This paper is based upon the preliminary findings of an ESRC funded study, which is investigating how young people negotiate and position themselves in relation to commercially branded leisure spaces, and contemporary forms of 'experiential', 'emotional' and viral marketing. Employing field-based semi-structured interviews and ethnographic fieldwork, in conjunction with follow-up interviews and focus groups and netnographic analysis of on-line forums and websites, this study is examining two forms of youth leisure event: music festivals and independently organised 'free parties', both are branded, commercialised and regulated to differing degrees, but similarly marketed to young people as occasions in which they can be 'free' and authentically 'themselves'.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Farr, M., Cressey, P.

University of Bath

Public service employee and user collaboration: creating change from the ground up

Current policies promote the participation of both staff and service users as key to improving public services, however few participation theories model how both user and worker participation interrelate within the same organisation. User and employee participation are understood to be mutually beneficial, yet academically the study of participation has focussed on a particular actor. Worker and service user participation have been studied within distinctive disciplines with little overlap, despite these different participative mechanisms operating alongside each other within public sector organisations. The contrast between employee and user participation is being effaced in practice and a concept that straddles the two needs delineating.

This paper develops a theoretical framework which explores how worker and user participation interrelate, providing a model that illustrates how public service delivery staff and service users can collaborate in partnership. Incorporating the concepts of co-production, co-design and co-creation, this model of co-participation is defined and developed, illustrating how front line workers and service users can participate together to create change within the different phases of the service delivery cycle. Having explored these ideas through developing theory, this paper then analyses these processes in practice. Using a critical realist approach to explore processes of social change primary and secondary cases across a range of public services are examined. Examples of co-participation are researched through in-depth case study analysis within health and local government, uncovering issues, tensions and opportunities for change, exploring how such mechanisms can operate within current public service management regimes.

Gatenby, M., Rees, C.

University of Surrey

Contradictions and tensions in the experience of public sector work: an ethnographic study in UK local government

The coordination of the UK public sector has changed considerably over the last decade. Important trends include an increase in centralised targets, the external auditing of services, and an increasing emphasis on customer choice. At the same time, public service managers have tried to exert their influence through new work practices, change programmes and improvement initiatives.

Recent changes have had a pervasive effect on the way employees understand and experience their work. The job of public service managers is both to support ongoing changes whilst also translating competing messages into a more coherent language. As Webb (1996: 268) states, this can be seen as an attempt to 'resolve the historical tension between the functions of management as co-ordinators of production and management's role in motivating and disciplining labour'. A common management strategy intended to cohere the work experience and motivate staff has been to invoke the ideology of 'quality', 'empowerment', 'involvement' and, most recently, 'engagement'. However, rather than serving to disentangle competing demands, such attempts may be seen as yet another demand placed on employees.

In this paper we make explicit these contradictions and tensions through an extensive ethnographic study (three months of participant observation plus forty in-depth interviews) conducted within a Welsh local government authority. We adopt a 'context-dependent approach' (Edwards et al. 1998: 452) and present rich qualitative data to explore how employees are interpreting and responding to their changing work experience.

O'Reilly, D., Tomlinson, M., Wallace, M.

Keele University

Exploring Leadership Credentials: public service transformation and changing forms of capital in leaders' work

This paper aims to investigate the way in which public service leaders use leader-related capitals from various forms of leadership development to enhance their leadership positions, both for their formal leadership role and career progression. It further aims to examine the impacts which leadership development provision has had upon their development as leaders. This investigation is set in the context of two main inter-related developments: large-scale transformation of the public services and its substantial bearing upon the work and career progression of senior managers; and significant policy-level emphasis on the role of public service leaders as transformational 'change agents'. Organisational and policy-driven changes call for changing organisational responses on the part of public service leaders – since the accession of the new Labour government they have been presented as agents for transformation whose actions can mobilise widespread change. Drawing upon a qualitative study with 95 public service leader across different sectors, we illustrate that these major public service transformations entail significant changes in the nature of cultural capital and symbolic violence that leaders draw upon for their development as leaders, for enhancing both their leader capacity and career progressions. We will argue that the forms of symbolic capital leaders draw upon differ from, but are an evolution of, those in earlier stages of public service settlement, in particular that of New Public Management. Leaders increasingly draw upon new types of 'added-value' credentials in order to mobilise their own development as leaders.

Marrable, T.

University of Sussex

Expressions of vulnerability and need? Exploring the construction of the 'difficult' child.

Although it is hard to dispute the importance of 'the child' in contemporary British society, some children are held in much warmer regard than others. While children are generally seen as a vulnerable group due to their youth, the child or young person who is perceived as deviating from expectations of the 'normal' child can also present as a problem for parent, practitioner, or society. It has been estimated that 20 to 30 % of young people will have an 'additional need' for help or support at some point in their childhood (Every Child Matters 2006); within this group some will represent more of a difficulty for those around them, and can be viewed as difficult in themselves.

This paper will explore some of the issues arising out of my doctoral research on the construction of children's 'additional need' within the multi-agency 'Children's Services' of Education, Health, and Social Care. Drawing on Ian Hacking's work on 'making-up people' (eg Hacking 2002, 2007) and an Interactionist approach to emotion, it will use examples from parents, young people, and professionals to look at perspectives on the 'difficult' child, and to investigate the concerns which affect their perception and treatment. In doing so it will question whose vulnerability and need is being addressed when children and young people provide a challenge.

Woollven, M.

ENS LSH (GRS), France

Identifying dyslexia and making provision for it : a comparison between France and the United-kingdom

This paper, based on a current PhD research, is a comparative study of the process through which children are identified as having dyslexia (i.e. the assessment procedure and the actors involved in it), and the provision they can get as a result of it (that is, specialist tuition, special arrangements as well as specific allowances), in France and the United-Kingdom. Indeed, in both countries, dyslexia is not only a discursive medical or education category used to describe a particular reading learning difficulty. It is also an object of public policy, an area of public intervention, which implies that actors in different areas of social life (mainly the education sector) have an obligation to take people with dyslexia into consideration, in order to implement the existing legislation. Drawing on the works of Pierre Bourdieu and Ian Hacking, our main hypothesis is that human classifications have an effect on the people they describe, since the objects classified are also classifying subjects. Empirical data will be presented and analysed in order to show how the institutions involved in the process (mainly education and medicine) contribute to shape specific trajectories of dyslexic people, through both administrative requirements and daily interactions. The point will be to understand the issues raised by such dispositives in terms of identity and social inequalities. The aim of the comparative approach will be to identify specific configurations, with a view to better understanding the workings and effects of human classifications.

Snellgrove, M. L.

University of Edinburgh

The Everyday Life of a Label

Labels are an everyday part of life. They assist in determining professions, genders, as markers of identity and in the construction of boundaries, physical and epistemic. Labels are mundane and pervasive, endemic to the maintenance of social order and control. Labels can shape and organise the parameters of our experiences.

This paper explores the different types of labels used by people in three Scottish Camphills (residential schools and homes for children and adults with 'additional support needs'). Based on my recent PhD fieldwork, I examine how biologically and behaviourist labels such as 'asperger syndrome,' 'dementia' 'high needs' etc defines the particular social roles people inhabit. The consequences of the label gives rise to certain prescribed modes of behaviour and body management, for the labelled and labeller. The interaction between the biologically determined and the performative presentation of behaviour management is the concern of this paper. Using fieldwork examples, I explore how medically driven labels have social repercussions that in turn shapes the lens through which everyday life is undertaken. Equally how the power and usefulness of the label is reinforced in certain instances and undermined in others.

In conclusion I suggest that labels have a primarily social application and effect, despite the presence and referents to biology and behaviourism.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Jackson, S., Ho, P.S.Y.

University of York

Challenging Western Conceptualizations of Intimacy and Modernity: East Asian perspectives on changing patterns of intimate life.

Over the last two decades there has been considerable debate around the gendered consequences of supposed 'transformations of intimacy' and individualization associated with late modernity. Feminists, in particular, have questioned the degree to which these processes are actually occurring and whether recent changes in intimate sexual and familial relationships can be understood in these terms. Although some commentators have noted the ethnocentrism and universalism of the individualization thesis, there has been little attempt to engage with sociological analyses originating beyond the west. In debates around 'multiple modernities' and 'global modernity', on the other hand, the contribution of Asian sociologists is sometimes acknowledged, but the gendered implications of modernization processes are rarely discussed. Focusing on scholarship on intimate familial and sexual relationships, this paper will consider how sociologists from wealthy, modern East Asian societies (such as Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan) both engage with and challenge the preoccupations of their western counterparts, how they have both appropriated and problematized concepts of modernization and individualization, and how the gendered consequences of modernity are being reconceptualized from Asian perspectives. We will argue that western sociologists should take seriously the research and theory generated in East Asia, both to foster more symmetrical intellectual exchanges and to develop a more rounded picture of shifting patterns of intimate life in the context of global and local social change.

Twamley, K., Pryce, A., Kielmann, K.

City University

'Nowadays the world has changed so fast you don't have any clear definition of a love.' Ambiguity around love and intimacy amongst young middle-class Gujaratis in India and the UK.

Research in the UK and increasingly in India has argued that relationships are moving towards a more individualized, companionate and 'western' model. Modern intimacy is signified by personal choice and sexual intimacy, and relationships are entered into for love rather than for kinship obligations. But arranged marriage and caste endogamy is still the norm in India. In this paper I will discuss how young Indians' aspirations of 'modern intimacy' intersect with notions of 'appropriate' Indian ideal marriage, focusing particularly on sexual intimacy. Between 2007-9 I conducted participant observation, group discussions and repeat in-depth interviews with young middle class Gujaratis (aged 20-30) living in the UK and India. All interviews and notes were recorded and transcribed and were analysed using a modified grounded theory approach. In the UK a strong expectation of sexual intimacy between couples both before and after marriage is viewed as a sign of a loving modern couple and virginity before marriage as 'backward'. In India, there is more ambiguity. Informants aspired to a self-chosen 'love marriage' but emphasised the 'pure' non-physical nature of this love, contrasting it with 'western' passionate and short lived marriages. In both cases a satisfying sex life is integral to a happy marriage but it appears that love and sex have been fused amongst Indians living in the UK, whereas in India, young people view too much desire with suspicion and favour an emotional intimacy as a means to bond with their partner.

Richardson, D., Laurie, N., Poudel, M., Townsend, J.

Newcastle University

'Spoiled Goods': Women's Exclusion Post Sexual Trafficking in Nepal

In this paper we focus on an area that has received scant attention in the literature: the situation of sexually trafficked women when they return home, specifically the livelihood opportunities available to them as they intersect with models of citizenship. Bringing together distinct literatures on sexual citizenship and sustainable livelihoods we develop our analysis of these themes through a focus on the livelihood opportunities and strategies of returnee trafficked women in Nepal. In particular, we explore the relationship between marriage and sustainable livelihood opportunities illustrating the complex relationship between what is regarded as acceptable and appropriate sexuality, constituted through marriage and motherhood, and unacceptable and inappropriate sexuality, which in this context is the returnee trafficked woman who, defined against the desired norm is typically judged, as a 'prostitute' and often also an 'AIDS carrier', to be a 'bad woman' who is 'spoiled.' The paper, finishes by outlining some preliminary findings from a new ESRC funded interdisciplinary research project and their implications for understanding the emerging political spaces through which notions of sexuality and citizenship are being re-worked.

Bauernschmidt, S., Philipps, A.

Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Visualizing Inequality

'Bubbles', 'circles', 'diamonds' as well as 'houses', 'onions' and 'pyramids' have at least one thing in common: they are graphic images of social inequality and, moreover, they are hyper-icons (cf. Mitchell 1994). Hyper-icons visualizing theories, and in those cases they are visualizing theories of social inequality – as the sociologist views it: for medieval societies 'pyramids', for modern societies 'onions' (cf. K.M. Bolte 1966), 'houses' (cf. R. Dahrendorf), 'diamonds' (cf. H. Moore/G. Kleining 1959) or 'circles' (cf. Th. Geiger 1949) and 'bubbles' for post modern societies (cf. G. Schulze 1992). But such images do not 'plough a lonely furrow'. Again and again both lay persons and the media have projected and visualized their own conceptions of inequality. George Grosz for example, an artist, illustrated in his 1926 oil-on-canvas painting "Pillars of Society" the functional elites of the Weimar Republic in a distorted manner; or August Sander, a photographer, compiled 60 portraits of twentieth-century Germans in his 1929 published book "Face of our Time" and classed these shots with different layers of German society of those days. Nowadays pictures of 'houses of prefabricated construction', of the Federal Employment Agency and so on are competing to some extent with pictures of the poor and unemployed persons worldwide. To take all these images into account – emerging from diverse subsystems of society and elsewhere – it is worth the effort to ask for the impact of such a global visual culture on images of social inequality prevailing in societies which are still entangled within national boundaries.

Goodheart, C.E.C.

University of Colorado-Boulder

Tent City in the News

This paper is an analysis of Seattle Times articles (1990-2007) relating to homeless encampments in the greater Seattle, Washington area. Previous academic work on media coverage of homeless populations and issues reflects a division between scholars who believe that the media provide favorable coverage of homelessness and supply the public with accurate information and those who see this same type of coverage as devoid of value or even damaging to the homeless and those trying to help them. Entering this debate, this study examines the news values employed and the framing of stories regarding homeless encampments in Seattle known as Tent City. It pays particular attention to issues of deviance and conflict.

Among the more interesting findings, this paper discovered that before 2004 the focus of the articles was on the protests of homeless persons and their advocates, but that in 2004 when Tent City began moving into the suburbs of Seattle, the focus of coverage shifted to the protests of and legal actions taken by housed residents of King County. Likewise, the framing of deviance shifted from the homeless being unemployed, loitering panhandlers to that of being possible sex offenders and drug abusers who posed a threat to the security of the neighborhoods and particularly to the safety of children. Most disturbing was the manner in which the homeless and their advocates frequently were used to introduce these deviant frames.

Strangleman, T.

University of Kent

Humphrey Jennings and the lost 'imaginative' sociology of work

Humphrey Jennings was an artist, filmmaker, historian, surrealist and one of the original founders of the proto-sociological Mass Observation movement. During his relatively brief life he created a large number of documentary films including those for wartime propaganda purposes and has been described as the only 'true poet of British cinema'. He is slightly less well known for Pandaemonium his posthumously published edited collection of accounts of the Industrial Revolution. One notable feature of Jennings' art is that the majority of it in some way or another involves a reflection on work whether it be most obviously in his many documentaries directly dealing with corporations and in Pandaemonium, or, more obliquely, in his propaganda films where work and labour is a continuing theme. In Pandaemonium Jennings talked about wanting to provide an 'imaginative history' of the Industrial Revolution and this idea is one I want to engage with here. This paper seeks to understand Jennings as a particular type of cultural sociologist, or at least to argue that his work can be understood as offering an imaginative sociology of work. Further the paper seeks to understand what Jennings' approach offers to contemporary sociologists especially those researching the workplace and why it is that his approach had so little influence on British Sociology.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

MEDICINE, HEALTH AND ILLNESS

GEORGE MOORE M408

GENDER AND HEALTH 2: MASCULINITY

Deady, G.

NUI Maynooth

'Masculinity as a citizenship continuum'; Patient anxiety and treatment avoidance as a gender, sexuality and identity (protectionist) marker. The example of prostate cancer

This project examines the relationship that may exist between normative notions of gendered 'knowing', 'action' and 'behaviour', and how these may be reflected in health behaviours and awareness. The project explores 'masculinity' as a form of 'citizenship' in society; which is stable and cohesive. The project will discuss and expand the construction of 'citizenship', and to what extent this is based on 'sexuality'. There will be a scrutinisation of 'sexual citizenship', how this relates to notions of 'masculinity' and thus negative health behaviours. Taking the example prostate cancer in the Republic of Ireland; a disease which is both life threatening, and which centre to a great extent around concerns about sexual ability and competence, the project will explore if men are faced with a dilemma. The dilemma that will be explored is whether men are faced with the choice of 'undermining' their own sense of social identity, if they undertake and act upon particular health and disease treatments and advice.

In this context, we will explore the nature and (social) construction of masculinity, and ask, is 'masculinity' a result of this behaviour, if men are faced with a dilemma, or is 'masculinity' a cause of such behaviour?

There are major ethical and methodological considerations to be considered for this project, and extensive theoretical and practical implications. The Republic of Ireland is the first country in the world to publish a national policy on men's health in 2009, this project will also feed into the policy debates around these issues.

Young, I.

Newcastle University

Reimagining Risk: Exploring understandings of risk in sexual health amongst gay & bisexual men in the North East of England

Since 1997, there has been a significant increase in syphilis amongst gay, bisexual and/or men who have sex with men (MSM) in the UK. The re-emergence of syphilis and the continued high rates of HIV amongst MSM point to a complicated sexual health environment. This research seeks to explore and situate understandings of risk within the broader experiences of the lives MSM in the North East of England. This presentation will highlight some of the early findings from interviews with men, aged 18 – 63, conducted over the past year. Many of the men interviewed were well informed and aware of sexual health information. Yet responses to such messages are varied and subject to considerable change over time. Issues such as age, identity, space, relationships and experience play a crucial role in developing risk management strategies. Most of the research participants see themselves as responsible and informed, and always in negotiation with different forms of knowledge and experience. However, understandings of risk extend beyond sexual health messages currently in circulation. Unlike the bio-medical approaches that consider sex without a condom to be the ultimate risk, the findings from this study place risk in sex within broader contexts. This presentation will focus on key issues emerging from the interviews, such as risk of homophobic violence, harassment and arrest; low self-esteem; grief and loss; and constrained and contested identities. It aims to show the complex ways in which men respond to, understand and negotiate risk in sexual health.

Hinote, B.P., Webber, G.

Middle Tennessee State University (USA)

Recontextualizing the 'glass phallus': Masculinity, alcohol, and mortality in the former USSR

The health situations in Russia and the former Soviet Union are well-documented, and the health crisis in this part of the world is a distinctly gendered phenomenon. Many studies examine sex, gender, and health in these contexts but researchers have often neglected themes relating specifically to masculinity in Soviet and post-Soviet societies. The purpose of this paper is to better contextualize alcohol use within the broader matrix of gender construction in the former Soviet Union. In doing so, we employ Connell's (1987, 1995, 2005) framework of masculinities to analyze the gender dimensions of this particularly harmful lifestyle practice, thus identifying a prominent hegemonic masculinity form within the working classes that has historically contributed to men's declining life expectancy and health status. We first trace the origins and early development of this hegemonic form from pre-revolutionary Russian history and then elaborate the precise connections between this manifestation of masculinity and the harmful patterns of alcohol use that have contributed to negative health and mortality trends. Our analysis contributes to a deeper understanding of the sharply gendered health disparities that exist in Russia and other post-Soviet societies and further demonstrates the utility of masculinities in analyzing health and social conditions. We conclude with a discussion of gender as an important social dimension of health in this part of the world, situating the idea of masculinity within the broader framework of contemporary lifestyle theory in medical sociology.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

RESEARCHING TOTALITIES

Brosnan, L.

University of Limerick

'Pathways', a Mental Health Service User-led Research Project: Reflections on Emancipatory Research Methodology in Practice in Ireland

For research to be truly emancipatory, it must ensure 'gain, reciprocity and empowerment', Oliver (1997, p 17). Meaningful involvement and ownership of the process adds real value for those who are more usually the objects of research. 'Pathways', a Mental Health Service User-Led Research Project, set a national precedent: utilising participatory research methodology, it evolved into a project that can be strongly argued to belong within the emancipatory research paradigm.

The influential research reported on the experiences of 54 people and their responses to the comprehensive questionnaire developed by the service user team, based on themes collectively identified through sharing personal experiences of services. Mixed methods of data collection provided descriptive quantitative information, with illustrative comments offered by interviewees providing some richer context. The report produced by the user-led team documented the unsatisfactory experiences of care and treatment of people using the mental health services in Galway. As a result of the facilitative approach used, service users took ownership of the research, developing skills that led to further employment for some of the team. The process also provided a template replicated in a second project which provided additional research evidence and recommendations critical to subsequent service improvements for the mental health services. One of the original members, currently undertaking a PhD in Sociology at University of Limerick, will present observations and reflections about user involvement and emancipatory research as experienced in this project, and identify challenges to developing this methodology further in the emerging field of survivor research in Ireland.

Green, T., Clayden, A., Hockey, J.

University of Sheffield

Visualising absence; materialising presence

This paper asks how visual methods can contribute to understanding of the cultural social and emotional landscape of Natural Burial. Using data from a three-year ESRC funded project, now in its third year, it argues that such methods can inspire ongoing innovation. For example, the use of photography may raise new ethical questions as to what can be represented through this medium; it may also suggest the scope of other visual methods, such as drawing, as ways of 'seeing'. Our work on natural burial began with fortnightly visits to a local site over a period of one year to photograph the whole site as well as a sample of the same six graves. Intended to visually record seasonal variation and capture changes in the memorialisation practices of bereaved people, these visits have also granted opportunities for meeting and speaking with bereaved people, as well as grave diggers and site managers. At a more analytic level, growing familiarity with the site has alerted us to more subtle and ephemeral changes which can be seen as the ghost-lines of bereaved visitors. These reveal not only their practices but also the otherwise obscure presence of the dead in a landscape devoid of marble memorials. The practice of photography thus constitutes a form of 'dwelling' (Ingold, 2000) within the burial ground. Had we not 'dwelt' in the site ourselves these nuanced findings, like the deceased for whom they were placed, planted or cultivated, would have been absorbed unnoticed into this ever-shifting landscape.

Crow, G.

University of Southampton

"Missing data" in qualitative research

Missing data is a classic problem in survey and other quantitative research, but there has been less discussion focusing on missing data in qualitative and online research. The ways in which missing data is conceptualized and handled in these areas will shape the quality of research, and requires more systematic investigation. The idea of "missing data" in qualitative and online research generates many examples, such as: material edited out of interviews by translators or transcribers; words or passages in transcripts of interviews where what was said is reported as 'inaudible'; words or passages in archive material that is illegible; data physically missing from archives; material made known to researchers but which research participants do not consent to being made public (e.g. 'off the record' remarks); material made known to researchers but which they judge to be unusable on ethical grounds or that require changes to achieve anonymisation; and, most generally of all, non-participants such as those members of a community who an ethnographer decides not to focus on or cannot gain access to. In online, e-Research, comparable issues arise, along with more general concerns over how e-Research mediates the experience of researchers in new ways, such as in the limits imposed on a researcher conducting an online interview as compared with an interview in the context of the participant's workplace or household. This paper seeks to draw on focus groups and interviews with researchers to develop a typology of kinds of missing data in qualitative and online research.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

THE SOCIOLOGY OF RIGHTS: ANALYSING RIGHTS, GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN RUSSIA AND INDIA - WHAT CAN POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY EACH CONTRIBUTE?

Waites, M., Turbine, V.

University of Glasgow

This session is organised by the Sociology of Rights Study Group of the BSA. It will provide a forum for discussion of how to develop the sociology of rights, and particularly on what the disciplines of politics and sociology can each contribute to the study of rights in specific social contexts. The session will take the form of two papers by Vikki Turbine (Lecturer in Politics, University of Glasgow) and Matthew Waites (Senior Lecturer in Sociology). Both papers will share a concern with examining rights in non-Western contexts, where one association of rights is 'Westernisation'; and both papers will also have a feminist analysis of 'gender and sexuality' as a central theme. Vikki Turbine will examine the limited access of women to rights in Russia in the context of structural inequalities; Matthew Waites will discuss the role of human rights discourses in the decriminalisation in 2009 of same-sex sexual acts in India. The papers will then be followed by a dialogue and discussion between paper-givers, beginning with statements by both on the contributions of both politics and sociology to the study of rights. The session will provide an opportunity to discuss ways forward for the Sociology of Rights as a thematic area in Sociology.

Waites, M.

University of Glasgow

The Sociology of Rights and the Decriminalisation of Same-Sex Sexual Acts in India: Whose Voices Against 377?

On 2nd July 2009, the struggle of campaigners in India to end the criminalisation of same-sex acts by Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code achieved success, via a ruling in the Delhi High Court. The ruling was in favour of the Naz Foundation which was supported by the campaign Voices Against 377. Human rights were centrally at issue. The Yogyakarta Principles on the Application of International Human Rights Law in Relation to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, signed by a group of experts in human rights law and on sexual orientation and gender identity and published in 2007, were invoked.

Section 377 was introduced by the British Raj in the context of imperialism; yet has been invoked in India by Hindu nationalists as supporting traditional Indian values. The context thus needs to be interpreted in relation to post-colonial perspectives. With reference to sources from Indian and global sexuality activist email lists, from Indian sexuality NGOs CREA and TARSHI at their Sexuality and Rights Institute in 2008, and from sociological/anthropological literature on gender/sexuality in India, discussion will focus on what a sociological perspective on rights struggles over Section 377 can reveal. Issues include the significance of the categories 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' in human rights discourses, in relation to Indian configurations of gender and sexuality which include 'Aravani' ('hijra') and 'kothi' identities. Another issue is the place of childhood, and the impact of decriminalisation of adult behaviour on the remaining legal framework and 'age of consent' laws.

Turbine, V.

University of Glasgow

Accessing legal advice: gender, class and social justice in contemporary Russia

There is a long-established research tradition, arguing that access to legal advice is a key means of achieving social justice by providing the necessary information and resources to claim rights. This body of research has shown that lower class status and gender act as structural and psychological barriers to access. These issues are increasingly pertinent to the post-Soviet Russian context where deepening social stratification and the emergence of a 'new poor' as a result of the processes of marketisation has been well-documented. Moreover, the gendered nature of marketisation and the particularly negative consequences for women in terms of loss of employment, social position and access to previously-held welfare entitlements, suggests the need to re-examine the relationship between class, gender and social justice in the post-Soviet context. While existing research has examined gender and class subjectivities in the post-Soviet period, as yet there has been less research that examines how these transformations impact on access to rights and social justice in Russia. This paper therefore, explores the ways in which these transformations have determined women's access to rights through the discussion of data generated from in-depth interviews conducted with women in the city of Ul'ianovsk, Russian Federation during 2005 and 2009. In particular, women's discussions of their experiences of accessing legal advice and making legal claims are outlined to show the ways in which their changing social positions and subjectivities throughout the post-Soviet period have informed multiple perceptions, strategies and outcomes in accessing legal advice and making legal claims.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

ROUNDTABLE ON WORK IN MEDICAL PROFESSIONS

Gosling, J

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Business or service? The changing management of general practice

Since the 1990s, the series of Government reforms to the delivery of healthcare, specifically primary care, which are rooted in neo-liberal government policies and manifested as the New Public Management, have created a new layer of powerful managers in the NHS. The existing group of Practice Managers who were mostly promoted receptionists have been joined, and in many respects eclipsed, by a new cadre of managers entering general practice from the private sector. The two groups can be formulated into the ideal-types of internal and external managers and the gulf between them goes to the heart of the reforms to public service delivery being undertaken by Government. Using managerialism and New Public Management theories to interrogate the nature of management and administration, illustrated with qualitative and quantitative data from Practice Managers, the paper explores the way that the shift in the nature of practice management both illustrates and facilitates the fundamental re-working of public sector organisations, from the traditional service oriented model to the business focussed model, revealing how the politicisation of management is operationalised.

Karepova, M.

The University of York

Jill of all trades?: analysing multiple job-holding in transitional economies - the case of psychotherapists in post-1990s Russia

This paper, based on my PhD project on the professionalization and feminization of psychotherapy in Russia, aims to investigate the reasons for multiple job-holding among professionals in Russia. Research shows that multiple job-holding is commonplace for people in most occupations in post-state socialist societies. It is argued that struggling to survive financially in transitional economies is the main reason for seeking secondary employment. However, drawing on data from 26 interviews with practicing female psychotherapists in two Russian cities, I argue that, rather than just a financial need, it is a complex of factors that pushes/pulls specialists into multiple employments. All psychotherapists in my sample combined at least three jobs in different sectors of the economy (state sector, private sector and informal sphere). This, however, was not done solely to fulfil professional requirements or increase one's income. So why? Drawing on my interviewees' experiences, I show that political, social and economic factors result in various shortcomings in each sector, and that jobs in each sector are done to gain specific benefits (e.g. money, social welfare, pension record, status, security) which other types of employment cannot provide. I then explore how the failure of each sector of transitional economies to offer the full 'package' of necessary employment benefits drives specialists into multiple job-holding. I conclude with a discussion of how gender, class and age can further shape the access to different sectors and jobs and result in various inequalities in seeking multiple job-holding.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

OPEN 3

GEORGE MOORE M140

Rowa-Dewar, N., Amos, A., Cunningham-Burley, S.

University of Edinburgh

Children and young people's experiences of smoking in the home and car in communities of contrasting socio-economic profile

Much progress has been made in recent years in reducing exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS) in public places in the UK, yet many children continue to experience high levels of SHS exposure with the associated health risks in their homes and cars. Children from socio-economically disadvantaged households are at particular risk as their parents are more likely to smoke and less likely to enforce smoking restrictions at home.

Little is known about the internal family processes and relationships that shape smoking in the home, nor how these interact with wider factors in communities of contrasting socio-economic profile. Specifically, children's perspectives on SHS exposure within the home and car are virtually absent within existing literature which tends to describe them as the passive victims of parental smoking.

This focus group study explores the experiences of around 40 children and young people aged 11-15 from the new sociology of childhood perspective, which views children as active social agents. Participants were drawn from two communities in Edinburgh, one advantaged and one disadvantaged and the analysis focuses on their contrasting experiences and involvement in decisions around SHS exposure in the home and car. Such experiences appear to be structured by wider social norms present in their communities with a theme of stigma present in children's accounts. Nevertheless, children's accounts of actively attempting to negotiate adult-imposed smoking restrictions within the home are near universal. Methodological aspects involved in accessing children's accounts in times of heightened child protection concerns are also discussed.

Miller, E. Cook, A.

University of Strathclyde

Knowledge exchange: challenges and strategies in turning community care research into practice

There is currently much concern in the UK, as in other developed countries, to ensure continuing delivery of quality health and social care against a context of demographic change, and to ensure that research is employed to secure sustained improvements to both the quality and cost-effectiveness of services. This paper will describe an initiative which has developed over the past five years, through two distinct phases. The first phase involved a large scale Department of Health funded research project at the University of Glasgow, from 2004-6. The second phase emerged from this research, and has involved development and implementation of a practice initiative, through collaboration between researchers and practitioners, under the auspices of the Joint Improvement Team of the Scottish government and has both been influenced by, and influenced policy. The initiative seeks to reshape routine interactions between individuals and professionals, to focus on the outcomes that matter to the individual. This is in contrast to more service-led approaches to assessment which have tended to emphasise the person's deficits and limitations. Secondly, the information gathered from these interactions can be collated and used to ensure that people's views are applied to improving services. The development and implementation of this initiative has been led by the researchers who conducted the initial DH research. Development of the approach has involved negotiating competing and not always corresponding policy imperatives, and employment of a range of methods to make the research applicable to the real world.

Shepard, B., Smithson, G.

City University of New York

The Beach beneath the Streets: Exclusion, Control, and Play in Public Space.

The Beach Beneath the Streets considers two interlocking variables of social movement activity: play and public space. The talk considers the shifting terrain of public and private space from the vantage point of exclusion and control in New York City, a geography which has come to be recognized as a case example in neoliberal urban development. It traces the historical development of both a neoliberal spatial and social order as well as resistance movements aimed at countering the erosion of a public sector and commons. Throughout the city, spatial and social order is inscribed on the landscape of public spaces, through architectural and physical designs of exclusion. In the face of these new social and physical forms of control, ludic, space-based resistance movements have come to emphasize democratic access, play, and a right to the city.

The talk establishes a typology of public spaces that illustrates both the recent trajectory in New York toward more subtly and effectively controlled and exclusive spaces, as well as the ways in which activists use and create varied types of public space. The varying forms of exclusion that the public and private actors exercise over public space are considered in terms of privatized, filtered, and suburban spaces, as well as community spaces, "temporary autonomous zones," and popular spaces. This framework replaces undifferentiated celebrations of "public space" with the study of different types of public space and uses for it, and also indicates how spaces can change from one type to another.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

RELIGION

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

RELIGION, THE SECULAR AND SECULARIZATION

Cosgrove, O.

University of Limerick

The End of Secularisation? Alternatives for researching religion under globalisation.

Secularisation theory has relegated the importance of religion to the margins of social research, with the advent of globalisation predicted to hasten religion's inevitable retreat in the face of instrumental modernity. However, the growing involvement of religion in recent global events, coupled with the worldwide resurgence in religious activity has resulted in a reassessment of the role of religion under conditions of globalisation.

This paper explores how the concept of secularisation has become both loaded and inadequate in understanding religious change. A history of the genesis of secularisation will be explored, identifying how its many nuances infiltrate the concept and influence its usage in the social sciences. This will lead on to a discussion on subsequent methodological issues and finally an overview of the shortcoming of the concept will be discussed.

The next section will explore what alternatives could be available to sociologists researching religion in contemporary society. The usefulness of concepts such as desacralisation, dechristianisation and the notion of public religion will be explored in understanding religious change under globalisation.

Finally, the idea of a synthesis between the effects of modernisation, such as individualisation and differentiation - which constitute the essence of secularisation theory - and how these effects actually play a role in religious resurgence are explored. Using Roland Robertson's (1992) globalisation paradox as its central thesis, an alternative paradigm for exploring religious change is proposed.

Stewart, F.

University of Stirling

"Punk Rock is my religion."

We live in a world in which we constantly have to recognise, understand and interact with new and shifting paradigms. This is in evidence in a wide variety of arenas from the economic, to the political to mundane activities such as access to musical formats. Those who are interested in and involved with the ever more interlocking spheres of religion and secular must also recognise and address the new paradigms that are arising both within and between these two spheres and the ensuing consequences of embracing and rejecting those new paradigms.

My research on the spiritual identity of Straight Edge adherents has revealed that not only have a significant number of Straight Edge adherents embraced the new paradigms and potentialities that they bring, an ever increasing number have begun to create their own paradigms with regard to religion. This has been enabled as a direct consequence of their particular ways of distinguishing between 'religious' and 'secular' interlinked with core beliefs and practices found within the Straight Edge scene.

Through the use of material, both oral and visual, gathered and created during field work in both the UK and the USA this paper will explore the motives of Straight Edge adherents in making the religious / secular distinction. I will then continue to discuss the effects, both intentional and otherwise, of that distinction, both for the adherents and for, potentially other collectives and those interested in the study of the phenomenon of religious and secular interaction.

Lee, L.

University of Cambridge

A subjective turn? Subjectivity and inter-subjectivity in British non-religious discourse

Although long anticipated and discussed, the emergence of several (more or less) secular societies is relatively recent. It is therefore only recently that sociologists have come to recognise the diversity of secularity-in-practice and thus the need for reappraisal of how religion and secularity intersect. A new perspective on this question has come from the empirical study of non-religion – an emergent research programme which I have aimed to foreground in the broader research project from which this paper is drawn. This project has collected ethnographic data in London (chosen as a case study both for Britain and Modernity) to explore the existence, nature and possible parameters of 'non-religion' as a social category. It included 50 in-depth interviews on the topics of religion, religious people and themes commonly associated with religiosity; participants were all 'other than religious' and selected using a maximum variation sampling strategy; discourse analysis was used to interpret these and other data. The set of findings presented in this paper concern the significance of epistemological beliefs these non-religious discourse. I find that a commitment to inter-subjective (or objective) modes of experiencing and authenticating knowledge is the only common feature to non-religious discourses. Some discourses included both exclusive inter-subjective and subjective aspects, with individualistic tropes sometimes even used to express hostility towards subjectivity as a legitimate way of knowing. These findings suggest that the idea of a 'subjective turn', in Modern society in general and Modern (non-)religiousness in particular, have been either over-stated or over-simplified.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

McIntosh, I., Robertson, D., Smyth, J.

University of Stirling

Space, Place and Belonging: Small Town Neighbourhood Identities

Questions of identity and belonging have long been on the sociological agenda. Having a sense of knowing 'where you are from?' can be a key part of an understanding ones identity and your relation to others. Asserting that you are 'from' (or not from) a particular nation, region, town or neighbourhood can be a key way in which individuals locate themselves socially and culturally. It is an understanding of this sense of attachment to a particular place or 'locality and the intensity, connotations and development of this attachment that is a central interest of this study. This paper is based on research conducted in 3 neighbourhoods in Stirling Scotland. The research explored attachment to place and the nature and extent of neighbourhood identities. The longevity of the identity and 'reputation' of each neighbourhood was considered by the incorporation of a historical approach within the research design. The three neighbourhoods were chosen to reflect these long established reputations and relative socio-economic positions. These being 'Randolph Road' (a well established upper-middle class area), 'Riverside' (a lower middle class area) and 'The Raploch' (an estate with an enduring reputation for being 'rough'). The manner in which constructions of class are woven into identity and place attachment will be explored in this paper.

Acton, A.

Open University

The Lies of the Land? Foxhunting, Landscape Policy and The Cultural Appropriation of Space.

In 2007 the UK ratified the European Landscape Convention. In doing so it became bound to recognise the significance of spaces as more than physical regions; they were also to be regarded as dynamic, living landscapes.

However, this paper argues that policies, which purport to embrace this ethos, frame space selectively and contribute to an appropriation of the landscape. My analysis of foxhunting is just one example of the manifestation of a form of bureaucratic colonialism.

For around three centuries, modern foxhunting has shaped the face of the British landscape and has also been shaped by it. My ethnographic research into foxhunting identity revealed a culture that is defined by fecund and visceral attachments to place. The landscape enters into the consciousness of the community, constituting identity, absorbing and instigating change and providing temporal extension. I found evidence of a peculiar tenure that draws upon social capital, customary consciousness and exhibits traditional ecological knowledge systems and resource habitat taboos. Moreover, in an increasingly distantiated world this venatical social system represents a way of life that cannot become 'phantasmagoric'. It must remain rooted from its connection to the land. Yet these foxhunting spaces are remain largely absent from policies and reports that are committed to embracing the distinctive and diverse traditions and practices that constitute our cultural landscapes.

This paper addresses the erasure of venery from landscape policy and warns that this precedent represents a danger for the understanding of our cultural and physical environment.

Tanulku, B.

Lancaster University

An Exploration Of Social Relations In Two Gated Communities

In this presentation, I explain the ways in which people establish boundaries with different actors. Based on semi-structured in-depth interviews with residents in two gated communities in Istanbul, I argue that residents use different criteria to establish relations with local people, with residents inside the same gated community as well as with residents in nearby gated communities. Firstly, residents differentiate from the local people on the basis of income and cultural differences such as illiteracy and conservatism of local people. Secondly, they differentiate inside the same community on the basis of income and cultural differences as well as how and how long it takes to achieve the wealth, which shows the importance of earning money through "legal" ways. Thirdly, they differentiate from other gated communities. However, the two gated communities are different in this respect. While the residents in Istanbul Istanbul use boundaries to differ only from Kemer Country, the biggest and the most expensive one in Gokturk, in Kasaba this is rarely seen. The residents in Istanbul Istanbul explain their moral ways of earning money and better social relations. Morality is shown in terms of the source of the wealth and the likelihood to earn with labour rather than illegal ways or inheritance. In the end, I contribute to Lamont's symbolic boundaries by showing that morality is associated with class position and embedded in capitalist system. I will also show that there are different moralities, with their own "socially situated symbolic capitals".

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Aldred, R., Jungnickel, K.

University of East London

Spaces of mobility: cycling places, placing cycling

This paper draws on current ESRC funded research to discuss how the practice of cycling produces, and is produced through, specific experiences of place. It builds on interview and ethnographic research in Cambridge and Hackney to describe how cycling is constructed differently in different socio-spatial and political contexts.

Cambridge and Hackney have relatively high levels of cycling, compared to the UK average of 2% of trips, and cycling in both places is portrayed as part of local culture and identity. Cambridge is the UK's "Cycling City" with 25% modal share, while Hackney is known as London's "cycling borough" and has seen a substantial rise in cycling, now at 10% modal share. Yet the two areas differ dramatically in terms of income profiles, ethnic mix, occupational structures, and cycling infrastructures.

The paper will show how cycling in the two areas creates distinctive mobile places, grounded in different experiences of embodiment and different socio-spatial and political contexts. It will consider the importance of sounds and smells as well as visual stimuli, and locally distinctive bicycling technologies; Cambridge is famous for the numbers of Dutch-style bikes on its streets, while Hackney is better known for its single-speed aficionados. It will ask: what kinds of embodied identities are available to people cycling in each place? What kinds of identities are excluded and marginalised? Finally the paper will consider implications for how we conceptualise places and mobilities, particularly subordinate forms of mobility.

Letherby, G. Middleton, J.

University of Plymouth

'Cheers Driver': exploring the social dimensions of taxi use.

The mobilities turn is well established across the social sciences with increasing attention being paid to the movement of people and things. Conceptual and empirical work on automobilities has been integral to the development of the field. Yet within this surprisingly little explicit attention has been paid to taxi use, particularly in relation to the social space within the taxi. Existing research on taxis tends to focus on economic issues such as fare structures, regulations and labour supply or on the drivers themselves in relation to knowledge and technologies, risk and assaults. Far less attention has been given to use of taxi-space and the specific and distinct driver/passenger relationship. The place of talk within car journeys has been considered by some but not with reference to the detail of talk between strangers in cars. Likewise there has been little or no consideration of how the driver and passenger negotiate the use of space – e.g. whether or not the driver plays music, where the passenger sits – during the taxi ride. Furthermore, whilst the relationships between social exclusion, mobility and access are now widely recognised we know little of the detail of how the company-paid ride to the airport differs from the 'free' ride to the day-centre. Drawing on preliminary research findings we seek in this paper to examine the sociality of taxi journeys and in so doing explore how these distinct forms of journeying relate to broader issues of social inclusion/exclusion.

Perng, S.

Lancaster University

Sounding the space in satellite navigated cars

A satellite navigation system (sat nav) is an increasingly prominent tool to have in cars, quickly replacing the role maps used to have only a few years ago. Despite its popularity, research on cars, navigation and driving has paid limited attention to the implications sat nav have on the families on the move.

By focusing on practices around cars, recent research have demonstrated that the assertion of the annihilation of space and places by transportation technologies, such as cars, has neglected how travelling and navigating together in cars is productive for sociality. This paper follows these works and further looks into how humans, sounds, driving, navigation and in-car space interlock with each other. Rather than thinking sounds simply as they were, the paper puts the process of sound-making into question and develops an analysis of how partnership between drivers and passengers are enacted through configuring the sounds of sat nav, stereos and human voices. Sounding is therefore the focus of this paper and there are various criss-crossing mechanisms prioritising particular sounds and sound-making. This paper further demonstrates that these mechanisms of sound-making are inseparable from effecting the partnerships, between drivers and passengers, and more generally between two genders and among family members. Furthermore, this paper argues that while traditional gender roles related to cars have been challenged when sat nav are introduced, how genders are performed differently, and how both genders do and feel about the change and differences, require careful and continuous examination.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 11:00 - 12:30

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

**EQUALITY STUDIES: CRITICAL, EMANCIPATORY AND FEMINIST PERSPECTIVES ON
EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

*Lynch, K., Baker, J., Walsh, J., Cantillon, S., Lyons, M.,
Moran, M., Crean, M.*

University College Dublin

Equality Studies: critical, emancipatory and feminist perspectives on equality and social justice

The panel will present the critical, emancipatory and feminist-inspired perspectives on equality and social justice that we have developed in equality studies at UCD. Building on our recent publications, notably *Equality: From Theory to Action* (EFTA) (2004, 2009 2nd ed.), *Affective Equality: Love, Care and Injustice* (2009) and a range of published papers, we will present the case for the multidimensional, equality of condition perspective developed in *Equality*. Drawing on the extensive empirical work undertaken for *Affective Equality*, we will demonstrate the importance of the affective sphere as a site of injustice and its implications for both social science and egalitarian change.

As engaged academics, we recognize the diverse themes we have to critically engage with both in the extra-academic spheres of activism, and in the mainstream debate about equality, in the production of an emancipatory social science. These themes are addressed across the individual papers, and include: a critical exploration of the potential role of the university as an agent of social justice through documenting the struggle involved in creating public sociology; the challenges presented by engaging in emancipatory research, having hypotheses tested and challenged from an experiential standpoint; and the problems and gains associated with overcoming the expulsion of normative values, specifically those to do with equality and social justice, from much 'critical' social science. In this final respect we follow the lead of social scientists with a strong normative commitment to social justice with the aim of making social science an important emancipatory enterprise in an unequal world.

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Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

CRIME AND CONTROL

GOVAN MBEKI A526F

NEO-LIBERALISM, THE MARKET AND CRIMINALITY

Ahmad, A., Ahmad, M

National College of Business Administration and Economics

Corruption a Criminal Act: Measuring Perception using Split-Questionnaire Survey Design

Corruption a criminal act and a very complex phenomenon is defined as a misuse of power, fraud, bribery, embezzlement and theft, extortion etc. Extensive debate on definition of corruption is going on in the world. The international organizations and agencies and the sociologists have devised various definitions but one common point in all these definitions is that corruption is a crime that devastate the very thread of the society.

In this paper, we have attempted to measure the perception of corruption using a Split-Questionnaire Survey (SQS) design and rank various departments of government according to its level of corruption. The theoretical basis of the SQS Design is explained for its applicability to large sociological surveys.

Bone, J.

University of Aberdeen

Mendacity and Markets: How 'Free Markets' Subvert Trust and Encourage Predation

This paper focuses on the political and economic conditions, socio-psychological processes, interactive practices and institutional arrangements that have fostered what appears as a drift from the rational form of capitalism, as described by Max Weber, towards a more licentious, subversive and, in many instances, deviant and predatory form that pervades contemporary market relationships.

The paper offers a range of examples from various spheres of economic life, including some drawn from the recent financial crisis. What these illustrate is a growing trend whereby various forms of speculation, 'rent-seeking', influence and deception, often skirting or even breaching the boundaries of legality, have increasingly supplanted conventional commercial and industrial modes of profit accumulation.

The role of endemic insecurity imposed by contemporary global markets will also be explored, in attempting to come to an understanding of the 'driving forces' underlying this socio-economic transition.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

CULTURE AND CONSUMPTION

GOVAN MBEKI A426

Bednarek, A.

University of Aberdeen

Scottish Conservatism as a Cultural Field

Apart from recent work in social anthropology that looks at the organisational structures of supporters of the Scottish Conservative Party (Smith 2008) hardly any social scientist has looked at Scottish Conservatism. Large swathes of Scottish society, however, are firmly Conservative; Conservatism is integral in many communities. In an attempt to understand Scottish Conservatism as a cultural phenomenon (rather than a political organisation) I set out to explore the experiences of young Conservatives. In this paper I will apply a structural-hermeneutical perspective to my research data and show how Scottish Conservatism can be constructed as a cultural field. As most fields in the sphere of power (i.e. politics) its *raison d'être* is the perpetuation of the status quo. Recent 'converts' to Conservatism are not always aware of this. Whilst their youthful idealism is appreciated and needed in the field they soon find out that it does not lead to a progression up the field hierarchy. This places a particular strain on young Conservatives. Based on participant observation and semi-structured interviews, I describe young Conservatives' trajectory of ideas and demands that are made regarding their identification with ideas.

I see this paper as a contribution to cultural sociology, theory, social psychology and social epistemology.

Herding, M.

University of Cambridge

The conservative avant-garde: Islamic youth culture in contemporary Western Europe

Islam and youth culture have rarely been associated in and outside academia. Especially in the European context, young German, French or British Muslims are assumed to live a life entirely devoted to religion or to be secular and to consume European youth culture. In the 2000s, however, a new trend has emerged that combines Western forms of pop culture with Islamic substance. In my paper, I am going to present my ethnographic and interview data from Frankfurt, Marseille and Birmingham in order to sketch the context in which the movement takes place, but also to look at the tools for grasping it from a subcultural point of view.

In the music sector, for example, rappers express their love towards Allah and the Prophet Mohammed, as does Ammar114 from Frankfurt – he raps about rejecting record labels' offers, because "the best offer still comes from Allah". In the field of fashion, sports wear carries Islamic slogans such as "I love my Prophet". The media sector comprises radio stations, networking websites, youth magazines and festivals catering for a "cool" religious Muslim youth.

The data suggest that there are four main types of motivation among the producers of Islamic youth culture: educational/proselytising, political, artistic and business motives. Young Muslims are negotiating their having a say, confounding their own community by innovative forms of expression and bewildering subcultural scenes by moralistic values – they represent a conservative avant-garde.

Spracklen, K.

Leeds Metropolitan University

Pagans and Satan and Goths, Oh My: Dark leisure, communicative agency and communal identity on the fringes of the modern Goth scene

Goth music's cultural terrain has been extensively mapped in the first decade of this century. Carol Siegel's work examines the dark side of Goth subcultures in the United States, exploring the way in which subcultural norms are stretched to accept different expressions of sexuality and resistance to the mainstream (Siegel, 2005). In the United Kingdom, Paul Hodkinson reports on Goth subcultures from the inside through ethnographic research, in which he identifies the way in which Goths develop a group identity (Hodkinson, 2005). Finally, in *Goth Culture*, Dunja Brill explores comprehensively the material and cultural practices of Goths, and how these relate to individual identity and agency (Brill, 2008). This paper builds on these earlier explorations of Goth music and Goth subcultures, but examines through a critical dark leisure lens the way in which parts of the goth scene embraced paganism and, latterly, Satanism, as actual practices and ontologies of belief. Ethnographic research and case studies on paganism and Satanism in Goth subcultures will be used, along with a theoretical framework of leisure as communicative agency. Critical studies of leisure face an uncertain future as meaningful, intellectual and professional pursuits. Postmodernism and postmodernity have challenged the taken-for-granted assumptions about Gramscian hegemony underpinning much of the leisure theory that dominated the discipline twenty years ago (Spracklen, 2009). This paper provides a space to examine Goth subcultures through a number of emergent research strands on the subject of dark leisure: liminal, transgressive leisure that challenges notions of acceptability, taste and conformity (Rojek, 2000).

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

GEORGE MOORE M137

Whittaker, L.

University of Stirling

“Scotland’s Shame”: A dialogical analysis of the identities of adolescents Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Mead (1934) states the way we see ourselves and construct our identity is influenced by our interactions with those around us. These people will form our internal dialogue or our dialogical self (Hermans, Kempen, & Van Loon 1992). The theory of the dialogical self was used to explore the identities of one group of young people described by the media as ‘Scotland’s Shame’ (The Herald, 2007). The Scottish Government have defined unemployed young people as a ‘problem’ and stated that tackling this problem is a national priority. They have labelled this group as NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training - The NEET Strategy 2006). Seventy-nine young people defined as NEET or at risk of becoming NEET took part in a series of naturalistic discussion groups. A dialogical analysis revealed eight significant others; teachers, parents, employers, the media, other people in the community, researchers, ‘geeks’ and their friends. Analysis also revealed a main source of positive recognition for these young people comes from their friends. This research has highlighted the importance of recognition and the need to further explore this notion for this group of young people.

Balan P, P.

Centre For Research in Rural & Industrial Development

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in India-Towards Economic Development and Social Justice

The Indian parliament enacted the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005 expressing the consensus of the state to use fiscal and legal instrument to address the challenges of unemployment and poverty. This was the first time; a country had passed the law of this nature and scale, guaranteeing livelihood security to rural households. The rationale for such legislation was based on the need to provide social safety net to rural households as well as to create assets that rejuvenate the natural resource base of their livelihood.

Over the nearly three years since operational, The NREGA has had a positive impact on the lives of millions of people across the poorest district in India. Although implementation has suffered from procedural short comings it has a lot of positive gains in providing wage security for poor rural families, aided the economic emancipation of women, and created public assets. The adoption of a right based approach to work, including the payment of minimum wages, has contributed to enhancing the quality of life for the rural poor. Further, there are enough constructive experiences to show that corruption can be largely prevented through strict enforcements of the transparency safeguards. The Act has become a lifeline for millions of Indian who have been left out in the cold by high economic growth.

Sammet, K.

Universität Leipzig

Worldviews of Unemployed Persons in the ‘Activating’ Welfare State in Germany

Since the beginning of the 21st century the German welfare state regime has undergone fundamental changes. Like in other countries the ‘activation’ of employable benefit recipients has become the main goal of the socio-political reforms. The program „Fordern und Fördern“, i.e. “challenge and subsidies” was implemented in order to provide welfare benefit recipients and long-term unemployed access to the job market by supplying them with benefits and by threatening them with sanctions if they are not able to prove their willingness and their efforts to find work.

Referring to Merton’s Theory of deviance and to his definition of Anomie I will show that the unemployed are confronted with a situation that enforces anomie: Employment has become the main cultural goal for social policy as well as in public discourses, while the responsibility for the integration into the labor market is shifted to the unemployed themselves. In the context of mass unemployment the institutionalized means to reach the goal are not available for an increasing number of unemployed. On the basis of biographical interviews with unemployed persons I will show how this situation is being dealt with. As modes of adaption innovation, ritualism and retreatism can be identified; which mode is chosen depends mainly on the disposal of social and cultural capital. The paper is based on data from a current research project titled “Religious and Non-Religious Worldviews in Precarious Conditions of Life” at the University of Leipzig.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

EDUCATION

GOVAN MBEKI A005

Sabri, D.

King's College, London

What we miss when we focus on the student experience: the case of student retention in HE

Much research and policy discourse in higher education focuses exclusively on 'the student experience'. This is evident in the mission statements of nearly all policy agencies concerned with higher education, in policy documents (most recently the report of the Select Committee for Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills which asserts 'the student experience is at the heart of higher education') and in the dominant research paradigm of 'approaches to learning'. Research pertaining to students' early departure from HE has benefited from a wider range of theoretical frameworks (e.g. Tinto's theory of social and academic integration; Bourdieu's notion of habitus). However, most studies have limited their data collection to students. Drawing on findings from a study conducted in 2008/9 of 10 courses in art and design which included teaching observations and interviews with academics as well as with former and current students, this paper demonstrates that important factors are at play in the early departure of students of which the students themselves are unaware, or at least only aware at the level of practical consciousness. Interviews with academics and familiarity with course and institutional context illustrate that issues related to management and resources are as, sometimes more, important than those related to individual students' social and academic integration. The paper concludes that 'the student experience' is better understood in research that goes beyond it. We need to include, as research participants, the academics and other workers in higher education who structure, and are themselves structured by, the discourse of the student experience.

Waller, R., Bovill, H. and Pitt, R.

UWE Bristol

Parents, Partners and Peers: Bearing the hidden costs of lifelong learning

Notions of lifelong learning encapsulate policy discourses of change, mobility and movement toward an improved self, community or nation. This emphasis upon change and improvement unproblematically assumes linear movement from an 'under-educated', to a happier, better educated and generally more 'complete' self. It also links to neo-liberal discourses around the self as a biographical project. Critics have unravelled this simplistic notion, revealing a complex picture of dramatic changes accompanying a return to the public sphere of formal education. These include tensions between returnees and those 'left behind', alongside the 'ontological insecurity' sometimes experienced by the learner, and their intimate others - their families and friends. This paper further problematises progressive, uni-directional notions of change. Data from three longitudinal qualitative studies of non-traditional students are used to examine experiences of relationship tension, fracture and reconfiguration. Life history interview data from the projects demonstrates joy, desire, improved confidence amongst 'private' benefits from educational change, and the ability to publicly give something back to the community. Alongside this, sadness, disappointment and loss are examined - including themes of relationship breakdown, threats to gendered and classed identity, and a realisation of an 'imperfect' self. We explore the risks knowingly and unwittingly undertaken and negotiated in searching for the 'respectable' self through re-engagement with formal education. Relationships and positioning within the wider community are threatened by this, with the true cost being borne by learners and those closest to them - their parents, partners and peers.

Fletcher, A., Bonell, C., Rhodes, T.

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

New counter-school cultures: drug use as a source of bonding, identity and escape for female secondary school students.

Despite evidence of school effects on drug use, the social and institutional processes via which such effects may occur are under-researched and only partly theorised with insufficient attention paid to how these effects may relate to gender or family background. This presentation will draw on case-study research at a secondary school in London undertaken to explore how school experiences may influence drug use and reproduce inequalities in reconstructed ways in late modernity. Qualitative data were collected through semi-structured interviews with students and teachers, and observations. We focus on the accounts of a group of girls expressing a shared counter-school identity and style (the 'hyper girls'). Our analysis suggests that smoking cannabis and other drug use can be an important source of bonding and identity construction for young women from the most disadvantaged families who are seeking to escape school's narrow focus on academic attainment and associated strategies of monitoring and discipline. We propose that in late modern times, class-based counter-school cultures have been replaced with new consumer-based ones, but that secondary schools continue to act as sites for the reproduction of social stratification, as well as risk and harm relating to drug use. In the context of uncertain transitions and a highly competitive, performance-driven and divisive school system, new female counter-cultures continue actively to 'fail themselves' and reproduce wider patterns of inequality. Like class-based counter-school cultures before them, they are a cultural response to school-institutional features and wider structural processes.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

FAMILIES, RELATIONSHIPS, LIFECOURSE

GEORGE MOORE M001

Smart, C.

University of Manchester

"I have found it hard to make real friends since this time": Difficult friendships, ontological insecurity and stoicism

In this paper I shall discuss the findings from a Mass Observation Archive Directive which was commissioned as part of the Realities Node which in turn is part of the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods Programme. The Mass Observation study forms part of a new project on 'critical associations' which is exploring how people conduct their relationships, particularly forms of friendship, acquaintanceship and work based collegialities. In this study we seek to explore the often under-researched aspects of what happens when friendships deteriorate or go badly wrong. While the idea that we can all choose our friends is a truism it limits our understanding of friendship because it implies that friendships can be dropped when they are no longer satisfying or beneficial. But we have found that experiences of losing friends and even discarding friends can be very difficult. Some people even stick with very poor friendships rather than ending them. This paper will contribute to ongoing debates about relationality and will challenge the idea that only family relationships can be enduringly bad.

Kramer, A-MC.

University of Warwick

Bringing families together or exposing secrets and creating family rifts?: Tracing the consequences of family history research

Emerging from a Leverhulme-funded research project which explores the meaning and consequences of the current boom in UK family history research for the individuals undertaking it, their families, and British society more broadly, this paper will examine the ways that family history stories circulate within families so as to explore the consequences of genealogy projects for family identity, membership and dynamics. Drawing on responses from the Mass Observation Directive on family history commissioned in Summer 2008 by the author, it will explore the often ambiguous and contested authorship role played by the family historian in assembling and disseminating new, or reworked family stories, both from the perspective of the family historian, and the perspective of family members. It will examine the potential dangers of family history research for allowing long-buried 'skeletons' to emerge from the closet, in particular arguing that family history facilitates a considered historical perspective on what is and is not, 'shameful' behaviour within the family. Lastly, the paper will turn to rifts in families, documenting what is meant by rifts and some of the reasons for rifts. It will also describe how the pain and discomfort expressed by those experiencing rifts, disconnectedness or conflicting values with family members, alive or dead, is expressed through stories of the family history. In particular, intra-generational conflicts, tensions between immediate and extended families and the concept of 'closeness' to alive and dead family members will be explored.

Hadfield, L., Kehily, M.J., Sharpe, S., Thomson, R.

The Open University

Something old and something new: object-based interviews within a longitudinal study of family

Qualitative longitudinal research studies provide an opportunity to innovate in research methods, with the adoption of new techniques in order to capture different voices and emotional registers with ongoing research participants. In this paper we report on an ongoing longitudinal study of the dynamics of family life, focussing on the use of objects within repeat interviews with grandmothers. Women were invited to select two objects, one representing their past and the other representing their future, as a way of capturing changing time horizons and positions within the family in the wake of the arrival of a new generation. In this paper we explore the ways in which these object based interviews generated an emotionally charged dialogue, introducing material that did not previously form part of women's narratives of self. We draw on an emergent literature on the way in which objects mediate affect for individuals and families in order to make sense of the explicit and latent content of these interviews. Drawing on visual images, fieldnotes and interview transcripts, we suggest that object based interviews can play an important part in enriching ongoing research relationships as well as articulating those less 'storied' aspects of a family dialog. The study 'the Dynamics of Motherhood' (2009-2010) is part of the ESRC funded Timescapes initiative, and develops longitudinal case studies established as part of the ESRC funded study 'the making of Modern Motherhoods' (2005-8).

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

MEDIA

GOVAN MBEKI A426C

Thomas, J.

Oxford University

"The Perfect Crime?" Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault in the United Kingdom: National newspapers and the creation of a 'new' crime.

In the late 1990s, a 'new' crime appeared in the United Kingdom. It seemed to consist of slipping a drug into someone's drink and sexually assaulting them when they became unconscious. There were distinct difficulties with this view of the crime. The first one was that it was not new: the second was that all attempts to establish prevalence had concluded that it did not seem very prevalent. This study had two main aims: to examine how drug facilitated sexual assault came to be seen as 'new' and how it became viewed as a widespread crime. Content analysis of 200 newspaper articles from 17 newspapers covering the period 1997 – 2005 was the method employed. The picture of the crime which emerged from the analysis was that it involved a meeting in a pub, bar or nightclub or at some social event: strange men waiting to inflict nasty injury on young women (victims were female in 89 % of the incidents, N=383). Statistics from no discernible source were used, along with anecdotal details of assaults. The impression created by the sample was that if one were female, one should be very careful when venturing into a pub, bar or nightclub, and if one had to leave the safety of home, then one should only do so in the company of trusted others (preferably male). Finally, the details of the unfolding of this crime in the article are discussed in the context of issues such as date-rape, binge-drinking and recreational drug taking.

Monro, S., Richardson, D., McNulty, A.

University of Huddersfield

'You could see people squirming in their seats': Sexuality and its Discontents in UK Local Authorities.

In recent years the UK has seen a raft of new legislation concerning equalities and human rights. This legislation, and the policy drivers issued by central government in relation to equalities, is interpreted in varied ways by the local authorities that are tasked with implementing them. Implementation is structured by the organisational cultures present in these institutions and their partner agencies, and in some cases, by the existence of overt or covert homophobia and biphobia.

This paper presents findings from an ESRC funded study of the impact of recent policy changes. Whilst some authorities have a long history of sexualities equalities work, heterosexism appears embedded in the cultures of others. This is apparent in the ways in which equalities is discursively framed (or erased), the location of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equalities at the bottom of the hierarchy of equalities initiatives, resistance to the imposition of LGBT equalities initiatives by staff, and the organisational cultures in which they operate. In some instances, overt homo/biphobia is evident, often reflecting the wider environments in which local authorities operate. Local authority employees in powerful positions may give clear messages to staff on challenging such resistance, but LGBT equalities work can be sabotaged by other individuals, often elected councillors. The tensions that officers have to manage concerning sexualities equalities work, between the remits of elected councillors and the requirements of equalities policies driven by statute, are noticeable. It appears that local authorities remain a site in which heterosexism and homo/biphobia are contested.

Adriaenssens, S. Hendrickx, J.

HUB – University College Brussels

Accounting for the prevalence of prostitution in countries: a comparative approach

The prevalence and structure of prostitution most definitely is a strong causal factor in the spread of sexually transmitted infections. Though the structure and norms surrounding prostitution, e.g. in the attitude and expectations towards condom use, also play a decisive role, the mere magnitude of prostitution market is significant in itself.

One of the puzzles of prostitution is what causes prostitution markets to emerge and to grow. Some assert that this is mainly due to the demand side. For instance, demographic factors (a surplus of men, delayed marriage) are sometimes cited. Others assert that the demand side is crucial, for example the poverty among women. Finally quite some attention has been paid to the hypothetical effects of regulation on prostitution. Strange enough, typical sociological approaches are uncommon among explanations for the existence or magnitude of prostitution markets. In this paper we argue the necessity of this type of explanations.

In this paper we attempt to explain the magnitude of the prostitution market in 65 countries worldwide with the help of different sets of explanations. Apart from the cited theoretical relations, we introduce typical macro-sociological factors in the explanation: the gender power balance, the socio-economic position of women and cultural variables.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN 4

GEORGE MOORE M408

**BSA PRESIDENTIAL EVENT: GLOBALIZING GOD: RELIGION AND PEACE IN THE
SOCIAL SCIENCES**

Professor Johan Galtung is a sociologist, with a background in mathematics, who pioneered the development of Peace Studies as a discipline over fifty years ago. He has taught at Columbia University and the University of Oslo, where he helped establish the International Peace Research Institute and the first journal devoted to Peace Studies, the *Journal of Peace Research*. He has written extensively on peace issues but is also a practitioner, establishing TRANSCEND, a network of peace and development groups, and Transcend Peace University, where he was its first Rector. His talk will explore how, in a globalizing world, religion becomes associated with organized violence but can also assist peace, non-violence and equity.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

METHODOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

GOVAN MBEKI A303A

MIXED METHODS

Glaesser, J., Cooper, B.

Durham University

Employing Ragin's configurational methods to undertake case selection from a large dataset for in-depth study in order to test and develop theory

There is a long tradition of combining quantitative and qualitative methods in sociology. We explore an innovative way for researchers wishing to elaborate findings from quantitative research to select cases for parallel or further in-depth case study. Seawright and Gerring (2008) note that selection based on familiarity with cases may not be possible and random sampling may be inappropriate. They base their procedures for case selection on regression, the commonest quantitative approach in this context. In contrast, we employ Ragin's Qualitative Comparative Analysis (QCA) to undertake case-based analysis of large datasets and, drawing on Seawright and Gerring's insights, then select cases for further study. QCA employs Boolean algebra, analysing the conditions sufficient and necessary for an outcome to occur. While regression seeks the net effects of "independent" variables, QCA aims to preserve, holistically, the features of cases and therefore is well-suited to case selection. Using QCA's measures of consistency with relations of sufficiency and necessity, we develop a typology of cases within a large dataset as typical, atypical, deviant and diverse in order to select cases for in-depth study. These different types of cases play different roles in testing and developing theory. Drawing on analyses of the German SOEP data undertaken as part of an ESRC-funded study which is applying case-based methods such as QCA to large English and German datasets and combining this with parallel in-depth interviews with selected cases, we demonstrate how QCA may be used to select cases for interview in a systematic and theoretically informed manner.

Stewart, F.

The University of Edinburgh

Understanding Scotland's Rubbish: The Case for Methodological Innovation?

The core issues of production and consumption have long received academic attention across the social sciences, but arguably these only make sense when we close-the-loop and understand the social, political and economic consequences of wasting too. Within sociology the issues surrounding 'waste' have often been overlooked and treated as immaterial or inconsequential, despite being politically significant, culturally relevant and economically driven. This paper contributes to debates here by presenting some preliminary findings to emerge from a mixed methods doctoral research project that asks: how can we best explain household waste and recycling practices in advanced industrial society? Usually taken for granted, these processes are often dealt with superficially, explained either at the level of individual decision making or being about infrastructure and service provision. This paper responds to this by reporting some emergent research findings from a study that combines different data types and analysis techniques to further illustrate the social influences on waste generation and recycling practices in an advanced industrial society: Scotland. Using specific examples from the data, the discussion focuses on the concrete pay-offs gained from analysing and integrating both quantitative and qualitative data in the one study. It will be argued this has enabled the research questions to be answered in deeply sociological ways that moves beyond the individualised accounts that are so often advanced by policy-makers, industry experts and other key stakeholders.

Emejulu, A., Brunner, R., Hunter, K.

University of Strathclyde

Methodologies for Studying the Well-Being of Minority Ethnic Groups in Scotland

This paper discusses an innovative qualitative methodology for understanding minority ethnic groups's well-being in two Scottish cities. Intersectionality—the interactions of different social structures and identities that can lead to disadvantage—is an important way of understanding minority ethnic groups' identities and their relationships to institutions which impact on their well-being. The capability approach seeks to measure the quality of an individual's opportunity to live a life that she values and the social, political and economic constraints on an individual's freedoms and opportunities. By understanding 'intersections as capabilities', this paper will explore minority ethnic groups' well-being from three different perspectives:

- Discursive measures of well-being: through the analysis of constructions of 'minority ethnic groups' in social welfare policy discourses.
- Objective measures of well-being: through the analysis of primary data from the 2007/08 Households Below Average Income Survey and the 2007/08 Family Resources Survey.
- Subjective measures of well-being: through in-depth interviews to understand individuals' perceptions of their well-being and opportunities.

The paper argues that an integration of the capability approach with intersectionality yields important strategies and methods for comparing complexities, well-being and constructions of ethnicity and gender across different contexts.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN

GEORGE MOORE M402

Paton, K., Piancentini, T., Mooney, G., McCafferty, P.

University of Glasgow

Hidden injuries and hidden rewards of everyday life in contemporary Scottish society

This panel explores the key conference themes in relation to the hosting city: inequalities and social justice in Glasgow, Scotland. Speakers examine the myths and realities of everyday life in a neoliberal context, problematising issues around class, gender and social justice, directly confronting issues of inequality through empirical research.

Drawing on the author's research with young women in Scotland, and building on insights of feminist work on gangs in the US, Susan Batchelor examines how gender inequality shapes female gang involvement and participation in violence. The findings suggest that whilst dichotomous tomboy/sex object characterisations are present in young women's accounts, these categories are inadequate for capturing the complexities of their gender identities.

Kirsteen Paton considers the effects of urban restructuring on working-class communities. She inverts the common gentrification narrative relating to space to look at how processes seek to civilise the working-class subject. Through empirical research in Glasgow, she reveals hidden rewards of and resistance to gentrification and hidden realities of displacement exacerbated by the recession.

Gerry Mooney explores the idea that sections of the working-class are a 'problem population'. The hidden (and no so hidden) injuries of class include a recurring pathologisation: from the 'Underclass' to the 'Broken Society', 'Problem Families' to 'Dysfunctional Communities' and 'Welfare Ghetto's'. Focusing on some dominant narratives of poverty and exclusion, he argues these can share an antipathy to working-class lives, betraying thinly-veiled class hatred.

Patricia McCafferty concludes the discussion by considering the potential effects of the development of neoliberal pedagogy in state schools and how this relates to mobility and equality.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN 2

GOVAN MBEKI A303B

REALISM AND THE DESCRIPTIVE TURN

Elder-Vass, D., Kemp, S., Uprichard, E., Walby, S.

University of Essex

In their much-discussed paper 'The Coming Crisis of Empirical Sociology', Savage and Burrows suggest that the predominant empirical methods of British sociology are being outflanked by knowing capitalism. In response, they call for a descriptive turn in sociological work, and a reorientation of sociology towards the politics of method as its defining concern. This session will be a panel discussion of their call and its implications for realism. What exactly is a descriptive turn? What empirical methods does it favour? Does it undermine or complement realist approaches to causality?

Does it encourage or undermine an appropriate relation between theoretical and empirical work? Should sociology have a defining concern, and if so what should it be? Should we, perhaps, be pursuing an 'explanatory turn', or a 'critical turn', or a 'realist turn', instead? And hence, should we welcome, resist, or simply ignore the call for a descriptive turn?"

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

OPEN 3

GEORGE MOORE M140

Tarim, E.

University of Edinburgh

A Narrative approach to Financial Markets

Despite some limited indirect interest in the role of narratives in financial markets (see for instance, Levine, 2001 for gender; Buena and Garud, 2007 for sense-making), there is no direct, holistic sociological analysis of the role of narratives. I take up the challenge and conceptualize financial markets as storytelling organisations. What I mean by this is that on a daily basis, financial markets are enacted by exchange of securities and the narratives that surround those exchanges. Narratives also reconstruct the past, present, and future of a market in question via personal stories, news stories, and discursive exchanges between market actors. These narratives turn the market into texts which not only entertain, and educate their audiences but also constitute a major tool in what I call the legitimacy work in financial markets. The dialogical polyphony (Boje, 1995; Gabriel, 2000), which defines the totality of narratives about the same market events and actions, turns the market into itself and its opposite. To substantiate these points, I offer four heuristic story types that pertain to in situ narratives and to narratives of entertainment, education, and legitimation. These are momentary and technical stories for in situ sense-making narratives and internal stories and the grand story for entertainment, education, and legitimation. I give examples for each story type from the Istanbul Stock Exchange where I conducted a year long field-work in four leading brokerage houses. With these examples I demonstrate how divisions of labour and inter-organisational hierarchies and conflicts shape in situ and legitimacy narratives.

Iu, J.

The Australian National University

The role of social capital in promoting social and financial inclusion in Australia

This paper considers how the concept of social capital can be used to promote social and financial inclusion in Australia. Social capital embodies the idea that resources embedded in social networks provide substantive benefits to both the individual members of those networks and to the community more broadly. Discussion will focus on the ways in which social networks create opportunities for social and financial inclusion, for example, through the facilitation of information transmission or the linking of disparate parts of a social network. Key elements and limitations of both bonding and bridging social capital are also examined. Specific reference will be made to a small, but innovative, number of Australian microfinance initiatives, which, much like the pioneering initiatives in operation in developing economies, are based on a circular credit model. As the success of such initiatives often relies on the ability to create strong connections among participants, this paper will investigate how social relations may be utilised to encourage active participation in group processes. It is argued that, through involvement in such community-based activities, marginalised groups not only have their obvious financial needs met, by being afforded access to credit, but also strengthen wider community bonds and increase social inclusion. As marginalisation and disadvantage continue to increase as a result of exclusion from mainstream financial services, drawing upon social relations may provide a fruitful way of tackling problems of exclusion and inequality.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

RELIGION

GOVAN MBEKI A526C

RELIGION AND CIVIL SOCIETY

Grigolo, M.

European University Institute

Human rights and religious communities: the work of the Inter-religious Centre of Barcelona

In a sociology of law perspective, this paper introduces the work of the Centre Interreligiós de Barcelona (Inter-religious Centre of Barcelona; CIB), which mediates between the religious communities of the city on the one hand, and the city departments and local autochthon population on the other. Mediation is conducted within the human rights framework provided by UN documents and local charters. The CIB has monitored the diffusion of religious communities across the city territory for about ten years, in conjunction with the increasing migration to Barcelona. During this period, the CIB has become involved in a number of issues, including the right of communities to perform religious ceremonies in the city's squares, the construction places of worship, and public demonstrations. The paper analyses the extent to which the language of human rights provides a useful framework to mediate the above mentioned issues. It also addresses the inherent ambiguity of the CIB work: by monitoring religious communities, the CIB ends up acting also for the implementation of the emerging local security agenda.

Johnsen, S., Fitzpatrick, S.

University of York

Interventionism in homelessness services: faith-based and secular agency stances

The provision of services to homeless people is one of the longest-standing means by which faith communities have sought to contribute to the welfare of society. The context in which they operate has altered significantly in recent years due, in part, to the changing governance of publicly-funded services, but also to an increasingly 'interventionist' tone in homelessness policy which seeks to define 'appropriate' and 'inappropriate' welfare responses. Drawing upon an AHRC/ESRC funded study involving interviews with staff and users of 'faith-based' and 'secular' homelessness services, this paper will explore their contrasting views on the ethical and practical implications of interventions that aim to alter homeless people's behaviours. It will argue that faith-based providers tend to be resistant to the interventionist 'rehabilitative' approaches favoured by government, which proactively encourage homeless people to desist from damaging behaviours – preferring instead non-interventionist 'accepting' approaches which hold no expectations of change and allow service users to 'be'. This stance places many faith-based organisations at odds with government directives – with some being accused of sustaining street homelessness and thereby undermining efforts to reduce levels of rough sleeping.

McCallum, R.

University of Exeter

Islam and the British Evangelical Public Sphere post 9/11

The increased awareness of a Muslim presence in Britain is raising issues not just for society in general but for other faith groups in particular. Among these the Christian Evangelical community, including many from various Christian Diasporas, is struggling to find a coherent response which is true to its Bible-based, activist, conversionist roots. This paper explores British Evangelical responses to Islam since 9/11 by drawing on interview and textual data. It finds that a small Evangelical public sphere has coalesced around the discussion of the Muslim presence in Britain which is nuanced and diverse. Although some of the literature has been polemic, hostile and suspicious of Islam, there have also been more sympathetic publications suggesting that some Evangelicals are embracing a more irenic approach. This is borne out by a lively debate and occasional rancour which seems to suggest a possible rift within the British Evangelical Community over its response to Islam. The paper examines the underlying tensions and explores the implications of Evangelicalism's encounter with Islam for its future engagement with society.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

SOCIAL DIVISIONS / SOCIAL IDENTITIES

GEORGE MOORE M404

Phadi, M., Ceruti, C.

University of Johannesburg

Why do two thirds of Sowetans call themselves middle class? Meanings of class and how they link to lived experience.

Two-third of people living in the biggest township in South Africa, Soweto, label themselves as middle-class. Those adopting this label are diverse socio-economically and in life-style, ranging from shack-dwellers to a successful businesswoman. This paper explores how Sowetans articulate class, with a particular focus on the label middle. Affordability, respectability, consumption and comparison are key to people's models of class. Drawing on data from a quantitative survey of 2553 Sowetans and two rounds of qualitative interviews, the paper explores how people's lived experiences shape their understanding of class structure and stratification and how, therefore, the label middle becomes ubiquitous. Geographic space, the range of social contact for comparison and language prove to be important in understanding how diverse people can adopt the same abstract label 'middle' yet fill that container with very different details when describing what it means to be middle. The paper concludes that even when class labels do not correspond with class, class nevertheless shows through the ways people represent the details of their perceived class.

Laine, C.

Lancaster University

Marginalised by Marginality: British Cultural Studies and Class

The emergence of British Cultural Studies in the late 1950s was characterised by a concern not simply to democratise culture but to reveal the inequalities to which it often gave ideological support. It linked a critique of the essentialising nature of canons of culture which denigrated or overlooked working class cultural activity with an examination of concrete issues of the injuries of class, inequality and poverty.

The paper argues that this continuing preoccupation with marginalisation, whilst starting from laudable intentions, has had two deleterious consequences. First, through cultural studies' bedazzlement with what was marginal, it created a new orthodoxy, preserving equivalent, though different, hierarchical structures. The previously peripheral supplanted the interests of the elderly, the middle class and the educated, for example, leaving these. The second and more serious outcome has been the turn to identity politics over class. The paper shows how anti-racist and anti-sexist dialogues can often unwittingly serve as a helpmeet for neo-liberal policies. An unequal society administered with a demographically representative mix in terms of race and sex is still an unequal society. The paper suggests ways of remedying these lacunae by reinserting class into analysis, to find out why, as Bourdieu put it, the "inescapable deprivation of necessary goods" still characterises the lives of billions of people.

Johnson, A.

Centre for Community Practice

Healthy Living and the Impact of Closure: Reaction to the Closure of Govanhill IBaths (Glasgow) by the local the Black and Minority Ethnic Community

The Commission for Racial Equality's final Formal Investigation of 2007 examined the extent to which local authority regeneration schemes in England, Scotland and Wales were effectively delivering the Race Equality Duty, (RRAA (2002)). It concluded that they "had done little to ensure racial equality and good race relations were meaningfully embedded in the work they did on sustainability". It also noted that billions of pounds of public money were being invested to create brighter futures for some of the most deprived areas in the country but communities affected by these schemes were not properly involved in the regeneration process.

Under the auspices of the Govanhill Baths Community Trust and its Centre for Community Practice this Scottish government funded study brought together and "trained" some 16 members of the BME community as "community researchers". They conducted individual interviews, focus groups and open-ended discussions with a sample some 200 BME community members and local authority officers.

Under the avowed determination to conduct an "emancipatory" study rooted in a commitment to the long-term, broad based ideological struggle to transform structural inequalities, this research, in one of the most deprived and "diverse" communities in the UK, Govanhill in Glasgow, confirms and expands upon the the CRE's findings. It does so with regard to issues related to; the closure the baths in 2001, the long-term ongoing struggle to re-open them as £12.5M Wellbeing Centre run by the community and matters relating to social cohesion, social justice, health, recreation sport and swimming from a "BME" perspective.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

SPACE, MOBILITY AND PLACE

GOVAN MBEKI A526

Ebrey, J. E.

University of Chester

A Lament for the Weekend? An analysis of some spatio-temporalities of the contemporary weekend.

This paper analyses a phenomenon hitherto under represented in social theory and analysis, that of the weekend. An important institution of quotidian life, it has been remarkably resilient in the context of the perpetual change of global transformation. However, there is some evidence to suggest that its role as a possible autonomous spacetime for social actors may be fading. Does this matter? This question will be addressed through an analysis of meetings and interviews with supermarket workers and allotment keepers in the UK. Using Lefebvre's ([1974] 1991) trialectics of space, Nowotny's (1994) concept of 'proper' time and Harvey's (2009) recent matrix for understanding the spacetime relationship, the significance of the weekend in the everyday lives of those with whom I met (see above) will be assessed. Given the struggles in France over the 'times' of the working week and the recent Sunday closure of the London Midland rail network in the UK, when conductors refused to work without a weekend premium, whether the weekend matters, is an important question, with significant repercussions for us all.

Petten, I.

University of Reading

From Rock Stars to Soccer Moms: The Process and Politics of a Homogenizing Field

In the short span of about thirty-five years, body modification practices (i.e. the "atypical" practices of tattoo, piercing, scarification, suspension and related activities) in the United Kingdom and United States have crept from the margins of bodily expression toward the mainstream, losing a degree of their deviant status in the process. In spite of the geographic differences between body modifiers, there are remarkable similarities in meanings, motivations, and practices. Yet, I argue, that in order to explain this tremendous growth and similarity, we should focus our attention on the actions of individuals who are deeply involved in the culture. I demonstrate how growth and similarity mainly stem from the actions of body modifiers themselves, albeit with some unintended consequences. Rather than focus on swooping external, global market forces that would appropriate body modifiers' culture, I borrow from the insights of neoinstitutionalists who contend that the structuring processes of institutions ultimately lead to homogeneity. In this presentation, I demonstrate the usefulness of neoinstitutionalism to the study of culture. Using an actor-centred approach, I explain how the structuration of the body modification field – and the intertwined processes of professionalization, identification and legitimation – also leads to homogeneity for this particular culture.

Buscher, M.

A new interaction order? Goffman and liquid modernity

Public spaces, behaviour in public spaces and associated social skills, aspirations and opportunities for political public engagement are changing. Some theorists observe a loss of civility in public life (Bauman 2000), fueled in part by increasingly complex physical and virtual mobilities (Urry 2007). Others are more optimistic, especially about expressions of 'collective intelligence', for example, in 'smartmobs' (Rheingold 2003). Empirical studies are rare, but greatly needed to inform design, policy and everyday practice. Goffman studied behaviour between people in public places, as the 'interaction order' (1983). 2009 was the fiftieth anniversary of Goffman's classic *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life* (1959). Motivated by a similar fascination with the everyday methods of socially organised appropriation of public space, William Whyte's seminal 1980 study of New York's plazas, based on time-lapse photography and interviews, started a revolution in urban planning using qualitative data to inform design to create and sustain public spaces that help build communities. In this paper I will delineate an emergent new interaction order based on a review of empirical studies and map out opportunities for research.

Friday 9 April 2010 at 13:30 - 15:00

THEORY

GOVAN MBEKI A426F

VIOLENCE, DEVALUATION AND THE LIBIDINAL

Steed, C.

What is it that protests?: The role of human devaluation in issues of diversity and equality – a proposal

This proposal stems from psychotherapeutic counselling where I had become intrigued by the way clients would report their reactions to being disrespected or not heard.

A wider study and grounded theory has investigated the social contexts in which such reports are generated and pointed to ideas that are offered here as proposals.

Human devaluation is, I propose, a lens on social and private worlds. Narratives of response to being written down or written off, treated as worth-less or worthless lie behind experiences of many oppressive categories. Structural forces that constrain operate at the level of systems. Society continually transmits conditioning texts about who is more highly valued and who is not. Such devaluation is mediated reflexively through expectations and aspirations, image and representation. This engenders evaluation about appearance, social disapproval about who is 'standard-issue,' relative poverty effects or lack of relative income, all of which trigger core challenges. Such effects are more than social evaluation. They 'dig into' an underlying sense of self that feels devalued relative to others. Starting a new conversation about difference revolving around the idea of human devaluation extends Weberian analysis regarding the role of status in class formation and Bourdieu's notion of different forms of capital leading to people occupying similar space. We consider 7 possible advantages of re-configuring equality and injustice in terms of a sliding scale of devaluation and note ways a reflexive project of re-gaining a sense of value is crucial for the heightened self- awareness that repudiates implicit collusion with oppression.

McDonald, K

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Extreme violence: after the identity paradigm

Sociological studies of violence underline the increasing importance of extreme violence, as a form of violence significantly different from strategic or instrumental violence. Such violence involves the search for maximum deaths, the manipulation or imaging of victims, the increasing place of horror and the attempt to reorder the symbolic world through making the bodies of victims 'speak'. One response to such violence has been to locate it within theories of irrationality (fanatical violence), while more recently such violence has been located within theories of identity, where violence is understood as clarifying identity and expelling difference. This paper considers forms of extreme violence associated with the contemporary global jihadi movement, and notes that there is little presence of themes such as purity and impurity, community or the impossibility of community, all central to the identity thesis. Instead this violence appears to break down the categories of sameness and otherness, constituting experiences of strangeness, the inexperiencable and the unimaginable, while integrating themes from the occult and popular culture (conspiracy theory, hidden and revealed). These dimensions suggest that rather than analysing the central place of horror in terms of sameness and difference, this needs to be understood as a means of destroying and reconstructing spaces of experience constituted by collisions of opposites, constructed within a shared border constituted by death. This analysis suggests a shift from identity to public spheres, and has practical implications, highlighting the absence of identity dynamics in the global jihad, while also alerting us to dimensions of state violence.