

Abbas, A., Moore, J.

University of Teesside

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room E, Queens Suite

New cultural events: familiar "orders"? Exploring the impact of a new AV (audio-visual) Festival in North East England

This paper is based upon evaluations of a festival based in the North East of England in 2003 and 2006 and some pilot interview research with artists, young people and refugees and asylum seekers about inclusion/exclusion through cultural activities. The festival is spread across three cities in the North East and involves a wide range of activities including an event programme, an education programme, commissioned work and involves both local and international artists. Drawing upon the theoretical and empirical literature in the field and our own research we discuss the complexity of evaluating events of this nature in relation to their ability to facilitate the inclusion of individuals and groups deemed to be socially excluded and highlight issues with the terminology of inclusion/exclusion in relation to the arts. We discuss the position of the social inclusion agenda in the creation and reception of the AV festival and highlight the different organisational, individual and artistic involvements and activities which have attempted to respond to it. We then discuss the evidence and in so doing explore the role and potential of new festival and a new art form like audio-visual arts in facilitating inclusion.

Abdi, C.

University of Sussex

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room G, Queens Suite

diasporic gender relations: consolidated or contested? A Somali case study

This paper explores the impact of migration on Somali gender relations. I analyse the effects institutions encountered in America had on male-female interactions. I argue that migration to a Western country, where the mainstream culture, the dominant religion, and the political atmosphere in post-9/11 were perceived as alienating led to a withdrawal to a more conservative gender ideology. Men condemned women's access to new services-public assistance and legal protection from violence against women for example-as leading to 'transgressions'. Women's protests against asymmetrical gender arrangements were hence labelled as counter to tradition and religion. Vilification of women who allegedly brought about the 'downfall of men' by calling the police, and overt exaggeration of the prevalence of these practices, were expressed in poetry and in theatre pieces, and were subsequently utilized as weapons to impose limitations on women's 'transgressions'. On the other hand Somali women embraced some of the opportunities opened up by migration, while ambiguously accessing and/or condemning others. Some women partook in gender reifications, due in part to fear of isolation and stigmatization in the absence of family support networks. Others however took advantage of these opportunities. For example women gained more access to religious knowledge, which they used to bargain with men to partake in housework and childcare. Women also embraced new economic opportunities. These findings underscore how the prevailing socio-political atmosphere in the new settlement contributes to (re)interpretations of tradition and religion and hence (re)negotiations of refugee gender power relations.

Abou shady, R.

Mansoura University, Egypt

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room A, Queens Suite

Communication technology and societies developing

- Information and communication technologies (ICT) have been growing rapidly in developed countries over the last five decades.
- In contrast to the developed countries that have been steadily capitalizing on the rapid pace of ICT, a large number of developing countries, particularly low-income countries have failed in the adaptation of these technologies thus contributing to the "digital-divide" between the developed and developing countries.
- Emphasis is now placed on educational institutions to produce skilled IT/IS professionals to meet the demands of the changing world. Thus the aspirations and requisite capabilities of any advancement would only be possible with the continuing drive to develop IT/IS professionals, not only in terms of quantity, but also quality Skill sets change because there is continued change in industry perspectives and demand due to the rapid changes in technology and the current shift towards globalization.
- New information and communication technologies manifested today in the Internet emerge as a new challenge for developing countries. This challenge has been perceived in two related ways.
- It is this disparity between the 'technology-rich' and 'technology-poor', or 'have-not's', that is commonly referred to as the international digital divide. Industrialized countries are home to 88% of all internet users, yet make up only 15% of the world's population. Unsurprisingly, PC ownership levels differ dramatically between developed and developing nations.
- Co-ordinated management at both national and local levels is seen as very important for development towards an information society.

Afkhami, R.

University of Manchester

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room I, Queens Suite

Religiosity, authoritarianism and Iranian socio-political beliefs: a survey study

The study reported here analyses data collected from a sample survey of Iranian students (N 687) to, first, describe the range of socio-political beliefs held by a significant group in modern Iranian society and, second, to test several explanations about why peoples' socio-political beliefs vary.

The key problem addressed in this article is: what leads some people to be reformist liberal and others to be conservative in their socio-political stance, even though all claim to act on Islamic principles? Why, in religiously oriented Iranian politics, is there a polarised system of social and political beliefs, which is far from monolithic? Given that the contradiction revolves around an authoritarian-libertarian orientation, there is a profound impact on popular support for domestic and foreign policy issues.

After establishing the close link between religious fundamentalism and Right-Wing Authoritarianism (RWA), my argument is that a certain type of religiosity (religious fundamentalism associated with high level of religious orthodoxy) contributes to authoritarianism and tough-mindedness. In summary, the more that a person adheres to religious fundamentalism, the more likely it is that the person will be politically fundamentalist (which is inherently authoritarian) and in Iranian context Conservative. Moreover, they are submissive to religious and political leaders, while being aggressive or prejudiced toward outsiders (non-conformists and religious minorities). In this regard, exploratory and confirmatory factor analysis employed to build a measurement model for the full structural equation model (SEM).

Ainley, P.

University of Greenwich

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

Students researching students, a proposal

This is not a formal paper but an informal proposal to bring together students and staff in social science and humanities faculties across UK universities and colleges to engage in comparative and collaborative research projects that interrogate the student experience in its widest sense to include all aspects of the collective and individual lives of HE students in the UK today. The scope of these investigations cannot be specified in advance but a variety of qualitative and quantitative approaches will be encouraged through the coordination of the investigations and of their dissemination in a variety of media and genres within those media.

Humanities and social science students typically undertake such research projects, usually in their third year, thus 'teaching through research' (Jenkins 2004). Discussion will focus on how best to bring together projects through the BSA to produce an account of student experiences in full- or part-time higher education. The various student projects will work with the Higher Education Academy's Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics, as well as Warwick and Oxford Brookes Universities' Reinvention Centre and the 'Think Tank for the Student Movement' proposed by NUS (Lloyd 2003), plus the Society for Research into Higher Education's Student Experience Network.

Aldred, R.

Goldsmiths College

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room H, Queens Suite

Constructing marketised economic spaces within local health services: ordering or disordering the neoliberal project?

This paper will address the conference themes using my case study research into NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT). NHS LIFT is a centrally-led initiative which closely involves private firms in planning primary health care strategies, within marketised spaces reconfigured as 'local health economies'.

With regulationist perspectives in mind, I shall consider how - and if - LIFT is being successfully embedded in these new spaces. My case study provides evidence to assess some of the fault lines of neoliberalism, and ways in which it might succeed or fail to provide principles of governance and subjectification. How are discourses of entrepreneurialism and partnership generated, and how are participants using them to support or undermine LIFT?

I will draw on my interview and observational data in which 'regeneration experts', NHS managers and others discuss the difficulties of governing the new health care markets, and their perceptions of opposition from GPs and the public. I will also discuss data from healthcare professionals about their experiences of the new 'local health economy'. My case study is a relatively successful local LIFT company, which has met no coherent, organised resistance. However, I will argue that this is not based on a stable new order, but obtained through coercion at various levels. This is highly problematic for attempts to produce new subjectivities which might help to govern LIFT. In a final twist, however, the disorders produced are interpreted by powerful actors as evidence of the need for more - not less - neoliberalism.

Alfaro, V.

New School for Social Research

Culture

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room A, Queens Suite

"Action Reloaded: Welcome to the Sphere of the Virtual"

Changes in media, the mediated forms of social experience and the dynamics of communication have transformed the notion of 'public' over time, deconstructing and expanding what is known as the public sphere. Because media has decreased the importance of physical presence in social experience, cyberspace in general and the Internet in particular are now sites of interaction and discursive practices.

The idea of a virtual 'public agora' forces us to re-define the public sphere as a space of interaction for a deterritorialized community, where disembodied individuals engage in the use of reason, speech and criticism in continuous communicative practices. With this rearrangement of the social stage and order, both the social and spatial situation as well as the role of the actors have to be redefined. What kind of spaces and communities does cyberspace open up? How does people become involved in real -not only virtual- participation? If action were defined traditionally as an 'actual change of social conditions and structures', its scope in cyberspace would be limited. What does action mean now in the virtual sphere? Is it limited to acts of resistance and civil disobedience? Can it be posed in other terms? The virtual sphere could be "a place fit for action and speech" but we have to look at different ways in which action -as a condition of human plurality- is now mediated.

Andersen, S.H.

AKF, Denmark

Gender/Sexuality

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room G, Queens Suite

Do transitions in marital status change attitudes towards marriage?

Inspired by the identity theory formulated by Burke & Cast (1997) and Pierre Bourdieu's theory on the habitus, the aim of this paper is first of all to investigate if attitudes towards the ideal organisation of marriage is dependent on marital status, and secondly to test the need of controlling for unobserved heterogeneity when answering this question. To investigate the aspect data from the National survey of Families and Households is used and with regards to method the paper discusses if a random effects, fixed effects or regular OLS model is the better choice. When also controlling for other changes that are expected to influence a person's attitudes, the results first of all show that being separated or divorced has a significant effect on a person's ideals about the organisation of marriage. This result supports the hypotheses raised by Burke & Cast's identity theory. The results also indicate that it is important to test for unobserved heterogeneity when discussing this matter - whereby a hypothesis based on the bourdieuan theory on the habitus is supported - and that a fixed effects model is the better choice when examining this question.

Apaydin, H.

University of Essex

Citizenship

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room I, Queens Suite

Eurocentrism and Sociological Ordering of World (History): Citizenship between the Natural and the Social in Max Weber

The increasing preeminence of the subject of citizenship in sociological and political studies in the last two decades has not yet dispelled the charge that citizenship is not theorized adequately in sociology. Theoretical or historical studies of citizenship in sociology generally make clear that it is T.H. Marshall's work that form the base or the model they proceed from. Without challenging the undeniable centrality of T.H. Marshall for any sociology of citizenship, I will argue that the account of the development of citizenship in the Occident in Max Weber provides another valuable starting point for a more sociological critique and theorizing of citizenship. It is argued that Weber's account of citizenship parallels his account of capitalistic modernity. However, along the way, Occidental particularity of citizenship is also morally affirmed in such a way that the end result of this particularity, abstracted individualization of human beings, is presented as the sole model of partially overcoming the essential "tension" with the world or historical development. The unquestioning and implicit acceptance of Weberian model of citizenship not only reinforces the apparent universality of the particular and unique experience of citizenship in the West but also reduces the richness of historical and contemporary forms of membership to a single model which is already declared unique and hence unrepeatable/inimitable.

Aune, K.

University of Derby

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room I, Queens Suite

"Restoring God's order" or living post-feminist lives? British Evangelical Christianity and the (late)modern gender order

This paper explores the construction of gender in one of the fastest-growing segments of British evangelical Christianity, the New Frontiers International movement (NFI). Beginning in the 1970s and with a current membership of 28,000, NFI set out to recreate what they saw as the New Testament pattern for social life. Promoting male authority within marriage, 'responsible' fatherhood within a nuclear family and male-only church leadership, NFI aimed to 'restore God's order' to British society.

But what is the relationship between evangelical manifestations of gender and those of their less religious counterparts? This paper will argue that the gender order NFI promote as 'biblical' closely resembles the ideological project of 'secular' modernity. Yet the modern gender order NFI adopted is undergoing a process of erosion as changes associated with late modernity have advanced. Consequently, while NFI's leaders continue upholding the modern gender order, their members' lives are becoming increasingly dissociated from it. Evangelicals today assert their allegiance to the modern gender order, yet are living lives that may more accurately be termed 'post-feminist'. I illustrate this with reference to Judith Stacey (1987, 1990, 1998) and Angela McRobbie's (2003, 2004) conceptualizations of post-feminism as the simultaneous avowal of feminist ideals and nostalgia for the modern (non-feminist) gender order that is accompanying post-industrialization.

Data from fifteen months' participant observation at an urban congregation and NFI's larger-scale public events are discussed, together with data from structured interviews with twenty NFI members. This material is augmented by analysis of NFI's publications and

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

University of Edinburgh Medical School

Food Study Group Stream

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room 1, Exhibition Area

Teenagers, eating and weight: views and experiences of parents in poorer socio-economic circumstances

Recent alarm about rising levels of obesity in the population as a whole has brought everyday food choice and eating behaviour in families to the fore as topics of general social and health concern. In particular, there has been a focus on obesity in adolescence as the proportion of overweight teenagers in the UK increases; concern is also expressed about the social class dimensions of these changes. For example, such changes in eating behaviour and food choice, and their potential impacts on future health, are now being constructed as social threats, presenting challenges to scarce health care resources. To date, research and health promotion has focussed more on other teenage behaviours defined as risky or disorderly, such as smoking, binge drinking and casual sex. Consequently, we know relatively little about how parents in poorer socio-economic circumstances themselves view and interpret any risks attached to their teenagers' everyday food related practices and, for instance, how they make sense of the body size and shape of their early teenage children. This paper reports findings about parents' accounts of these issues, drawn from a qualitative study in Scotland where 36 'normal' and 'overweight' boys and girls aged 13-14 years and 34 of their parents/main carers were interviewed in depth. In this paper we examine parents' understandings of their teenagers' tastes and eating behaviours, at home and away from home. We also discuss some of the ways that parents contextualized teenagers' dietary habits, body size and shape within their own meaningful frames of reference.

Barnes, R.

University of Nottingham

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room G, Queens Suite

What's gender got to do with it?: A consideration of gender orders in abusive woman-to-woman relationships

In this paper, I draw upon the findings of my qualitative research into woman-to-woman partner abuse to explore gender orders and the process of 'doing gender' in abusive woman-to-woman relationships. The growth of a body of literature about 'doing gender' in lesbian relationships has highlighted the potential for gender roles to be more fluid and more open to negotiation in lesbian relationships, particularly with regard to the division of domestic labour (Oerton, 1998; Dunne, 1997). This literature has been important in challenging entrenched assumptions that lesbian relationships tend to be based on a butch/femme model which rigidly replicates traditional masculine and feminine gender roles. However, I found that in my own research, over a quarter of the forty women who I interviewed described having traditional feminine gender roles or butch/femme roles imposed upon them, and a significant minority of the sample also reported striking inequalities in the division of domestic labour. Further, almost half of the sample described being pressured to change their physical appearance, including their dress, hair length or body size. In this paper, I explore the influence of gender upon the dynamics of abuse in woman-to-woman relationships, and I also consider the similarities and differences between gender orders in abusive heterosexual relationships and gender orders in abusive woman-to-woman relationships.

Bassett, R., Beagan, B., Chapman, G.

Dalhousie University, Canada

Cities/Spaces

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room H, Queens Suite

Gender, Generations and Gastronomy: Order and its resistance in the kitchen

In the past two decades, women's increasing involvement in the labour force has been accompanied by change in the domestic division of labour. In the 1980s, Murcott (1979/80) and Charles & Kerr (1988) reported the preparation of main meals as predominantly the responsibility of women. Murcott suggested that it was in recognition of their husbands' responsibility to earn the family wage that wives took sole responsibility for meal preparation.

Further, meals were prepared that catered to their husbands' tastes. More recently, Kemmer, Anderson & Marshall (1998) found that women asserted their right to cook what they chose, rather than deferring to men's choices. In this qualitative study about how decisions are made with regards to food preparation, food shopping and clean-up among three groups in Canada (Punjabi, African-Nova Scotian, and Caucasian) we found women (mothers, wives, partners) in families remain responsible for those tasks, but for reasons different to those suggested by the above literature. In our study, it is predominantly the children who influence food decisions, while men appear to have less influence compared with the past. Women seldom cater to only their own food preferences. We explore these changes in the division of labour in the household as an effect of current discourses of individualization, health, gender, family and childrearing.

The findings from the interviews of men, women, and children from 40 Canadian families (10 Punjabi, 10 African Nova Scotian and 20 Caucasian families) will be presented to illustrate this change.

Berry, M.

University of Glasgow

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room E, Queens Suite

How Television News Journalism Affects Public Understanding of the Israel/Palestine Conflict

The research reported here is the result of a three year ESRC funded study which looked at how British television news reported on the Palestinian Intifada and how reporting was linked to public understanding of the conflict. Our content analysis indicated that television news concentrated largely on the day to day violence of the Intifada at the expense of providing information about the history or origins of the conflict. The research also found that Israeli perspectives tended to predominate, and that Israeli casualties were more likely to be reported (and reported differently linguistically) than Palestinian casualties. Our audience research groups brought together members of the public with television news journalists such as George Alagiah from the BBC and Lindsey Hilsum from Channel Four in order to examine what audience members understood of the conflict. Our findings indicated that most viewers were extremely confused about key elements of the conflict and that such gaps in audience understandings closely mirrored explanatory absences in television news reports. We also found that viewers' levels of interest in the conflict was closely linked to their level of understanding. If viewers didn't understand a story they turned away. Conversely providing more context, and clear explanations increased their involvement and interest. We concluded by examining some of the factors which influenced the production of news in this area. These included pressures to maximise audiences, public relations, lobbying, journalist-source relationships, attempts to intimidate journalists and broadcasters and the importance of Britain's 'special relationship' with the United States.

Bertschi, S.

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room H, Queens Suite

Being inside or being left out: Neoliberal communities behind gates

The proposed paper is aimed at understanding the links between a fast growing form of suburban housing and its implications for the dichotomy of order and disorder. Through an analysis of guarded, autonomous and exclusive housing developments, so-called gated communities, a culture of inclusion and exclusion becomes visible. The paper builds on a previous attempt to position this phenomenon between neoliberalism and communitarianism. These two ideologies father contradictory general tendencies in contemporary society, and they have more in common than originally expected. Gated communities seem to reveal a cumulative popularity of "communalization" (M. Weber, F. Toennies) in recent years. Might this raise in community bonds be due to neoliberal influences, and what would this imply for social interaction? The paper points to the limitations of such an approach and welcomes the opportunity to include the promising dichotomy of order and disorder. Are gated communities able to bring social order to a neoliberal way of life, or are they leading to an even bigger disorder in society? Therefore, the hypothesis is advanced that an increasing "communalization" leads to more social order and that security is an increasingly needed good. The paper concludes by discussing the implications of such an intended ideological convergence for the dichotomy of order and disorder and sociological research.

Birenbaum-Carmeli, D.

University of Haifa, Israel

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room A, Queens Suite

On the Social Making of Sense: Social Order Facing Reproductive Technologies

Some of the situations and dilemmas that are invoked through the use of assisted reproduction technologies are constituted as unprecedented, challenging accepted modes of sense-making and prevailing social order. The proposed paper explores the public debate that surrounded one such case in Israel, that of a legal dispute between estranged partners over the right to have their fertilized eggs implanted in a surrogate mother. The paper explores how, in the course of the debate, existing ideas regarding gender relations and social order more generally, were reinforced through being selected as frames of reference for the complex case. At the same time, some prevailing notions were challenged and modified when being applied to a new situation. My general suggestion is that even when grappling with a novel type of dilemma, societal response appears to be of an evolutionary – rather than a revolutionary - character, i.e., that the political consequences of new procreative technologies, though conceptualized as unprecedented, may still be contained within accepted notions and understandings not less than be constituted as carriers of social change. As such, the public debate of reproductive disruptions may become a vehicle of both, enhancement of existing power relations, as well as social transformation.

Birks, J.

University of Glasgow

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

'Voice of the people' - how local and regional press campaign on public policy

This paper aims to illuminate press interventions in social order through a case study of a local evening newspaper campaign, with comparative reference to other campaigns of different types. It will examine how the campaign was selected, what outcomes were pursued, and how the public were represented, as well as methods used to engage political opinion, including via public opinion.

My contention is that newspapers aim to demonstrate to politicians that they have influence over their readers, rather than to represent existing views of readers to politicians. Where readership is high, newspaper purchase is taken as proof of mandate, whilst smaller newspapers hold less influence and need to recruit public opinion to effect a change.

Local and regional press often position themselves as the 'voice of the people'. This claim for a democratic function beyond providing information to citizens is related to the fourth estate role of holding leaders to account, but goes further in advocating certain policies over others.

The mandate that newspapers claim for bringing this pressure to bear varies between titles, and accordingly they fit variously into different models of democratic order. These range from the representative, in the sense of a nominated spokesperson or advocate, to the participatory, as in public demonstrations, the majoritarian, where popular opinion can marginalise minority interests, to the deliberative, seeking consensus or settling for compromise. This goes to the heart of the debate on the role of public opinion in democracy.

Bishop, L.

ESDS Qualidata

Food Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room 1, Exhibition Area

Have it your way: food, choice and neo-liberalism

In the contemporary era, neo-liberalism - the ideology that markets driven by individual choice are the optimal form of social organisation—is being incorporated into domestic food production through the vehicle of "choice". This paper examines "choice" at various phases of domestic food production: the role of individual preference in meal planning (especially children's tastes), consumer choice in grocery shopping, "choice" as a food retailing strategy, and so on. Recently much cultural analysis defined choice as an essential element in establishing agency and identity. This paper challenges some of these analyses and instead seeks a theoretical framework (in the tradition of Bourdieu) that also takes into account the factors that structure choice, such as habits, rituals, and so on. In this way, choice is situated in the wider social economic context, with particular attention paid to matters of class and gender.

Bishop, L.

ESDS Qualidata

Qualitative Data Panel

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 12.40

Room D, Queens Suite

A reflexive case study of secondary analysis focused on the topic of convenience food and choice

This paper asks if reusing data is different from using it, and if so, how do those differences manifest themselves? Several phases of the research process are examined: defining the subject area, initial sampling, later sample expansion and topic refinement, the roles of context and consent, closeness to-and distance from-data during analysis, and others. Although key differences exist regarding the researcher-respondent relationship, many similarities are also found, and the differences need not preclude doing qualitative research that satisfies community standards.

Bivens, R.K.

University of Glasgow

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room A, Queens Suite

The future of broadcasting: new technology and the production of news

Over the last twenty years widespread technological development has occurred, and the adoption of these new technologies by mainstream media organizations has revolutionized the production of news. Since analysis of these production processes has remained largely absent throughout this period, this paper investigates the influence of new technologies on operations in and outside of the newsroom. While previous research decisively informs us that news is a constructed reality, much of it pre-planned as opposed to spontaneous, technological advancement has altered the conditions under which this construction takes place. These transformations impact the information gathering process and opportunities for production outside of traditional power structures that influence the construction of news - internal organizational pressure and external pressure from governments and interest groups in the wider society.

Since the mainstream media occupies such a crucial position within the relationship between public knowledge and democratic action, research must now re-assess this relationship and its implications for social order. Furthermore, the contradiction between the traditional dependency on official sources for the construction of news and an ever-expanding volume of sources in an 'information society' must be explored.

Based on interviews conducted for my current PhD research project, this paper considers the following new technologies and their impact on the production of news: computers in the newsroom; digital transmission of information from news agencies; digital imaging technology; satellite technology; and, citizen journalism - a product of both the increasing accessibility of mobile phones and video equipment and the escalating importance of 'blogs' and online news information.

Blokland, T.

Erasmus University, The Netherlands

Crime

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room B, Queens Suite

"This place is so fucking depressing and you can't hide from it": practices of women's disengagement in a high crime US housing project

Theories of social capital and classic studies of poor communities share a common image of poor neighbourhoods as hard, but yet especially among women as socially supportive. Ever since Stacks All our kin the positive sides of social networks in poor communities have received most attention. While understandable, it is questionable whether this positive imagery is always correct. This paper draws on a case study of an American housing project in a New England town, nicknamed 'the ghetto' by its residents, to refine the social capital theory and question over-romanticized views of poor communities. The main question of this paper why women don't get together to support each other even though they share similar life experiences, grew up in similar circumstances and sometimes the same neighbourhood, and are as most are victims of crimes clearly in need of social support, and are part of a local network. Using ethnographic accounts collected during fieldwork between 2000-2004, I argue that competition rather than cooperation characterizes these networks, that mistrust rather than trust dominated the social mechanisms within them and that last but not least dis-identifying with the neighbourhood and thus with others in the neighbourhood is a powerful way to maintain self respect. This, then, implies a critique on some of the social work practices regarding community formation in poor neighbourhoods, as well as on oversimplified notions of 'bridging' and 'bonding' as drawn from social capital theory.

Bolognani, M.

University of Leeds

Crime

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

Community disorder, Social Control and ethnic minorities' views: a Bradford Pakistani case study

The issue of criminality in the Pakistani community of Bradford is not new (cf. Mawby and Batta 1980) but has recently become of greater concern for the press and local institutions. The growth in episodes of violence has been investigated by writers, starting from dramatic events such as the 1995 and 2001 riots, but also including the implication of drugs in violent crime (Mahoney, 2001, Taj, 1996, Webster, 2003, 1999, 1996), violence on women (Afshar, 1989, Beckett and Macey 2001, Macey, 1999a, 1999b) and involvement of very young boys in public disorders (Macey, 2001, Samad, 1996). Mostly, the analysis has been centred on deprivation and class, with a few examples (i.e. Macey 2001) trying to combine structural factors with cultural ones. Overall, the knowledge ABOUT minorities has not been yet reconciled with knowledge BY minorities (cf. Phillips and Bowling 2003:270). This paper will try to highlight the themes that characterise the debate about crime and crime prevention within the Bradford Pakistani Community, focussing in particular on parenting, generational gap, 'youth culture, religion and religious education, formal education, structural and economic constraints and gender differences. This paper is based on a doctoral research developed through ethnographic methods of enquiry.

Borja, C.

Gender/Sexuality

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room G, Queens Suite

Attitudes towards Adultery in contemporary Great Britain

Adultery is a conception that has divided human gender throughout history. It has been only in the last 80 years, that English Law has granted wives a right exercised by husbands, at least, since 1857: to divorce on the grounds of their spouse's extramarital sexual behaviour. Although the general trend is that, in contemporary Great Britain, the justification of marriage is more likely to happen within the non-British citizens, in general, the perceived costs of committing Adultery are still higher for females than for males. This research is an inductive effort that responds to a growing demand for Sociologists to combine statistical analysis of available large-scale surveys; with evidence collected by qualitative means: On the one hand, secondary analysis of qualitative data unveils important causal mechanisms, but it faces methodological problems of generalizability, reliability and validity. On the other hand, secondary analysis of quantitative data based on a random-representative sample allows generalizing its findings on the population, but the statistical associations between the significant variables is somehow abstract. Based on the methodological strengths of both, I will undertake statistical modelling of the last wave of the European and World Values Surveys (1999) and will connect its results to Annette Lawson's main findings, in order to better understand the associations that: values, beliefs and personal socio-demographic characteristics, might have on the level of justification of Adultery in contemporary Great Britain.

Brace, E.

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room I, Queens Suite

The influence of institutional processes on the sexual subjectivity of women who have learning disabilities

Western sexual discourses have framed people with learning disabilities as either asexual and childlike (Keywood 2001) or as sexually 'dangerous' (McDonagh 2000). Women with learning disabilities have been seen as both more sexually vulnerable and more sexually dangerous than their male counterparts (Brigham 2000). Although these discourses have informed and been informed by past social policies, policy in the last fifty years has increasingly focused on ensuring equal rights for people with learning disabilities. Theoretically this should include equal sexual rights, and perhaps more importantly it should influence the way in which this group are perceived in relation to their sexuality.

This presentation will outline PhD research which explores the influence of this changing social climate on women with learning disabilities, with particular reference to their sense of self in relation to sexuality. Drawing on Foucauldian and symbolic interactionist notions that sexuality (and a sense of 'self' in relation to sexuality) is 'produced' through discourses and sexual scripts, as well as contemporary debates around the social construction of disability, it will present the results of an analysis of in-depth interviews with women who have learning disabilities. The following themes will be discussed:

- models of sexuality used by the women
- institutional influences on the women
- constraint and autonomy

This research aims to provide policy-makers, practitioners and other researchers with insight into the ways in which a group of women with learning disabilities living in the North-east of England perceive sexuality, and perceive themselves in relation to sexuality.

Bramley, A.

University of Bristol

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room D, Queens Suite

Ordered and disordered colonial history: The oral histories of white British colonial women

British colonial history has often been represented as a masculine venture, which is factually based and focuses on the roles of male ministers, governors and administrators in Britain's territories. Various groups have either been acknowledged or ignored in histories, asserting a public sense of order over this element of Britain's past. The stories of groups that usually go unacknowledged threaten this public sense of order.

My research amongst white British 'colonial' women who lived in east Africa, prior to the independence period, has shown that they do not feel an accurate representation of their presence in the British colonies exists in the public sphere. More often, such women are depicted as accessories to the Empire; more interested in socialising, entertaining and relying on the work of their 'houseboys' than in the bigger and better things their husbands achieved.

The oral histories of these women have shown that, especially if born in east Africa, they still view it as their 'home.' Looking back, they appreciate the freedom it provided. Their own pasts privately present a sense of order. Yet this sense of order does not correspond with the crafted colonial histories of the public sphere. In addition, whilst feminism and postcolonialism have rightly provided a space for critiquing this past, such critiques have imposed a sense of disorder upon these women. This presentation will conceptualise the ways that different histories and critiques of these histories, impose order/disorder on these women, addressing some of the not so ordered remnants of colonialism.

Brooks, R.

University of Surrey

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room G, Queens Suite

Friends, peers and higher education: the 'ordering' of student relationships

Theorists of friendship in contemporary society have suggested that our relationships with peers are characterised by their emphasis on openness, disclosure and emotional communication. Moreover, Beck and Beck-Gernsheim (1995) argue that friendship, as a deliberately sought, trusting partnership between two people, can play an important role in countering some of the negative consequences of a market-driven society, 'acting as a shared lifeline to take the weight of each other's confusions and weaknesses' (p.164).

However, drawing on a series of in-depth interviews with students from nine different higher education institutions, this paper will argue that such theorists overlook significant complexity in the ways in which young adults choose to 'order' their friendships. Indeed, it will suggest that highly individualized and ruthlessly competitive approaches to academic study can be maintained alongside more socially co-operative relationships with friends and peers, played out in non-academic arenas. It will discuss the implications of this for both sociological theorizing about friendship, and policy and practice within the higher education sector.

Brosnan, C.

University of Cambridge

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room C, Queens Suite

Continuity and change in the uncertainty of medical education and medical knowledge

Fifty years ago, Renée Fox (1957) characterised medical education as 'training for uncertainty', identifying 3 types of uncertainty which medical students confront: (1) uncertainty associated with the impossibility of mastering the enormous body of medical knowledge; (2) uncertainty lying beyond the bounds of current medical knowledge; and, (3) uncertainty over distinguishing which of these two factors explains one's lack of knowledge. Fox's classic essay was published when the medical profession was at a zenith of power and medical education rested comfortably on the biomedical model. The challenges to medical professional power and knowledge mounted since the 1950s by alternative healthcare movements, patient lobby groups and the failures of biomedicine, are reflected in shifts in medical education towards more holistic, humanistic curricula, represented by the introduction of communication skills, ethics and medical sociology courses, and teaching methods which replace the didactic transmission of facts with student-centred, problem-based learning. In light of these changes, this paper revisits the concept of 'uncertainty' in the context of contemporary British medical education, drawing on data collected through participant observation and in-depth interviews with students and faculty at 2 medical schools. This study reveals that several new forms of uncertainty have emerged in medical education, revolving around patient autonomy and the legitimacy of biomedicine itself. Furthermore, not only students but faculty members experience these new uncertainties. It is argued that increasing uncertainties in medical education are manifestations of the uncertainty facing medicine as a profession.

Brown, A

Edge Hill

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

'Graphic Stories of Mutiny': The Dartmoor Prison Riot 1932

On the 24th of January 1932 the Dartmoor 'mutiny' erupted in a way that had not been seen in an English convict prison since the riot in Chatham Convict Prison in 1861. What may initially have been an attempt by convicts to remonstrate with the Governor over the poor quality of the food and alleged brutality by prison officers quickly escalated as convicts took over the prison. There was some physical violence by convicts but most of the violence was turned against the fabric of the prison, the personal files and official documentation. Yet, in other respects the riot took on a celebratory feel with convicts eating, smoking and dancing to others playing musical instruments belonging to the prison band. There was little resistance when, roughly two hours after the riot began, prison officers, in combination with armed police, organised a baton charge and the prison was retaken.

What is remarkable about this riot is that thirty-two of the rioters were charged and a special Assize was set up to try them - it became a public event, a media trial. The historical records generated by this riot and the trial that followed it reveal a great deal about the penal politics of the time, attitudes towards inmates in Dartmoor (the 'recidivists' prison), and the internal dynamics of the prison. These and other aspects of the Dartmoor Prison 'mutiny' will be discussed in this paper.

Brown, S.

University of Sunderland

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Restoring Order After Murder: The Science, the Soul and the Watertight Case

To what does murder investigation attend? Perhaps surprisingly there are several answers to this question, and detection is by no means an obvious and rational activity.

This paper is based on interviews with detectives and related personnel working on serious incidents. Taking examples from murder cases, it explores how order is sought after the disordering of a violent killing, with a focus on the interstices between the 'science' and the 'soul'. Whilst increasing emphasis is placed on the sciencing of crime detection through forensic techniques and technological procedures, the disordered souls surrounding the life of the victim must be attended to: families, friends, and the public chorus assembled, crucially, through media interventions. It is argued that the science and the soul are not separate spheres of endeavour: the apparent facticity of science forms a highly symbolic part of re-assembling coherence in private and public lives, whilst the processes of detection are also inextricably linked with emotional need in the establishment of truth and blame, vengeance and justice.

The paper draws on insights from sociology, anthropology and cultural studies as well as criminology to consider, at the theoretical level, the link between science and emotions, and at the practical level, implications of this for the utilization of costly and intrusive scientific techniques in the search for the 'watertight case'. The role of the media is articulated as central throughout the discussion in the notion of a publically disordered soul and the quest for resolution.

Burridge, J.

Loughbrough University

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room F, Queens Suite

The order of 'ordinariness': the hunting community as a minority of ordinary people?

The paper will discuss the rhetorical strategies at work in poster campaigns run between 2002 and 2004 by the Countryside Alliance as part of their attempt to defeat the ban on hunting with dogs. In particular it will utilize insights from discursive and rhetorical psychology and membership categorization analysis to explore the ways in which the posters display assumptions regarding how hunters are understood by the posters' projected audience. It will also examine how they are directly involved in attempting to problematize many of the associated expectations that their audience is assumed to possess.

Drawing upon other examples of discourse produced by those defending hunting, the paper will also explore some of the ways in which 'ordinariness' is configured and used as a resource within a wider rhetorical strategy pursuing legitimacy for hunting. Moreover, it will discuss the extent to which this strategy is mixed in with claims that these 'ordinary people' who are claimed to be drawn from 'all walks of life' are also an oppressed minority group deserving protection.

Rather than using this arguable inconsistency to critique the organisations' approach directly, the paper will be interested in the way in which the different strategies represent responses to different rhetorical threats in a manner similar to the way that other 'identity' based social and political groups face a dilemma regarding how to portray who and what they are, i.e., the question of how similar or different, how ordinary or special they should claim to be?

Butler, C.

Cardiff University

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room D, Queens Suite

Illusions of Order and Control: Socio-Environmental Issues, Risk Methodologies and the Pursuit of Certainty

Science is often perceived as the primary knowledge base on which policy decisions are taken. At the same time policy-makers appear to find difficulty in acting on scientific knowledge if it does not provide the level of certainty desired. Today many of the most pressing problems are characterised by uncertainty and indeterminacy; nuclear waste, the effects of genetic modification and global warming to mention just a few such concerns. The inherent im/materiality, in/visibility and temporal complexity of these issues means that the continuing attempts to achieve greater certainty through 'further research' are futile; the indeterminacy is inescapable. The scientific and economic methodologies upon which we currently rely continue to be focused upon prediction, calculation and control. These inadequate methodologies and a continuing reliance on certainty in political decision-making constrain our ability to effectively deal with contemporary hazards. This paper examines the issues of flooding and climatic change exploring the policy and practices surrounding the socio-environmental issues and the links that are made between them. Researching these particular hazards provides a unique opportunity to gain an understanding of the difficulties that arise in dealing with a possible symptom of an un/certain, in/tangible issue like anthropogenic climate warming through the current dominant knowledge bases. It appears that uncertainty, the reliance on inadequate methodologies, the necessity for economic success and the difficulty for people in comprehending the links between socio-environmental hazards and their effects, contribute to the inappropriate actions [or lack of actions] that prevail in relation to climatic change and flooding.

Byrne, B.

University of Manchester

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room H, Queens Suite

More than class in the classroom: race, place and schooling choice

Since the education reforms of the late 1980s, parents have increasingly been positioned as consumers within the education system. Discourses of choice emphasise parental responsibility for decisions around schooling, thereby sidelining the role of both Local Education Authorities and teachers. Schools face the challenge of 'selling' themselves to prospective parents and parents have to negotiate these real and apparent choices. Over the same period, an important sociological literature has emerged which examines the nature of parental choices, with a particular focus on the practices of middle class parents. These have resulted in debates as to the extent to which middle class parents are using and manipulating markets in schooling as a means of reproducing class privilege. Whilst this literature has illuminated many of these processes and the ways in which class and space come together in the reproduction of social and cultural capitals, there has been surprisingly little reference to questions of race and ethnicity. This paper will contend that the debates over the reproduction of class through schooling choice fail to 'see' the middle class actors as racialised because they are largely white. The paper will argue that the ways in which parents negotiate school markets is not only producing a reproduction of class privilege, but is also racialised. Thus, it will show that it is in the interlocking locales presented by school catchment areas, housing prices and provision, transport and other facilities that critical processes in the racialisation of place and space may be observed.

Byrne, D., Olsen, W., Duggan, S.

University of Durham

Realism Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

Configurational causality - determinism in place of probabilistic cause

Traditional methods of quantitative causal modelling provide us with probabilistic models which can inform us as to outcomes across a very large number of cases, but even then can only do so in relation to a proportion of cases. For example a logistic regression model which achieved an overall explanatory power of 80% for both values in a binary outcome would be regarded as very good. In contrast methods which seek to establish configurational causes work in quite a different way. For resolved configurations such models are absolutely deterministic. If a case is in a resolved configuration set, then it will have the outcome associated with that configuration. This offers a very different 'power of prediction' since we can deal with outcomes in relation to single cases. From a realist point of view the whole idea of 'causal configuration' is inherently in accord with the realist proposition that: Mechanism & context => outcome

We may not have the capacity to predict for all cases - notably those in 'contradictory configuration' sets. But that should send us looking for more causal complexity. For those cases which do accord with configurations, we have very considerable predictive power. This proposition will be demonstrated using TOSMANA for a data set describing English secondary schools.

Calvo, K.

University of Essex

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room I, Queens Suite

Becoming rights warriors: explaining the political strategizing of the Spanish gay and lesbian movement

The paper discusses the role of rights-based discourses in social movements' strategizing process. It studies the discourse, ideology and strategies of gay and lesbian organizations in Spain. The literature on social movements has not convincingly addressed the role of rights-based discourses in contemporary forms of organized protest. Social movements are said to be undergoing a radical process of "institutionalization", which leads to the incapacity to bring about major social and political change. This, however, needs to be substantiated by rigorous empirical work.

By considering the strategizing process of Spanish gay and lesbian organizations, the paper will shed light over the question of why social movements transform their discourses, ideology and strategies to align with rights-based ideas. This will help understand why, and how, most social movements have become "members" in their polities. It will be argued that social movements see rights in purely strategic terms: they are a means to pass what it will be defined as the "test of institutional credibility". Embracing rights-based discourses has become a compulsory requisite for social movements that see accessing the polity as the most efficient route towards success. In short, because of their compelling normative power, rights-based frameworks have become the safe pass towards polity membership by social movements.

This, it will be defended, is not context-specific: in spite of variations in the domestic structure of political opportunities, movements seeking access to the polity are everywhere required to espouse those frames of action that confer institutional credibility to the claimant.

Canaan, J.E.

University of Central England

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

Sand in the Machine: Enabling HE Students to Engage Critically with the World

This paper explores my recent pedagogical efforts to use popular education insights to encourage students to critically engage with the world. I explore how I have begun to develop popular education insights further than previously on a new module first taught in autumn 2005. I consider how my pedagogy was enabled by opportunities offered by new neo-liberal initiatives and consider the degree to which I could subvert the ends imagined by the architects of these initiatives. I suggest that the fact that progressive interventions could occur when HE is being marketised and commodified and academic freedom is under threat indicates that popular education is still possible and vitally important in mainstream HE today although how far it can be taken will be a central point the paper will discuss. Nonetheless, in the current climate of crisis in HE and in the world more generally, those of us committed to popular education must continue to act as 'the sand, not the oil, in the works of the world' (Eich in Kotze 2005:19). By doing so we can encourage students to learn in ways that work against them becoming future fodder that lubricates the machine and towards building a future that affirms their own and others' human dignity.

Carter, B.

University of Warwick

Realism Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

Languages, nations and identities: an emergentist approach

Debates about the relationship of languages to forms of social identity, particularly those associated with nationalisms, often make a number of assumptions: about languages (that they are relatively bounded, embody significant elements of national cultures and are linked to territorial units); about collectivities (that there are distinguishable groups which have shared histories, languages and cultures); and about social agency (that it is expressed chiefly in cultural forms such as ethnonational identities and politics). This paper questions these assumptions, using the functional linguistics associated with Halliday and the work of social theorists Archer and Layder. Combining these approaches, the paper argues for a view of languages and cultures as emergent, a position which rejects the linking of 'nation' with 'ethnicity' and notions of shared cultures. Instead it draws attention to the ways in which access to cultural and linguistic resources is structured, firstly through the deep social divisions among speakers of the same language and secondly through the pre-eminent role of English as a global language. The paper concludes that the distribution of this access is a political issue, not an issue of either the nature of language or the nature of knowledge. This has implications for how policy makers approach key questions of languages and social identities in an enlarged EU.

Carter, D.M.

University of Hull

Culture

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room A, Queens Suite

'Order and Disorder in the Virtual City'

While raising questions about the position of the city in sociological practice, much of the existing discourse has failed to acknowledge that there is a new kind of city out there, the virtual city. However, while the virtual city as a general analytical category may richly fulfil its function as a focal point for cultural meanings, this role may also be problematic, as revealed by my own fieldsite, Cybertown. Against a background that boasts the absence of a shared history of meaning, a new virtual community has been constructed in which human relationships appear to be organised more perfectly than in everyday life. Within this city, being a good citizen is organised around discourses of harmony and unity. This in turn leads to questions about the enforcement of community ideals articulated through the control of both images and texts within the virtual city. By addressing these issues, my aim is not to represent some new model of the city. Rather, it is an attempt to stimulate discussion that will allow a movement towards new models of cities that are central to sociological

Castro, J.E.

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room I, Queens Suite

Civil disobedience, water struggles, and citizenship rights in comparative perspective: cases from Europe and Latin America

The paper explores the links between contemporary water struggles and the development of citizenship in Europe and Latin America. It adopts a historical-sociological and comparative approach to capture the interconnections between the evolution of the social forms of appropriation and management of water and the formation of citizenship rights. It argues that water (property) rights can be considered to be part of the bundle of civil rights, while the rights and duties involved in the governance and management of aquatic ecosystems and essential water services are a component of the political rights of citizenship. Likewise, the universal right to essential water services would belong in the group of social rights. New rights and duties are recognized over time as a result of ongoing social struggles for the expansion and extension of citizenship, which has also brought about the progressive inclusion of growing numbers of human beings into the territory of citizenship. However, both the boundaries of the territory and the scope for accessing it are also subject to reversion and collapse, as it has actually happened as a result of the cancellation of acquired social rights through the neoliberal reforms implemented worldwide since the 1980s. The paper argues that the extended civil disobedience prompted by neoliberal water policies since the 1980s is an expression of broader social struggles over the territory of citizenship. In this connection, central attention is paid to the interweaving between the formation of citizenship and the power configurations emerging around the governance and management of water.

Cederberg, M.

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room I, Queens Suite

"Good migrants and bad migrants: the management of difference"

This paper explores how difference is managed in contemporary Sweden. Drawing on media representations of migrants and minority ethnic groups, it discusses how social spaces are constructed through the production of difference alongside the operation of normative codes. It goes beyond the dichotomy between inclusion and exclusion to consider the conditions inclusion entails. Looking at identity spaces constructed on either side of the inclusion/exclusion barrier, it suggests that these follow dominant ideas about what it means to be a good or a bad migrant. The 'bad' migrant in contemporary Sweden is a migrant unable to conform to Swedish values and laws (the criminal or disorderly migrant) and/or dependent on social welfare (the scrounging migrant). The 'good' migrant on the other hand is the employed migrant, who contributes to the net economy under any circumstances (often accepting downwards mobility); a migrant who does not make claims for neither the right to difference nor the right to equality: a migrant who, in the words of a newspaper article about a highly educated Bosnian woman working as a cleaner, accepts that 'when you move you can no longer choose'. The paper then goes on to consider the lived reality of otherness and normativity by looking at narratives of Bosnian and Somali refugees living in Sweden. Comparing their experiences, it furthermore argues that the simultaneous operation of processes that exclude and press for conformity leaves some migrants, marked as culturally (read essentially) different, unable to become fully accepted despite 'being good'.

Cheetham, M.

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

BSA Youth Study Group: 'Young People, Citizenship and Identity'

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

Young People, Sexuality and Relationships: promoting sexual health

The C-Card Scheme provides young people under 25 with access to free condoms through a targeted, co-ordinated, community-based condom distribution network. It has been heralded as a model of 'promising practice' in the context of the UK teenage pregnancy strategy (Teenage Pregnancy Unit 2000). Using qualitative research methods, I am undertaking focus groups and one-to-one in-depth interviews to explore the impact of the C-Card on young people's sexual attitudes, knowledge, beliefs and behaviour, drawing on the views, thoughts and ideas of young people aged 14 – 18 who are registered with the scheme. Their perspectives will shed light on the factors which influence young people's sexual decision-making and improve our understanding of the (gendered) strategies by which sexual encounters are negotiated and managed by young women and young men in the North East of England. In this paper, I will be exploring the social and cultural meanings associated with sex, relationships, contraception and condoms in the lives of young people and some of the methodological and ethical considerations to have emerged throughout the research process.

Chowdhury, S.

University of Essex

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room D, Queens Suite

Restorative justice for Juvenile Delinquency: Explaining consensus and conflict

Restorative justice interventions in response to youthful offending, has grown in popularity around the world. In England and Wales, following enactment of the Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, the policy of restorative justice has been placed in the heart of youth justice system. The Act provided for referral orders to 'Youth Offender Panels (YOPs)' that are to be guided by underlying principles of restorative justice. The panel holds a meeting including the young offender, the offender's parents, and optionally the victim and a victim supporter to discuss the crime and work on a solution. The panel confronts the young offender with the impact of his crime in an attempt to prevent re-offending; provides a forum for involved parties to discuss the circumstances leading up to the offence; and develops a plan of action addressing reparation and the issues behind the offending behaviour.

As part of my doctoral research at the University of Essex, I conducted a study on the impact of the panel provisions upon re-offending behaviour of young people. I observed 26 panel meetings facilitated by Enfield Youth Offending Team (YOT) and conducted 66 in-depth interviews with offenders, victims, offender's parents, and panel facilitators. The aim of my presentation in the BSA conference is to evaluate my findings highlighting the consensus and conflicts in restorative justice while also focusing on the impact of the panel process upon re-offending behaviour of young people.

Cieslik, M., Simpson, D.

University of Teesside

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

'Skills for Life'? The Significance of Literacy Practices for Transitions to Adulthood

This paper reports on the findings of an ESRC funded project into the 'literacy practices' (skills associated with oracy, reading, writing and number) of young adults living in the North East of England. Though surveys suggest there are anywhere between 2 and 7 million adults with 'poor skills' and government policies associate better basic skills with employability this is an area which has been neglected by sociologists. Drawing on data generated from 55 qualitative, biographical interviews it illustrates how early experiences of literacy practices can inform later experiences in employment, leisure, family life and notably key points in the transition to adulthood. Over time literacy practices can condition social identities, resources and lead to social marginalisation though at the same time the empirical data also illustrates how interviewees were able to challenge these earlier influences.

The paper concludes by exploring why it is that literacy practices have been neglected by contemporary sociologists. One suggestion is that the stigma associated with poor skills leads many individuals to conceal their difficulties and so the issue is often overlooked in social research. Drawing on a range of empirical examples the paper also illustrates the many creative ways that individuals with poor skills manage their lives. These adaptations obscure any simple relationships between skills, literacy practices and life course experiences. A key conclusion therefore is the need for detailed longitudinal biographical research to enable us to understand the role of literacy practices in the lives of individuals.

Clarke, G.

University of Southampton

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room E, Queens Suite

Art in disordered times: 'Out of Chaos'

The effects of 'disorder' on British art of the Home Front during the Second World War and the attempt to emphasise the contrast between a liberal, free Britain and the cultural barbarism of Nazi Germany through the preservation of cultural activities are examined in this paper. In so doing attention is directed to the work of the War Artists' Advisory Committee and the film 'Out of Chaos' (1944), directed and scripted by Jill Craigie, which was the first film ever made about British Contemporary painting. The film seeks to show how artists like Evelyn Dunbar, Paul Nash, Graham Sutherland, Stanley Spencer and Henry Moore, responded to the war. For the artists no selection is arbitrary, all subjects and imagery employed, be they concrete or more abstract are designed to relate harmoniously to the whole and thereby create a credible order in reality, what Eagleton (1970: 170) adroitly refers to as the 'objective correlative'. Theirs then is a search for a cohering standpoint in disordered times.

This paper forms part of a project within the BSA Auto/Biography study group examining the potential of literature and art to further sociological accounts of relationships between the development of personal identity and the influence of socio-historical forces.

Coburn, E.

CADIS-Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room E, Queens Suite

Making and Challenging Economic Orders: The World Trade Organization, Neoliberal Capitalism and Protest

As Polanyi reminds us, economic orders do not emerge organically but are in large part the product of formal institutions and elaborated rulemaking. Free trade, for example, does not arise out of some 'innate tendency to barter' but is rather the product of processes of (democratic) negotiation, ratification, and enforcement. In the contemporary period of global capitalism, liberalization (of financial capital, goods and services) and privatization (of formerly public services and formerly public goods) are negotiated partly through international forums like the International Monetary Fund and the more recently established World Trade Organization (WTO). Such institutions must defend their economic rule-making, often in the face of rising collective protest. This paper examines the WTO's ideological defenses in the wake of mass public protest against its 1999 Millennium Round negotiations in Seattle, the United States, with a particular emphasis on WTO officials' reifying rhetorics that, ironically, present negotiated economic orders as historic inevitabilities. The WTO's position, as an example of the defensive strategies used by makers of the neoliberal economic order, is contrasted with the protest texts produced by nongovernmental organizations against the WTO. These texts challenge reifying accounts that present the neoliberal economic order as an inevitability of History, in part by invoking (collective) human actorhood. Self-conscious agency (not simply 'disordered' protest) is set against the (apparent) inevitabilities of economic orders, in a challenge to neoliberal forms of capitalism. Thus, the empirical case addresses two central questions: How are economic orders made and defended? How are they challenged?

Crabbe, T., Woodhouse, D.

Sheffield Hallam University

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room D, Queens Suite

Contesting respect: mutual respect, Positive Futures and the cultural intermediary

The Government has sought to locate 'respect' within debates around the social inclusion agenda. Initial contributions suggest a perspective on respect that is qualitatively different from Sennett's recent offering (2004); rather than being an internalised resource, respect has been identified as something which is lost, or withheld, particularly by young people. Implicit in this is the distinction between those who are 'respectable' and those who are not, with those who are not being expected to show 'respect' to those who are.

'Respect' is, however, a contested concept. Sennett's notion of it as stemming from self-respect gained by personal development is useful in the context of our research into Positive Futures, a national social inclusion programme using sport and leisure to engage with socially marginalised young people. We argue that, within this project, respect can be deployed as a resource to engage and develop, rather than demonise and isolate, young people, with the building of a mutual respect between workers and participants leading to trust which might open up the possibility of further interaction. In this way, community development workers can become 'cultural intermediaries', providing disadvantaged young people with gateways to other 'lifeworlds'.

The paper also reflects on the Participative Action Research methodology employed in the research. The 'respectful' principle which guides the work is to ensure that the voices of local people and professionals are at the heart of the study, utilising a variety of methods of enquiry which are located predominantly around their lived experiences.

Crawford, G., Rutter, J.

University of Salford

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room A, Queens Suite

'Playing the Game: production and performance in digital game audiences'

Digital gaming is now a major leisure industry worth in excess of £2billion annually in the UK. Though undoubtedly many digital games are played alone (just as a large proportion of television is watched alone), digital gaming can constitute a very 'sociable' activity. However, rather than being understood as an 'audience', much of the literature on gaming continues to situate gamers as 'individual' players, and hence the location and importance of gaming within social and cultural networks is often overlooked. Drawing on over forty interviews with adult gamers, this paper locates digital gaming within a wider social context. In particular, the paper draws on theoretical perspectives on audience research, and argues that digital gaming can be viewed as part of a wider 'performative' culture; where individuals may draw on gaming knowledge and experiences to fuel social interactions, both around these games and within wider social settings.

Crinson, I.

St Georges, University of London

Realism Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

A realist approach to the analysis of qualitative data: what can the subject tell us about the object?: Interpreting the social practice of nursing

This paper poses the question, can the social agents opinions and views captured in social research inform a realist understanding of the social world? Whilst discourse conceptualised as the expression or articulation by social agents of their understanding of the world of social practices could be said to operate at the 'appearance' level of social relations, it is nevertheless as 'real' as the structural interrelations to which it is materially linked through practice. Following Sayer (1997), analysing discourse in this way emphasizes its 'performative' aspect rather than its representational aspect alone. A research process informed by critical realism would recognise that social structures and social interaction are interdependent. Social structures are constituted through a set of internal relations that in turn require an understanding of intersubjective social practices. Nevertheless, social actors accounts of these practices are fallible and so interpretation must involve a process of 'theoretical transformation' or re-conceptualisation of these ideological presentations of social practice. This paper presents the outline of a schema for the realist analysis of talk. Which builds upon the methodological insights of critical realist philosophy, illustrating the process by drawing upon a series of focus group discussion conducted with nurses.

Crisp, R.

University of Manchester

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room H, Queens Suite

Understanding worklessness in post-industrial spaces: An exploration of the experience of jobless older men living on a council-run overspill estate

Tackling high levels of worklessness within the UK has become a central policy objective of the present Labour government. Focusing on economic, supply-side theories of worklessness, they have identified an 'employability' deficit as a key determinant of entrenched joblessness. Within this framework, the jobless are cast as recalcitrant workers who have internalised a 'culture of worklessness' and, therefore, lack the appropriate skills, attitudes or motivation to avail of the opportunities which exist in a booming economy. Accordingly, policy prescriptions are predicated on the need to re-equip the jobless with a more work-focused mindset to enable them to overcome the barriers of low-self esteem and apathy which inhibit effective job search.

My own empirical research based on 40 semi-structured interviews recently conducted with older workless men living on a council-run 'overspill' estate problematises the semi-pathological, individualising discourses deployed by the government. The jobless men themselves identify a far broader set of barriers with many highlighting a lack of work, fierce competition within local markets and the poor quality or unsuitability of available jobs as factors inhibiting a return to employment. As such, I argue that the present administration's focus on the individual's job-seeking deficits masks the very real difficulties presented by a lack of suitable or attractive opportunities in contingent, local labour markets. Ultimately, it is not the ill-discipline of the workless population but the disordered employment structures of post-industrial spaces that should perhaps be seen as the key to understanding high levels of joblessness in contemporary society.

Cruickshank, J.

University of Birmingham

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room C, Queens Suite

Post-positivist sociology contra philosophy?

Holmwood argues that Parsons initiated what he terms 'the classical project', by constructing a general theory via a critical synthesis of classical theories. The mode of theorising set up by this project may be regarded as the dominant form of contemporary social theorising. Holmwood takes issue with the attempt, by Parsons and contemporary theorists, to construct general theories from a critical synthesis of classical and/or neo-classical works in the canon of social theory. Rather than develop theories in the course of substantive research, general theories are developed in reaction to the conceptual problems that necessarily arise within abstract schemes that run into contradiction when they are applied to substantive issues. As a result, Holmwood argues, there is an endless 'return to the classics' as contradictions arise within each new set of abstract general theories. Furthermore, the theories developed via this mode of theorising produce sets of abstractions that are unfalsifiable and therefore unscientific. This argument against general theory is applied to critical realism by Kemp. He argues that philosophical abstractions concerning ontological meta-theories cannot be used prescriptively to guide social research. The argument developed in this presentation engages in a critical dialogue with both the post-positivism of Holmwood and Kemp, and critical realism. It is argued, contra critical realism, that ontology cannot function as a uniform meta-theory but, contra Holmwood and Kemp, it is argued that ontological considerations are needed to inform research and that these may be developed 'dialogically' rather than prescriptively.

David, M.

Institute of Education

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

Aspects of researching student experiences in higher education: issues of social diversity and the socio-cultural contexts of learning

This paper considers aspects of researching the student experiences of higher education and focuses upon issues of social diversity and the socio-cultural contexts of learning. I will draw on both a research study now published as Degrees of choice: social class, race and gender in higher education (2005, with Diane Reay and Stephen Ball) and an initial analysis of the recent call by the ESRC for research proposals on the theme of widening participation to higher education.

The research study considered issues of social class, ethnicity and race, and gender in relation to student choices of HE, and used Bourdieu's theories to contextualise the processes. Gender however was not a strong theme and this will be highlighted as a key issue in this paper.

The second strand of the paper will focus upon the ways in which social diversity and the socio-cultural contexts of learning were key themes in relation to studying student experiences in HE as part of the research proposals. Questions of critical and feminist theories to understand student experiences and the changing political and economic contexts will also be reviewed as part of the paper.

The paper will conclude by giving consideration to the ways in which transformations in the global and local contexts for HE make for changing student experiences, and raise questions about future pedagogies and practices of higher education, including postgraduate studies and critical and feminist perspectives.

Demir, I.

University of Cambridge

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room E, Queens Suite

Maintaining Social Order in Science

In my conference paper, I will consider the solution Thomas Kuhn provided to the problem of social order in science. Even though Kuhn never framed the issue in these terms, in my view his works provide ample arguments which can help us to tackle it. His analyses of textbook-based education and the centrality of paradigms are some of the pillars of his arguments which can account for the existence of social order in science.

However, in my view, Kuhn's solution not only rests in his defence of the above, but, more importantly, in his attempt to reconcile 'tradition' and 'innovation', two concepts which were traditionally seen as polar opposites: science being typically associated with innovation and creativity, and tradition with dogma and conservatism. Kuhn, on the other hand, challenged this dichotomy and constructed a newer understanding of the relationship between tradition and innovation. In my conference paper I will elaborate and build upon this contribution Kuhn has made to our understanding of scientific communities in general, and to the explanation of order in science in particular. My paper will also consider the solutions sociologists of science (especially B. Barnes and S. Shapin) have provided to this problem and the extent to which their contributions expand on Kuhn's solutions.

Donoghue, J.C.

University of Stirling

Crime

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room B, Queens Suite

The Antisocial Behaviour Construct as 'Social Disorder' or 'Social Control'?

Cohen (1985) identified how the system of deviancy control blurs boundaries, in part, through the practice of normalisation. Normalisation is removed from the traditional model of judicial punishment because it is unconcerned with whether or not behaviour is constrained within the law: it is concerned with whether the behaviour can be deemed 'normal' or 'abnormal'. There can be few better contemporary examples of the practice of normalisation than that of the creation of antisocial behaviour (hereafter 'ASB') as a modern social construct.

The inherent difficulty with ASB as a new social construction is that it spans both criminal and non-criminal behaviour. It has been argued that the introduction of ASB has created a 'new domain of professional power and knowledge' (Brown, 2004: 203), in part, because the term is now entirely subjective in nature and is inconsistently applied by both the court and housing systems. Furthermore, Burney (2002) and Cowan, Pantazis and Gilroy (2001) have contended that social housing is increasingly taking on the practices and discourses of crime control.

This paper attempts to identify the extent to which the use of ASB, and in particular antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs), has blurred the boundaries of acceptable, or 'normal', behaviour, and moreover, examines the use of the term ASB as a mechanism for social control, or

Donovan, C., Hester, M., McCarry, M., Holmes, J.

University of Sunderland

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room G, Queens Suite

Comparing narratives of love and violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships

In the literature on domestic violence there is a growing argument that there are substantial differences between domestic violence occurring in same sex and heterosexual relationships and that different models of explanation are needed. We argue that relatively little is known about domestic violence in same sex relationships in the UK and that it is premature to argue for different explanatory models. We know from the literature about domestic violence in same sex and heterosexual communities that victim/survivors often do not want to leave their relationships because they still 'love' their abusive partner. As part of the broader ESRC funded project on comparing love and violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships, we conducted 100 interviews with equal numbers of women and men, heterosexual and non-heterosexual to explore which narratives of love are drawn on to make sense of experiences that might be read as abusive. In this paper we report on some initial findings. We were interested to involve participants who may not ever have experienced domestic violence to explore whether different narratives of love are used in different kinds of relationships and to unpick what kinds of norms of intimate behaviour develop in different relationships. In doing this we take particular account of gendered expectations and behaviours as well as sexuality in order to allow for an in-depth discussion of the ways in which these might impact on the doing of love and violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships.

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

University Of Warwick

Food Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room 1, Exhibition Area

(Re-) ordering food: exploring possibilities within the food system

Contemporary food systems powerfully challenge notions of personal autonomy and national governance. Globalization of production systems and trade, and the growing concentration of retail sector power, contrive to meet an apparently relentless consumer demand for variety, speed and continuity: to be able to buy almost anything to eat, ready-meal or raw ingredients, at any time, safely and relatively cheaply. Concern over the reality and costs of such trends, in terms of equity, justice and sustainability, contribute to emerging social movements and networks which resist the dominant hegemony, and seek forms of 'alternative' food systems. Such 'alternatives' address issues of trust and quality, ecological public health, economic viability, maintenance of locality and identity, and different ethical dimensions of food. They involve both 'producers' and 'consumers/citizens' in attempts to re-order their relationships through food: its production, processing, distribution and consumption.

Our 3 year research project has examined the role and potential of such emerging food networks to enable development of 'new orders' in food, using literature review and detailed engagement with case studies of different schemes and networks. These case studies, widely located geographically and including one virtual network, encompass community-supported production, food co-operatives and farm shops. They vary in their demands on participants (producers and consumers) and in their structure and approaches to solving food system fragmentation. Qualitative findings from workshops and interviews with producers, consumers/customers and policy stakeholders will explore the realities and potential flexibilities in these re-ordered relationships, between the food system actors, the environment, and with 'food' itself.

Elder-Vass, D.

University of London

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room C, Queens Suite

'Integrating institutional, relational, and embodied structure: an emergentist perspective'

The concept of social structure is at the heart of sociology's theorisation of social order. Lopez and Scott have portrayed the history of this concept as a dialogue between two different concepts of structure, both with roots in Durkheim. On the one hand, institutional structure is comprised by the cultural or normative expectations that guide agents' relations with each other. On the other, relational structure is composed of the social relations themselves - causal interconnections and interdependences between agents. More recently, they suggest, embodied structure has come to the fore, providing a way of integrating the two earlier views.

However, as they point out, all these accounts are prone to neglect the idea of structure as a whole - as the thing that is structured by expectations and relations. An emergentist perspective on structure asks what these wholes are, that are produced as social structures, and how they relate to the human individuals that comprise them.

This paper will argue that embodiment is inadequate as a means of integrating institutional and relational conceptions of structure. It provides at best a part of the solution. For a fuller resolution, we must set social structure in an emergentist framework, which provides the means for recognising the complementary roles of institutional structure, relational structure, and indeed embodied structure, as aspects of the production of social structures as wholes.

Elsley, S.

University of Edinburgh

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room A, Queens Suite

The autonomous child: fact or fiction?

The paper considers whether children's books portray a disorderly world where children have a level of autonomy and independence that is rare in children's everyday lives. It draws on current research with children and young people aged 10 to 14 years which is seeking their views on how childhood is portrayed in children's books.

Texts for children recognise children's unique position by virtue of age and put children central stage in a way that is not generally reflected within societal norms. Books describe, and often enhance, children's competences and capacities, making use of the position of the child fictional character as hero. In the heroic role, children are empowered as decision makers, problem solvers and agents of change with a resulting displacement in their relationships with adults. Drawing on the research, children and young people reflect on the similarities and differences between the fictional descriptions of young people's lives and their real life experiences, emphasising in particular the enhanced power of the children that they see portrayed in books.

Children's books emphasise the importance of children's agency and demonstrate a close allegiance with the concepts of the sociology of childhood. This paper argues that a more profound understanding of the nature of childhood can be developed by exploring different representations of children's lives and by engaging with children's and young people's views.

Elzailae, S.

London Metropolitan University

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room I, Queens Suite

Order and Disorder: Highly Qualified and Unemployed

The paper assesses the difficulties facing professional refugees while accessing the British labour market. Research has found that many refugees, living legally in the UK, have higher degrees, in different disciplines. The dilemma is that most of those professional refugees are unemployed or underemployed. With immigration moving to the front of the national agenda, the issue of refugees is not shifting away. Recent research commissioned by the central government has called for more studies about the topic. Shortages in the health and education sectors are examples of jobs that qualified refugees can carry out. However, those qualified doctors, nurses and teachers are facing real problems in finding work. The paper addresses these problems by using some of the findings of a qualitative research conducted by Working Lives Research Institute at London Metropolitan University. The experiences, of around one hundred refugees, in the labour market were analysed. Those refugees came from East Africa, Indian sub-continent and the Middle East.

A conclusion will be drawn from the above discussion about the difficulties facing professional refugees and the effects of those difficulties upon their integration into the British society, as citizens with full rights.

Evans, D.

University of Glamorgan

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room F, Queens Suite

Personal Order, National Disorder: Understanding National Identity

Despite the widespread acceptance of nations as cultural constructs, the sociological process of national identity construction, in particular, remains an area to be explored. Questions relating to the maintenance and perpetuation of the nation (Billig, 1995) and the role of individual human agency in shaping national identity (Thompson, 2001) suggest that there remains much to be said about what has, in recent centuries, been one of the more influential and emotive modes of social order. This paper will stress that national identity should not be treated as a special kind of identity, expressed only on certain occasions but should, rather, be understood as any other social category, present in all aspects of social life. In contrast to the classical theories of nationalism, it will speculate how human agency, how individuals construct and reconstruct national identities by mediating discourses of nationalism through everyday banal experiences. Following Thompson (2001) the paper will emphasise the creative role of individuals in interaction and in the meanings given to national categories. The paper will use Jenkins's (1996) internal-external dialectic model of social identity and also draw on an ethnomethodological perspective to interpret recent qualitative data. Such an approach, it will be argued, would complement the more traditional 'top-down' studies of nationalism and national identity seeking, as it does, to understand how individuals use and shape national categories to give order to their daily lives, thus, often confounding the efforts of nationalist and state institutions to instil in a population a unified and homogeneous identity.

Everett, G., Brooks, R.

University of Surrey

Education

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room C, Queens Suite

'I'd like to learn a language, but there's just no time...': the predominance of work-based training in young graduates' learning

This paper draws upon results from an ESRC-funded research project exploring young graduates' attitudes to, and experiences of, further education or learning post-graduation. The research thus far undertaken indicates a strong emphasis upon job-based training over and above an oft-stated desire to do further learning 'for its own sake'. Whilst the majority of graduates accepted their work/leisure balance as a given for someone at their stage of career development, the 'education' aspect of a proposed work/education/leisure life-balance was often overlooked by respondents, or else presented as the work/leisure balance not having changed (with paid work having replaced education). However a significant number also marked up a desire for 'leisure-learning' which was not 'yet' possible due to the demands of work and work-based training.

This prompts questions about how we, and the graduates, conceptualise the 'use' of having a degree in an era of Higher Education massification, exploring issues of 'generic' skills and personal growth. It also raises questions around the role and function of 'lifelong learning' practices for those in their 20s, as well as the status of the work-education-leisure balance of young professionals, and how this impacts upon efforts to develop into a 'learning society', in the sense of one which seeks to foster the desire for self-development; how can an entrepreneurship of the self be fostered and generalised as a social norm whilst people's 'space' for learning is subsumed by the demands of work, which consumes time designated as 'leisure' that might otherwise be put towards desired learning?

Fincham, B.

Cardiff University

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room H, Queens Suite

"... taxi drivers and bus drivers hate us don't they, they really do" - Bicycle messengers in the city

Bicycle messengering has developed as a part of messenger services/parcel transportation in Britain, with firms operating in most major cities. Despite bicycle messengering being a legitimate service industry, those working as bicycle messengers contradict the image of traditional employment legitimacy. Bicycle messengers often operate outside of traditional formal employment. They rarely, if ever, have contracts, they have no pension, are on low commission based pay and the risk of injury is particularly high. As with their employment status, the position of bicycle messengers in cities is at the margins of conventionality. The techniques used by many messengers to optimise their delivery times are often considered irresponsible and dangerous by other road users. From road use to the 'courier lifestyle' marginality is at the heart of this urban phenomenon. Based on interviews, a survey and an 18 month long ethnography this paper starts by exploring the problematic relationship between bicycle messengers and other road users, and examines the claim of an 'instinctual' or 'heightened' sense of awareness of danger popularly espoused by messengers. Further to sociological work on identity and culture as significant indicators of community on a large scale, and performance, embodiment and risk on a personal level, this paper moves to examine the 'culture' of bicycle messengering and the construction of identity of bicycle messengers in 21st century cities.

Forrester-Jones, R., Barnes, A.

University of Kent

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room F, Queens Suite

On being a girlfriend not a patient: the quest for an acceptable identity amongst people diagnosed with a severe mental illness

Background

The ways in which the stigma of mental illness influences personhood has been well documented. However, the extent to which social support can forge a more positive identity has not been explored. Using social interaction theory and in particular Goffman's ideas around courtesy stigma, this paper reports on an exploration of how people with a severe mental illness, gave and received social support which enabled them to acquire a more acceptable identity than that of mental health patient/client.

Method

Ethnographic methodologies including qualitative interviews with 30 people with mental illness and their carers were adopted.

Results

Individuals reported that they gained and provided social support from networks of relationships which in many cases mediated socially acceptable identities and in some cases re-integration into mainstream life. Nonetheless, individuals who 'escaped' from identities defined by a mental health status could find life on the 'outside' hostile, stigmatising, stressful and rejecting. Such experiences often led to relapse and attempts to seek refuge within the mental health community again.

Conclusion

We conclude by highlighting how the idea of courtesy stigma can be turned on its head, i.e. that relationships made within the mental health arena can still be positive in terms of helping to construct desired and valuable identities. We reflect on how sociological study of this area has shown that social support is a vital part of clinical care rather than an additional extra.

Fox, N., Ward, K.

University of Sheffield

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room E, Queens Suite

Order without laws: understanding governance and consent in a global society

In a civil society, the governance of technology is a matter of law and regulation, but also of responsibility and accountability, within which issues of public safety and security must be balanced against individual and collective rights. Systems of governance of scientific and technological advances emerge to operationalise both the responsibilities of the state and individual and consumer freedoms. Within sociology, studies have not fully examined the complexity of how governance is achieved, and how environmental changes may threaten governance systems. This paper explores the negotiated character of technology governance in a case study of consumerism and the pharmaceutical industry in the global market-place. While pharmaceutical drugs are highly regulated, in the information age, traditional patterns of governance are challenged, and new strategic alliances between stakeholders may emerge. The Internet facilitates transnational consumption and information transfer, raising problems for systems of regulation based on national borders.

Using findings from a completed ESRC-funded study, we explore the emergent governance processes in pharmaceutical production and consumption, examining how stakeholders negotiate governance processes, form strategic alliances and respond to changes in the global environment. We conclude that governance is a dynamic process, forever breaking down and being re-invented to address societal changes. Order emerges out of stakeholder alliances, while changes challenge existing governance and require new forms to develop to cope with environmental conditions. We suggest that this theoretical framework and methodology can form the basis for a productive sociology of governance.

Freestone, M., Evans, C., Manning, N.

University of Nottingham

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room D, Queens Suite

Where order and disorder meet: risk and trust in the new Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder pilot programme

The Reform of the Mental Health Act White Papers of 2000 suggest the creation of a 'third service', between the prison service and NHS, in the containment of persons considered to suffer from a 'dangerous and severe disorder of personality'. This service, known as the DSPD Programme, has now been in a pilot stage for two years, during which time we have conducted a comparative ethnographic investigation into three of the new units delivering this service. Given that these are unique and emergent environments, it is crucial that social science becomes involved in understanding the development and maintenance of different working cultures in the Units, and this has been our overarching aim.

This paper will draw on material generated by the study and will focus on the importance of intersubjective understandings of 'risk' and

Friel, J.

University of Bristol

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room B, Queens Suite

The Order Behind the Chaos: Dependency Drug-use and the 'Cycle of Favours'

This paper draws on a Bristol-based study of men aged 16-25 who are not in education, training and employment (NEET), focusing on the chaotic drug-use of a significant minority of the sample. Since the findings are based on biographical interviewing, it traces the young men's routes into dependency drug-use and explores potential routes out, drawing on the experiences of those who have managed to refrain from using. More specifically the paper highlights the 'cycle of favours' that the 'Class A' drug-using members (that is, heroin and crack cocaine users) of the sample are involved in, which can be seen as a continuous circle of 'owing'. It reveals the way in which the cycle of favours prevents the dependency drug-user from leaving the group, and the negative sanctions that are imposed on him for seeking to do so. The paper also investigates the link between crime and dependency drug-use, identifying the meanings that the young men attribute to their actions in terms of the distinction they make between acquisitive crime and 'ethical' drug-use. It concludes with an analysis of the relationship between dependency drug-users and wider society.

Fujita, H.

Identity

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room F, Queens Suite

"Face-work" and insider/outsider boundary

MCA, a trend in conversation analysis, treats ethnicity as a situated accomplishment among the participants. This paper draws on this line of research and investigates ethnicity in Japanese talk-in-interaction. The data is directly taken from naturally occurring conversations in which Japanese people are talking about people of other ethnic origins. On such occasions, though in my limited data set, it was quite commonly observed that the participants sometimes made over-generalised categorisations about the Japanese, British and people of other nationalities. Of those, some of the individual utterances, such as referring to "black people" as "like animals" could be considered as discriminatory. This paper explores coparticipants' treatment of such possibly controversial utterances. In particular, I will focus on the cases in which such utterances are attended without an explicit uptake. In the data sets, it will be observed that although coparticipants are not agreeing with such over-generalised or discriminatory utterances, they do not articulate any explicit disagreement either. Rather, the participants work together and look for a compromised version step by step or move to change topic. The direct avoidance of such claims might be due to "face-work" (Goffman 1955). In the case, where coparticipants did criticise such a claim, they subsequently tried to save the teller's face, and the criticism was mitigated. I would argue that such act of "save-face" in everyday lives might be one of the sites, which possibly contributes to generate and sustain implicit and explicit over-generalised and even discriminatory categorical knowledge or assumptions of ethnicity.

Gatrell, C.

Lancaster University Management School

Identity

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room F, Queens Suite

Changing Childbirth? A question of choice

In 1993, the Government Document 'Changing Childbirth' advocated greater maternal choice regarding the manner of childbirth. It stated 'the women must be the focus of maternity care. She should be able to feel in control of what is happening to her and make decisions about her care based on her needs'.

This paper argues that, in the 12 years since 'Changing Childbirth', change has been limited and most women are still expected to give birth in a hospital setting. Arguably, hospital based maternity services in the U.K. have traditionally been paternalistic with maternal needs defined and controlled by male obstetricians, technology, paternalism and the Christian concept of 'pastorship' in which the (male) shepherd 'conceive(s) the shepherd/sheep relationship as one of individual and complete dependence' (Foucault 1988).

Despite attempts to raise the profile of midwifery and to encourage the development of midwifery led care, women who give birth in a hospital setting may still find the idea of 'choice' to be circumscribed - assuming that any element of choice is offered at all.

In this context, the birth experience and birth choices are even more sharply circumscribed for ethnic minority women than for women who are familiar with the NHS system, which may fail to meet their cultural, religious and emotional needs. It is contended that maternity services should be adapted to offer all mothers greater control of the birth experience, but should in particular be adapted to meet the needs of women in the UK's multi-cultural society.

Gifford, C., Watt, P., Koster, S., Clark, W.

Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College

Citizenship

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room I, Queens Suite

Active citizens of the future? Undergraduate social science students' perspectives on citizenship

General narratives of social change suggest a decline of conventional citizenship associated with institutional politics within the national arena. At the same time, there has been a rise of more complex and multi-dimensional forms of citizenship, related to the contestation of traditional models of citizenship by new social movements, as well as new sites of citizenship rights and activities such as human rights or the European Union. While research into young people's political identities confirm a degree of disengagement from conventional citizenship, this has not implied a general disinterest in the 'new' forms of citizenship. Undergraduate social science students have traditionally been associated with political radicalism and active engagement with a range of new social movements and would thereby be expected to adopt 'new' citizenship forms associated with active citizenship and cosmopolitan social identities. However, at the same time the social base and pedagogical content of social science courses has changed via widening participation initiatives, the increased entry of minority ethnic groups into higher education, and the rise in popularity of degrees such as criminology. The question this paper addresses is whether or not the contemporary cohort of undergraduate social science students is embracing 'new' citizenship forms and practices? It does so with reference to survey-based research undertaken with first year undergraduate social science students. We explore what their experiences of citizenship education, engagement in civic life and participation in political organisations can tell us about the citizenship identities and practices of highly educated young people.

Gill, M.J.

London School of Economics

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room H, Queens Suite

Securing order in the representation of commerce: motivational metaphors in accounting language

This paper looks at how accountants in the City of London represent very diverse commercial phenomena in comparable and recognisable ways. It draws on ethnographic interview data to show that they use a range of extended metaphors to understand their own agency and that of the economic actors on whose performance they report. The technical interpretation of what accountants do is one such metaphor amongst many, and the paper illustrates the parallel use of metaphors of commercialism, professionalism, sport, strategy and fraternity.

The paper goes on to show that these metaphors are often in tension, and that accountants find it difficult to articulate how such tension might be resolved. This is an important problem because it leaves accountants lacking a generally accepted language for debating the ways in which they perceive complex economic situations and practices. The accounting profession's current efforts towards globally homogenised financial reporting, therefore, risk glossing over deep-seated ambiguities as to how accountants understand and evaluate economic activity. Is it inevitable that creating order through a professional language must leave significant blind spots?

Giorgi, A.

University of Milan

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room H, Queens Suite

Garbage can order. A case study on a problematic green public urban area

Between scholars and politicians there is a wide agreement on government in cities and consequently on the necessity of governance. However there is also a great confusion concerning how to build a democratic decision process and (there is) confusion about the public administration role in this process because anyone knows how to manage with the disorder. The increasing importance of "local" as a resolution key to compose social order drives to concentrate the attention on local conflicts and on their solution.

The paper introduces a case study focused on a green public area considered as a problem from different point of view and from different types of population/users. A great public mobilization involved the area to settle the matter and to work it out.

The rebuilt order can be described as "garbage can order" that is "temporal order". That means there was no governance, total absence of legitimization process for all the involved actors and any debate arena was built by public administration.

There was a "not-governed" order, that is an "organized anarchy". What is pointed out is the necessity of an active role of public administration in order to allow a real social composition of conflicts and a real shared and social constructed order.

Gooldin, S.

University of Haifa, Israel

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room G, Queens Suite

Social (dis)order, bodily (dis)order, and the construction of anorexia as a 'patho-normal' condition 1970s-1990s

Since its 'discovery' in the 1870s the anorexic body has been an object of ongoing disputes among health experts. Seeking to decode the etiology and appropriate therapy for anorexia, three models of explanations have been particularly influential in the 'sense making' of the anorexic body throughout the Twentieth century: a 'bio-medical' model, a 'psycho/familial' model and a 'socio-cultural' model. The later, infiltrating into mainstream health experts' discourses from early 1970s' and gaining growing prominence in the following decades, is the subject of this paper. Drawing on a discourse-analysis of eating disorders' experts (psychiatrists and psychologists) from the early 1970s' to the late 1990s', this paper decodes a dialectics within the psychotherapeutic narration of anorexia, between the imagery of an 'individual pathology' and that of a 'social pathology'. While the 'individual pathology' narrative locates the anorexic body within the realm of disordered personality, sexuality-related phobias, dysfunctional mothers and the like, the narrative of a 'social pathology' points to the anorexic body of young women as located within the normative realm of a morally disordered consumer society. I argue that this tension within experts' discourses reflects and re-constructs anorexia as a 'patho-normal' condition, that is, a condition simultaneously entangled in 'pathological' and 'normative' forces.

Gorringe, H., Rosie, M.

University of Edinburgh

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room E, Queens Suite

Global Protest, Local Politics: The G8 Summit and the Make Poverty History march

In July 2005, approximately 225,000 people marched through Edinburgh in the city's largest ever demonstration. The cause that brought so many people out onto the streets was the idealistic injunction to 'Make Poverty History' (MPH). This paper presents an analysis of the MPH march, focusing particularly on the interplay between protestors, the police and the media. The rally was intriguing, amongst other reasons, for the marked disparity between prior apprehension and the carnival atmosphere of the actual event. The paper asks why MPH was not the riot that the media feared, why (if at all) it differed from previous G8 protests and what occurred on the day itself. To this end we consider two key aspects: Firstly the composition and objectives of the marchers; who was on the march, why they were there and what they did?

Secondly, we are interested in the constituency that the protestors were trying to reach out towards. The intent underlying this dual focus is an attempt to understand the protestors and what motivated them, but also to raise the question of how 'successful' they were in getting their message across to people.

Gosling, V.

Nottingham Trent University

Crime

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room B, Queens Suite

'I've always managed, that's what we do': Women's experiences of managing poverty and social exclusion

This paper examines women's everyday lived experiences of managing poverty and social exclusion. Drawing on qualitative research into women's experiences of social exclusion the paper considers the various ways in which women cope and manage, via financial strategies, support networks and work and leisure participation, in order to minimise the impact of poverty and exclusion on their families. The research prioritises women's voices and uses their experiences to challenge the stereotypes and ideologies employed by New Labour in some of their social exclusion policies. In particular the experiences of the women in this research can be directly contrasted with the elements of New Labour policy that resonate with moral underclass ideologies. Such policies place blame and responsibility on the individual for poverty and exclusion. However, the data presented here contradicts this view and illustrates that these women, far from being passive victims, or more sinisterly creators of their own poverty, employ diverse and innovative methods of managing on a day-to-day basis to ensure that their families are protected from the worst effects of poverty and social exclusion.

Granter, E.

University of Salford

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room C, Queens Suite

Sociology and the end of work

Social theorists ancient and modern have dreamt of a world without work, yet work remains at the heart of the social order. This paper proceeds along two dimensions. Firstly, we will examine the role that the end of work thesis has played in the development of contemporary sociology and social theory. This will involve an examination of the effect that theories of the obsolescence of work may have had on the move to a sociological preoccupation with consumption in a supposedly postindustrial world.

Can the causes of the theoretical turn to consumption and leisure as key sociological categories in fact be traced to a misinterpretation of the arguments of writers such as Herbert Marcuse, and by extension Marx and Fourier? These writers called for an opening up of a genuine realm of freedom beyond necessity, rather than its theoretical occlusion by a dimension of calculated consumption and manipulated needs. This discussion will thus place in question the critical potential of some sociological analyses, which appear to argue that an existence dominated by play and display is extant, rather than a dimension of potentiality within critical social theory.

Our second analytical dimension will focus on writers such as Andre Gorz, Stanley Aronowitz, Finn Bowring, and others, who take up the critical thread of theories of a postindustrial, post work society, that postmodernism (or at least post-productionism) effectively squanders. Can these theories provide an effective theoretical roadmap to a new social order, liberated from the ideology of work?

Green, G., Morente, F., Barroso, I., Davison, C.

University of Essex

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room B, Queens Suite

Responses to youth offending in Spain and England - developing a model for the comparative analysis of a range of experiences

The overall theme of the proposed paper is an analysis of different approaches to the treatment of teenage offenders. The aim of our work has been to compare principles and practice in the treatment of young offenders in five places. These are four Autonomous Communities in Spain (Cataluña, La Rioja, Madrid and Andalucía) and one county in England (Essex).

Field research has been with both the professionals responsible for the care and treatment of young offenders and also with offenders themselves.

Here we put forward a model for developing an understanding of the socio-cultural production of different responses to youth offending in a range of regional/national jurisdictions. This includes a particular interest in how a variety of different and opposing social approaches and perspectives are balanced or reconciled in the different areas. Elements in this analysis include punishment, rehabilitation, education and restorative justice.

The analysis takes as its starting point the wide range of offender experiences in the different settings. Examples include the absence of "electronic tagging" in the Spanish Communities, the salience of violence and abuse in images of English penal institutions and the different approaches to the use of "work" as a vehicle for rehabilitation.

Griffin, B.L.

University of Sunderland

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room A, Queens Suite

Videotapes for health: the performance of medical power

Researchers tend to regard videotapes for health as being dated rather than historically significant. Using empirical material from a recently completed PhD, this paper examines power relationships in videotapes for health on the theme of hygiene and germ theory. Drawing on Foucault's concept of pastoral power and governmentality in the provision of health care, videotapes for health illustrate power relationships that move between experts and lay people in the construction of normative health messages. The methodology moves towards constructionist content analysis, by acknowledging of the position of the researcher in developing themes. The findings demonstrate the connections between authority and responsibility in both the performances of the experts and lay people. Experts identify and direct the health agenda as well as delegate surveillance activities to a wide range of health workers. Lay people participate and perform in a range of everyday taken for granted health behaviours, indicating their support. The conclusion is that videotapes for health illustrate the movement between designated experts who define the health issues and recommend appropriate health behaviours and the willing participation of lay people who carry out those health behaviours in their everyday lives. This paper examines a taken-for-granted cultural artefact in order to throw light on power relationships in contemporary public health.

Haeney, J.

Liverpool John Moores University

Food Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room 1, Exhibition Area

Ordered/disordered inter-generational food memories and practices in relation to Marx's theories of alienation and commodity fetishism

Food and memory can be considered symbiotic in that they can be embodied and socially transmitted across generations. Subjective memories of food, often stemming back from childhood, can remain influential throughout the lifecycle. Older people who have continued to cook and eat food using fresh local ingredients, learnt from previous generations, appear to value and appreciate food as a natural resource; food consumption patterns appear to be more ordered and stable with individuals feeling more comfortable and confident about the goodness and appropriateness of the food they eat. A weakening and change in these generational links can be seen in a real decline in cooking skills in younger generations and with it traditional recipes and eating habits as they cease to be taught at home or as an integral part of the educational system. 'Time-space compression' within and outside the home and the proliferation and easy use of processed food has been given as the main reason for this demise. This lack of knowledge and involvement with food has resulted in a sense of 'alienation' or 'disconnection' from the food we eat that also embraces the Marxist notion of 'commodity fetishism', whereby the comparison of objects is based on their market value rather than the history of labour relations that produced them. Food in this sense has lost its value and its relevance to memory is that of disorder in that it represents a purposeful forgetting of the past that went into the making of the present.

Halcli, A., Low, M.

Oxford Brookes University

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room I, Queens Suite

Gendered democratic regimes and political mobilisation

The political mobilisation and enfranchisement of women should be central to accounts of democratisation. Yet comparative work on democratisation focusing on the relevance of social structures has generally seen class as central to theorising democratic expansion, consolidation or breakdown, and in the periodisation of modern political life. A considerable literature has developed assessing the impact that the inclusion of women has or can make on democratic processes. This paper starts by suspending these twin narratives concerning democratisation as class inclusion and women affecting, or somehow failing to affect, a given modern democracy. We ask how gender, and more particularly the different ways in which women have been mobilised and represented over time and space, affects concepts of democracy and understandings of democratisation as process. 'Democratisation' is viewed multidimensionally, as involving (at least) public opinion, movement mobilisation, voting, and formerly excluded agents' occupation of positions of political power. Using the U.K. and U.S. as examples, this paper develops a comparative framework for considering democratisation through the lens of gender, setting suffrage expansion and women's presence in state institutions in this multi-dimensional context, and examining some implications for understandings of 'political development' and political periodisation. The aim is to develop a concept of gendered democratic 'regimes' that differently incorporates and constructs gender in relation to politics and in relation to particular combinations of forms of mobilisation in different times and polities.

Halford, S., Dyb, K., Lotherington, A.T., Obstfelder, A.

Norwegian Centre for Telemedicine

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room A, Queens Suite

Re/Orderings of Medical and Nursing Work: new technologies and the disruption of professional, organizational and spatial relations

The recent and rapid development of new applications for information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the organization and delivery of health care presents profound potential for disruption to the established ordering of medical and nursing work. These disruptions can be understood as organizational as ICTs offer new bureaucratic practices and routes for communication and information storage and retrieval; professional as ICTs offer new possibilities for knowledge formation and ownership, professional roles and inter-professional relations; and spatial, as new forms of communication and representation confront existing productions of space, and spatial configurations of power, identity and knowledge.

This paper uses new empirical research from Norway - where the development of ICT in health care far exceeds that in the UK - to trace these disruptions in practice. We argue that technology is a contested field of potentials in which different practices, alliances and discourses are mobilised to maintain established orders and/or seized to secure re-orderings of knowledge, identity and space.

Understanding how orders and re-orderings of medical and nursing work are made in everyday practice is important for both practical and theoretical reasons. To date, many of the technically feasible and clinically desirable applications of ICT in health care have failed because the field of power, knowledge and identity within which health care professionals' work is carried out has not been properly appreciated. Similarly, as Sociologists concerned with technology, we must extend our theorisation of lived experiences, sensualities and identities in the doing of technical practice.

Hall, T., Coffey, A., Lashua, B.

Cardiff University

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room I, Queens Suite

Changing places: the ordering of locality and biography among young people in transforming communities

The paper reports on a current study of personal transition, community transformation and the interplay between these two kinds of change - personal and community - in given localities. Our interest is in two processes commonly viewed as disruptive and/or disorderly. The first of these is the social and material change (disruptive, transformational) prompted by economic regeneration and development in south Wales. The second is the personal changes associated with youth as a phase of the life course (a transitional and 'disorderly' phase). The study has sought to bring these two processes together through a research technique that is both locational and spatial: we have invited young people living in sites of economic and community transformation to conduct walking tours of their local space, linking up spaces that signify for them biographically. This simple innovation - touring, biographic interviews amidst (changing) spatial and material markers of identity and community - draws on Michel de Certeau's postulation that "stories... carry out a labor that constantly transforms places into spaces and spaces into places" (1984, p. 118) and has enabled a rich exploration of the interplay of spatiality and biography in young people's lives. The paper reports on early research findings and maps out the importance of local (spatial) orders for young people coming of age in transforming communities.

Hamilton, S.A.

University of Stirling

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room G, Queens Suite

Talking to single fathers: reflections on unpacking contemporary masculinities

It is increasingly recognised that key insights into contemporary society can be generated by unpacking what it means to 'be a man'. This paper seeks to add to this bank of knowledge by drawing from on-going empirical research that is concerned with generating a qualitative understanding of the lived experience of single fathers in Scotland.

Although in recent years much research has focused on female single parents, little attention has been given to the case of men who parent alone. Consequentially, the experiences of the one in ten British single parents who are male have not been widely documented or analysed. By focusing on the lived experiences of men who parent alone, much can be learned about the range of 'masculinities' and 'fatherhoods' that exist in both the public and the private spheres of contemporary society.

In undertaking the fieldwork for this research, a number of methodological and theoretical issues have been raised, each of which provides important insights into 'being a man' in contemporary society. This paper discusses the experiences of collecting men's narratives on parenting alone, and combines these with the initial findings from the interview data. The discussion is framed within existing theoretical and empirical understandings of masculinity and fatherhood.

Overall, the paper both contributes to and challenges existing understandings of men's everyday experiences in contemporary society. This is achieved by bringing to the fore the lived experiences of single fathers - a hitherto under-researched and hidden group of men.

He, T.

University of York

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room A, Queens Suite

Language Usage and Legitimacy in the Online LGBT Community of Spiteful Tots: A Case Study of Online Communal Linguistic Order in Taiwan

In light of Taiwan's marginal status in the international arena of both being not recognised as a country and not as the legitimate heritage site for Chinese language despite its keeping of traditional Chinese characters, it is highly interesting to explore the recent phenomenon of zhuyinwen- online texts composed of both traditional Chinese characters and phonetic symbols in Taiwan. These phonetic symbols are independent from the Chinese characters, meant to be helpful for children to remember the pronunciation of the characters, and are exclusively taught and understood in Taiwan. As the Internet becomes one of the important sites where texts in traditional Chinese are massively produced everyday, a trend of using phonetic symbols in the online traditional Chinese messages becomes popular and common though it simultaneously causes antagonistic feeling among online users who make a point of avoiding zhuyinwen. I thus intend to deal with this issue within the scope of my doctoral thesis where the focus goes to the online community of Spiteful Tots, a small-sized community where LGBT and heterosexual online users in this place unanimously resent zhuyinwen even though zhuyinwen seems to be the 'authentic' production of Taiwanese communication style. I argue that zhuyinwen is seen as a threatening hybrid of phonetic symbols and traditional Chinese, under the influence of Japanese kawaii culture, which all in all disrupts the linguistic order and compels the online users in Spiteful Tots to ban zhuyinwen so as to maintain the seeming legitimacy of traditional Chinese.

Hearn, J.

University of Edinburgh

Scottish Studies study group

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room A, Queens Suite

National Identity, Corporate Culture, and the Ideology of Change in Scotland

Power relations in the modern world are often articulated through an ideology that privileges change, favouring the new over the old, innovation over tradition, progress over parochialism. This ideology and its values gets invoked to make sense of and shape various kinds of social relations. In this paper I use an ethnographic case study of the first year of merger between a Scottish and an English bank to form a major banking group, to explore various manifestations of this ideology in context. My focus is on the way certain conventional understandings of Scottish and English identity get mapped onto the corporate relations between the two merging banks. In this process a situated discourse emerged in which progress and dynamism were associated with Englishness and the English bank, and parochialism and conservatism were associated with Scottishness and the Scottish bank. The broader theoretical interest is twofold. Firstly, to argue that identities by their nature encode problems of power and agency (articulated in this case through the ideology of change). And secondly, in using this case to better understand how personal identities become invested in collective identities (in this case as members of nations and corporations), which in turn become articulated in personal experience.

Heeney, C.

The University of Edinburgh

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room C, Queens Suite

Privacy, the Census and the Trust Gap: The Role of Liberal Political Theory

In this paper, it will be argued that in a liberal democratic society understandings of privacy will be intimately linked with liberal political values, such as those found in Kantian philosophy. Liberal thinking informs both the tools for the governance of statistical data and the way in which individuals view the provision and circulation of such data. However, while liberal values in the abstract provide a sound conceptual framework for the governance of information these values are being misapplied in the case of statistical data. Current applications of liberal principles do not address the way in which statistical data can be used in profiling.

This paper will discuss data from 30 interviews, carried out at the time of the 2001 Census in the UK. It will be argued that the values and attitudes that people expressed in relation to statistics and privacy are liberal in content and thus resonant with law and guidance. National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) have a number of tools for dealing with privacy, which they share with the research community generally; these include informed consent, anonymisation of published results and confidentiality. However, due to the use of information technology to create profiles individuals can feel that their data is not being protected and this can give way ultimately to feelings of disempowerment and cynicism. As liberal political theory relies on the idea of individuals as managers of their own interests there is a gap between current modes of information governance and the protection of privacy.

Henderson, B., Strangleman, T.

London Metropolitan University

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room H, Queens Suite

Social order(s), disorder(s), and last orders: the work, life and death of an English brewery

This paper aims to develop the understanding of emotional attachment to work, in the context of a multi-national company's closure programme. The process of closure of a brewery was examined using a range of qualitative methods including oral histories and photography, together with archive documentation. In interviews with brewery workers, the metaphor of the family arose frequently as a way to describe and explain workplace culture. The frequent use of 'family' suggests a level of shared understanding of how this workplace functioned, yet there are inherent ambiguities in this metaphor which generate a discussion about models of the family. The parallels between this and the dynastic ownership structure, the extent to which the family concept was encouraged, and how the family/workplace culture interacted with collective organisation are discussed. The appropriation of the concept of family as an organisational description by global capital is also explored. Images from the brewery's archive and its final months of production provide a visual representation of how the workplace culture may have been affected by periods of restructuring, changes of ownership and redundancies.

Hester, M., Donovan, C., Holmes, J., McCarry, M.

University of Bristol

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room G, Queens Suite

Same sex domestic violence: actuality or oxymoron? findings from the first national survey comparing domestic violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships

As part of the ESRC funded larger project on comparing love and violence in same sex and heterosexual relationships we conducted a nation-wide survey focussing on same sex relationships in order to undertake comparative work with existing surveys conducted in ostensibly heterosexual communities. In this paper, we address some of the methodological problems encountered in designing such a survey that allows both a comparison and for the inclusion of abusive/coercive behaviours that might be particular to same sex relationships. In presenting these findings we also hope to unpick the received knowledge that domestic violence occurs with the same frequency in same sex relationships as heterosexual relationships. We argue that in conducting such research it is essential that we are clear about how we are defining and therefore measuring domestic violence. In our research we use the definition of domestic violence that emphasises both a pattern of coercive/abusive behaviours and includes emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse. In addition the issue of context is crucial to an understanding of abusive behaviours particularly in relationships where there can be no assumptions made about gendered behaviours. Thus, we attempt to discern between behaviours that represent retaliation and/or self defence and those that are intended to exert power and control over a partner.

Hill, M.

Northumbria University

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room G, Queens Suite

'Accounting for intimacy troubles: Sociological analysis and vernacular discourse.'

Intimate relations are one of the most analysed aspects of human experience, and sociological interest in this topic has been sustained throughout the history of the discipline. This paper proceeds from an analysis of existing sociological claims about intimate relations, and by extrapolating from these claims, summarises a sociological view of intimacy troubles. In contradistinction to academic psychology, sociological accounts have typically afforded intimacy troubles a supra-personal quality i.e. as arising from either the contradictory or dualistic nature of intimacy itself, or as a consequence of wider structural changes in specific social and historical locations. However, in making these theoretical claims, sociologists have characteristically muted or transformed vernacular voices.

This paper reports the findings of a discourse analysis of a series of vernacular accounts of intimacy troubles. The data for this analysis was comprised of instances of Internet communications made over a three-year period within one 'on-line community' (www.divorce-online.co.uk). Three overarching, and highly integrated themes pervaded the exchanges on this Internet site: (a) 'reputation work', (b) the construction of 'heroic' identities, and (c) a concern with 'moral proceduralism'. It is suggested that these findings carry differentiating and therapeutic implications for existing sociologies of intimate relations/troubles. This paper will conclude by advocating a turn away from the familiar sociological tendency for abstract theorising about intimate relationships in favour of the close analysis of lay accounting for these matters.

Hillman, A.

Cardiff University

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room I, Queens Suite

Citizenship and the Triage system: legitimating Access

This paper draws on an ethnography of older patients in an Accident and Emergency Department. The specific focus of the paper is the 'triage' system and the processes through which patients are ordered and categorised for treatment. The analysis focuses on three of the five triage categories, those that refer to patients who present with non-life threatening problems. Here it was found that the identification of patients as various forms of 'citizen' had a significant impact on their placement into a specific triage class.

Using the work of Mary Douglas, the paper will go on to identify how notions of citizenship help to order people into those who belong and those who are deemed out of place. Practices of ordering are examined in the ways in which they constitute patients' identities and manage their attending problems in order to make them fit a chosen triage category. These processes of negotiation between staff and patients, are explored with specific reference to the consequences they have for accessing hospital services.

The paper shows how notions of personhood, made available through discourses of citizenship, are drawn upon in triage. Specifically, the analysis demonstrates that notions of citizenship such as responsibility, self reliance, and duty are deployed by staff and patients in their negotiations of a patient's placement into a distinct triage group. It examines how triage as practices of inclusion and exclusion uphold the values expressed by notions of what it means to be a 'good' citizen.

Hillyard, S.

University of Nottingham

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room E, Queens Suite

Rural disharmonies: conflict and cooperation in the English Rural Village

The paper discusses the results of case study research into two rural English villages (funded by the University of Nottingham grant no.: NLF3062).

The research examined the importance and impact of tourism upon social relations. It provides an overview of kinship networks and population demographics in each village and summarises the key drivers of decline or expansion. The substantive part of the paper discusses evidence of community cohesion, based on unstructured interview data collected in Easter and summer 2005 with over fifty village residents and workers. One village is a tourist-rich and the other, in contrast, has no site of special tourist interest, but is located within commuting distance of several cities. The methodological approach of the case study continues a long heritage of small-scale community research (Stacey 1960), rural occupational studies (Newby 1977) and village studies (Bell 1994, Williams 1956).

The paper finally seeks to re-dress the current neglect of rural sociology within the UK and to challenge the current dominance of political-theory approaches of rural geography by placing an emphasis upon the social aspects of issues high on the policy agenda, such as rural community vibrancy and sustainability.

Hockey, J., Robinson, V.

University of Sheffield

Cities/Spaces

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room H, Queens Suite

'It's a woman's world': men, masculinities and hairdressing

This paper explores the implications of working within a feminised environment for men adopting hairdressing as a career. It asks how this form of employment and its associated lifestyle might disrupt or disorder men's self perceptions at different stages of the life course. While certain 'nurturing' professions, for example health care, can offer male nurses opportunities to adhere to gendered stereotypes traditionally associated with men, the ethos of hairdressing turns entirely on 'the look', on performance, on nurturance and care, in ways defined primarily by female stylists and clients. This paper draws on ethnographic data from an ESRC funded study of masculinities in transition and examines the ways in which men 'do' masculinity as they move between domestic and paid work environments. Located in a major northern city, it compares performances of masculinity in a working class and an upmarket city centre salon, exploring the ways in which hegemonic masculinity is both asserted and also re-defined. Core to the paper is the issue of the body - both that of the client, whether female or male, and that of the hairdresser, as they manage, or suffer, the physical changes wrought by the ageing process. While 'making women feel special' is consistently identified as the underlying aim of salon practice, the men who feature within this project are employed in relatively low paid body work which is undertaken, often, by women. What our data highlight are the ways in which men appropriate or re-describe routine salon practices, so illuminating, and potentially disordering, their relationship with prevailing conceptions of masculinity.

Hodgkiss, P.

Manchester Metropolitan University

Identity

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room F, Queens Suite

The 'Impersonation' of a Human Being-The Case Of Sociology

Human beings can be seen to be individuals, selves, subjects and persons, they may be thought to have souls, spirits, egos and consciences and to have a personality, a character and various identities. Over the years the analysis of what it is to be a human being as generated a bewildering array of such concepts. Each of these terms is grounded in a characteristic discourse. Occasionally there is a cross-over from one to the other but this is by no means necessary or automatic. It will be the primary purpose of this paper to explore the extent to which the modern human being has become an artefact of discourses fundamentally estranged one from the other and to suggest that this, itself, amounts to a failure to genuinely reflect the contradictions of the underlying social order. By concentrating on just one instance, it is possible to demonstrate that the sociological definition of 'the person' has inherited a complex and contradictory theoretical legacy. Beginning with the two most obvious philosophical tributaries flowing into sociology, springing respectively from Kant and Hegel, the discussion will trace the treatment of 'the person' in Durkheim and Mauss, in Symbolic Interactionism and in more recent positions.

The paper will contend that the designation of 'the person' only makes any sense at all when taken as just one complementary aspect of a multi-dimensional discursive construction of a human being grounded essentially in an historically specific social order.

Holdsworth, J.

University of Hull

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room F, Queens Suite

Disorderly Orders: narratives of lost normality in Ukraine

Changes in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union over the last decade have resulted in an explosion of literature on the area. Many ethnographic accounts of the region focus on the disparity between models and expectations of 'transition,' and people's lived experiences of these changes. Building on these and drawing on understandings gained during long-term ethnographic fieldwork in Donetsk, a large industrial city in Eastern Ukraine, this paper explores the impact of wider structural changes on people's daily lives. During the last decade the Donetsk region, a predominantly Russian-speaking area, has suffered massive economic decline alongside the breakdown of the social support network provided by the Soviet State. The region is also often seen to be in opposition to many central Government aims and objectives. This paper argues that for many in the Donetsk region post-socialist life is, consequently, characterised by uncertainty and disorder. This paper explores, particularly, the experiences of people who feel themselves to be losers in the new systems; those that some writers have referred to as the 'dispossessed'.

Through examining recent events, such as the 2004 Presidential elections and the 'Orange Revolution', and employing ideas of liminality, normality and abnormality, the paper focuses on ways that disorder has come to be a central ordering principle in the lives of such 'dispossessed' people. It will be argued that this way of making sense out of 'non-sense' is crucial to the employment of coping strategies dealing with what many people feel is the loss of normal life.

Innes, M.

University of Surrey

Crime

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room B, Queens Suite

Presence in absence: on false allegations, collective memories, and the symbolic construction of crime in urban order

The problem addressed in this paper is that of how crime frames perceptions and experiences of urban social life. In particular, it focuses upon two ways that crime, and the material traces of such conduct, shapes conceptions of security and insecurity across urban spaces. The first of these considers how allegations of serious crime can persist in their effects, in terms of creating fear and insecurity attached to an area, even a long time after it has been demonstrated that no crime actually happened. The second permutation is to trace how past crimes can provide the basis of a collective memory that shapes the meanings and labels attached to a territory in the present. Both of these phenomena point to how criminal conduct does not have to be materially present in order to shape the contours of urban social orders. The discussion is informed by empirical data collected through fieldwork conducted in communities throughout England between

Ispas, A.

University of Cardiff

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room D, Queens Suite

Collective guilt: ordering or re-disordering past disorders?

Over the past decades, shifting interpretations of historical events have led to an increasing number of official acknowledgements of collective guilt by heads of states, along with offers of reparations for the harmed groups. The present paper is concerned with the roots of this international trend, as well as with the social and political implications of experiencing this emotion. The emergence of collective guilt as an international trend is associated with moves towards reflexivity and global change. Moreover, the concept of collective guilt is examined in the context of its conceptualisation within academic disciplines such as social psychology, where it is seen as an effective way of increasing a group's willingness to compensate for the past. Taking a sociological approach, the present paper challenges this uncritical conceptualisation and argues that collective guilt is not an appropriate motivator for redressing past wrongs. To support this argument, the paper presents empirical data suggesting that the experience of collective guilt may in fact engender a backlash against the harmed group. By representing a threat to group identity, collective guilt becomes a motivator for justifying past behaviour and derogating members of the harmed group, rather than a motivator for reconciliation. These findings suggest that despite motivating compensation at the official level, advocating the inducement of collective guilt may have serious negative implications at the practical level for those who have already been oppressed in the past. The paper therefore concludes that collective guilt is best avoided in the context of conflict resolution.

James, L., Wattis, L.

Liverpool John Moores University

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room H, Queens Suite

Ordered work, disordered families: the consequences of combining work and care

Demographic shifts, organisational restructuring and the decline of standard employment forms have led to increasing pressures on employees in post-industrial labour markets.

Work intensification and heightened temporal and spatial demands as characteristics of the post-industrial labour market have resulted in concerns over work-life balance and the way in which individuals negotiate boundaries and transitions between paid work and other spheres of life.

The growth of women's entry into paid employment renders work-life balance particularly problematic for those who have to combine paid work with care. The separation of the public and the private has been criticised as a false dichotomy. However, the fact that individuals, most notably women, are now required to fulfil dual obligations as carers and workers highlights the interconnectedness of the two spheres.

Although in the UK, government and employers have responded to these issues, accommodating care remains a marginal concern which results in employees resolving the tensions between work and care at an individual level (Brannen et al. 2001). Drawing upon data from an ESF funded project, this paper highlights how notions of work-life balance can be understood in terms of order and disorder. The paper explores how attempts to avoid disruption of the 'rational' sphere of work often leads to the disorder in the domestic sphere. However, the paper also questions this construction of the rational masculine workplace, given that frequently it is family life which is organised, rationalised and segmented (Lyon and Woodward, 2004) in order to accommodate the demanding nature of paid work.

James, N.

University of Leicester

BSA Youth Study Group: 'Young People, Citizenship and Identity'

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

Using Drama Education to rethink Young People's Citizenship

This paper will present the findings from a research study that explored the impact that taking part in drama education can have for socially excluded young people. It will examine how by becoming members of a youth theatre group called 'Actup!' based on a challenging council housing estate in Leicester, the young people not only began to work together as collective citizens in reciprocal learning exchanges, but were also able to pursue their needs, gain confidence and learn more about themselves. The paper recognises that by engaging in participative and creative learning, the disengaged young people began to play a part in combating social exclusion in their community. It concludes by suggesting that through drama education, attention can be given to developing inclusive and empowering structures and processes for disengaged young people, but it requires a reconsideration of approaches to learning.

Jones, A.

University of Southampton

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room E, Queens Suite

Troubling the insides and outsides of racial exclusion: a white ethnographer in Asian space

According to Mason's (2003) edited collection, Pakistani and Bangladeshi ethnic groups are amongst the most excluded of the excluded in Britain today. However, as Alexander (2000) argues, the socio-economic position of these 'communities' is too often explained by essentialist understandings of cultural difference. In the context of the 'War on Terror' this is a difference over-determined by global conflict, a difference which has led to the construction of Muslim youth as the 'new enemy within'.

Based on research into the lives of young Sikh and Muslim men living in Southampton, this paper argues that the ethnographic method is an important means of challenging the way Asian youth is imagined. Through attention to routine social practice, ethnography can be used to interrogate the boundaries of racial inclusion/exclusion, shifting our focus from the spectacle of ethnic difference to people and what they do to material and symbolic conditions of racial inequality.

A white ethnographer in Asian space, I have an embodied, shifting presence on the scales of racial inclusion/exclusion. Considering the ethical problems that this presents for the research (Gunaratnam, 2003), the paper questions whether I can use my own race/ethnicity as a means of generating data. Does my ambiguous presence in the field disrupt the inside/outside dichotomy of racial exclusion? If so, can it be used to locate the 'problem of Asian youth' not in the space of 'cultural difference' but in routine, structured (dis)connections between whiteness and its others?

Jones, I.

University of Gloucestershire

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room D, Queens Suite

Syphilis and Segregation - Contagion Fears and 'Race' in 19th Century USA

Referencing primary documentary sources, the paper explores the policy implications of the confluence of discourses of contagionism and racial nativism in the USA after 1865.

Pasteur's germ theory of disease gradually supplanted earlier miasmatic/climatic theories of disease as caused by place. As the concept of person-borne disease increasingly informed social encounters and relationships, Americans adopted a wide range of aversive and exclusionary behaviours (Tomes 1998).

Simultaneously, a growing American racial nativism (Higham 1955) was expressed in discourses of health and pathology and it became commonplace for doctors, politicians and policymakers to attribute both literal diseases, and the metaphorical ills of the US body politic, to the foreigner, the outsider, the racial Other.

The view that disease amongst Americans of pioneer stock was imported and spread by the foreign-born immigrant (Kraut 1994) became axiomatic, as the emergent science of microbiology afforded a scientific validity to the transhistorical racist caricature of the diseased outsider, threatening and warranting exclusion.

In the late 19th Century, race-conscious immigration and public health measures (such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882), legitimated by contagion fears, became key features of social control in the US itself and in its new colonies, particularly the Philippines (Markel 1999 ; Anderson 1995).

The paper argues that this hegemonic view of the contaminating Other became extended to African Americans in the post-bellum era. Evidence from 19th Century US medical journals suggests that 'Jim Crow' racial segregation was underpinned by doctors' insistent construction of African Americans as a general health threat.

Jones, S.

University of Birmingham

Citizenship

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room I, Queens Suite

Not getting to know you: are communities queuing up to talk to government about new deal for communities regeneration scheme

"This unique, bold and innovative programme deliberately set out to give local people a real say in how their neighbourhood is regenerated. Community engagement is a pre-requisite to creating sustainable communities and making urban renewal work in areas with long-term problems.

This paper is based on current ethnographic research; part of a larger research project funded by the NHS Executive (West Midlands) of the Department of Health, conducted in a Midlands NDC. The focus will be on non- participation, questioning why people do not get involved or more importantly avoid participation in such schemes. Drawing on examples from extensive fieldwork this paper argues that non-participation can act as a form of passive resistance to top down government even in the light of NDC's progressive remit for community involvement.

The New Deal for Communities (NDC) initiative is a key component of the government's National Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal, but also a further example of Labours drive towards wider citizen participation away from 'top down' government. What is unique to NDC is the commitment to community involvement with the majority of voting members of NDC boards being elected community residents, Jeff Rooker Minister for Regeneration said: Seeing that participation, citizen engagement and enabling communities is central to the New Deal for Communities programme, the question arises of what engagement are we talking about, what is recognised as community participation, and are communities queuing up to engage with government?

Kaltefleiter, C., Walsh, P.

State University of New York College at Cortland

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room A, Queens Suite

Representing Sovereignty and Nationalism: A Genealogy and Visual Rhetorics

Nationalism remains one of the most potent contemporary symbolic sources of order and disorder. Central to the evolution and structuring of (post)modern nationalism is the concept of sovereignty, understood as an ideological principle by which symbolic national orders, inclusion and exclusion are produced. Yet sovereignty has no exclusive affinity with nationalism per se and its meaning and significance have been and remain essentially contested. This paper examines the concept of sovereignty through two lenses. First, a genealogy of its meaning is traced from Enlightenment social and political thought through 20th century theory, with special emphasis on the analysis of sovereignty offered by Hannah Arendt. Second, drawing on the work of Roland Barthes, the paper develops a visual rhetorics to (de)construct, and contest the pairing of sovereignty and nationalism in popular culture and global media. Through examining the "economy of visual images", this section focuses on the representational unlinking and re-linking of nationalist ideologies to the idea of sovereignty. The paper concludes with some observations on the interaction between media representations of sovereignty and nationalism on the one hand and personal identity on the other, with reference to formal representational features of television media such as in/out/between frame reference points, and viewer/image continuum(s).

Karapehlivan Senel, F.

University of Essex

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room C, Queens Suite

When Disorder is the New Order: Normalization of Neoliberal Policies and Implications on Education in Turkey

Turkey was one of the countries which took the neoliberal pill as the solution to its problems caused by the crisis of 1970s. Structural adjustment programs imposed by international financial institutions required introduction of neoliberal policies like liberalization, wage freezes, decreases in public expenditures, privatization of public assets and public services and so on. The cuts in public expenditures resulted with under funding of public services and a decline in the quality or the quantity of services, including education. In this paper I will begin by illustrating the effects of neoliberal policies on education in Turkey. The focus of the paper will be primary education. I will show the changes in educational policies by looking at the country-level data. Then the paper will turn to the implications of these policies on micro-level by drawing on the data collected from a primary school in Ankara. The paper aims to show how under funding of education forced the school administration and teachers to use 'private' funding from communities and families to sustain education in their school and their classes and how those practices has become normal and created a new order in the school.

Karraker, M.W.

University of St. Thomas

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room I, Queens Suite

Sociation and Social Processes: Applications of Robert E. Park's Concepts to International Immigration

International immigration presents challenges for the globalization of knowledge in sociology, a challenge that can be met by mining classical sociological theory for pertinent principles and concepts. In this paper I explicate Park's work on sociation in the context of social processes involving contact between majority and minority groups. Competition, conflict, and accommodation are illustrated through analyses of three cases: policies to control guest workers, legislation to counter trafficking, and tension in religious tolerance. Finally, I critique the value of Park's concept of assimilation in light of minority community response to the 7.07.05 London bombings.

Kemp, S.

University of Edinburgh

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

"Complexity Theory: A Post-Postmodern Paradigm for Sociology?"

In response to the 'post-' critiques of sociology, some have argued that sociologists need to embrace the idea that the social world is a complex place. This appears to allow us to accept aspects of the postmodern critique of 'modernist' sociology's reductionism, without abandoning the idea that we can produce empirical knowledge about the social world. This paper cautions against the wholesale adoption of complexity analysis as a way beyond postmodern critiques. Part One distinguishes between two main sources of 'complexity' arguments in sociology, separating post-structuralist and hermeneutics-influenced approaches from those drawing on natural scientific complexity theories. Part Two offers some critical reflections on complexity theories. Firstly, I argue that invocations of complexity in social theory-derived approaches can cover conceptual confusions within sociological analyses, masking a failure to coherently theorise some phenomenon. I suggest that this problem is less prevalent in natural-science derived approaches. Secondly, I criticise the assumption that all social phenomena are necessarily complex in character, suggesting that the complexity or otherwise of any phenomenon should be settled through empirical investigation. This challenges the views of complexity enthusiasts from both natural-science and social theory backgrounds. However, I suggest that an empirical emphasis is more prevalent in natural-science derived approaches, which tend to have a stronger demand for evidence, including quantitative evidence, to support claims about complexity. The paper concludes that complexity theory should not be embraced as the framework for analysing all social phenomena, being better understood as a promising approach whose scope is yet to be established.

Kennelly, J., Dillabough, J.

University of British Columbia

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room I, Queens Suite

Young people mobilizing discourses of citizenship: strategies of meaning-making in an uncertain world

In this paper, we present ethnographic findings from one urban concentration of a multi-year international study on economically disadvantaged youth, with research sites in Canada, the UK and Australia. The project's central objective is to establish the role of education and the state in reproducing or challenging local and/or national understandings of social justice and the politics of inclusion/exclusion - such as those pertaining to citizenship - amongst economically disadvantaged youth. Drawing extensively upon the theoretical work of Bourdieu, Nayak and Cohen, our primary argument is that young peoples' conceptualizations of "citizenship" provide insight into, and partially parallel, the deep social stratification they experience in a globalizing political economy. Analysis of interview data, critical media documents, and other photographic/ visual data completed by 16 young people (ages 15 and 16) in one urban concentration of poverty in Vancouver, BC, revealed three thematic conceptualizations of citizenship: the "legalistic neoliberal citizen", the "non-citizen," and what we have termed, following Hannah Arendt, the "banality of evil" as discourse of citizenship. We argue that these discourses serve as a mechanism that economically disadvantaged youth draw upon in their attempt to resolve the class conflicts of separating themselves from those economically marginalized groups who they see as carrying limited political legitimacy in the state (e.g., the "really poor"), and for constructing meaning in a world marked by increasing insecurity, uncertainty, and rapid change. Our analysis brings together social and political critiques of democracy alongside a critical sociology of youth culture, with implications for sociologists, educational theorists, and political scientists.

King, A.D.

University of Surrey

BSA Youth Study Group: 'Young People, Citizenship and Identity'

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

"Be prepared for, y'know, total independence!" Performing aged identities in narratives about the Gap Year

The Gap Year has become a significant feature in the lives of young people; particularly for those increasing numbers who are entering higher education. To some extent this phenomenon resonates with wider debates about the transformation of adolescence and adulthood in late modern, disorganised capitalist societies. Moreover, certain aspects of the Gap Year, such as overseas travel, have been analysed as examples of a contemporary rite of passage, a liminal space for self-transformation. However, this paper supplements these predominantly structural approaches to the relationship between experience and identity by examining how narratives obtained from thirty in-depth interviews with young people, who have taken a Gap Year, provide discursive spaces for performing and ordering aged identities.

Firstly, the paper examines the categories and attributes that these young people associate with aged identities, including those related to both belonging and independence. Secondly, it considers how the Gap Year is narrated as an experiential 'zone of transition' to make distinctions between different arenas in their lives. Finally, the paper concludes with a brief discussion of the ramifications of this research for contemporary debates about citizenship and age in contemporary sociology.

Kramer, A-M.

University of Warwick

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room F, Queens Suite

Identities in transformation? The amniocentesis debate in Poland

Reproductive politics have been the topic of heated and frequent debate in postcommunist Poland. Abortion law has changed three times since 1989, with access restricted in 1993 to allow for abortions in four situations: irreparable damage to the foetus, endangerment to the health or life of the pregnant woman, or if pregnancy resulted from rape or incest. Abortion law was liberalised in 1996 to allow for abortions in the case of 'difficult living conditions'. However, the 'unconstitutional' liberalised law proved to be short-lived, and the 1993 law was reintroduced in 1997. Moreover, the application of the liberalised law was always problematic, with doctors refusing to perform abortions on the grounds of the 'conscience clause'.

Reproductive politics continues to inform the political agenda. Parliamentary debate in 1998 for example, centred around an attempt to make prenatal testing such as amniocentesis illegal in order to further reduce the numbers of abortions carried out. Examining this particular moment in Polish reproductive politics in terms of its significance for regulating identity categories, this paper will address the following questions: How does the amniocentesis debate construct the role of the medical profession as legitimate authorities and 'knowers' on the question of abortion/prenatal testing? In what terms is the foetal/maternal relationship described, what citizenship 'rights' are ascribed to the foetus and the pregnant woman, and how does such debate play to nationalist constructions of the importance of the family for Polish society?

Krause, M.

New York University

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Rethinking Differentiation: Towards a Critical Relational Approach

The problem of separated spheres in society has been a classic topos in modern social theory. Yet even today the separation of phenomena like 'religion', 'art' and 'science' is most commonly taken-for-granted or ignored. Theoretically, it is predominantly analysed in the terms of systems theory. In this paper I sketch an alternative understanding of cultural differentiation in modernity, which draws on the tradition of German Critical Theory and the work of Pierre Bourdieu.

Contrary to a common view that opposes theories of differentiation and critical theories of society, I show a parallelism of important insights across those two traditions. The paper then discusses a series of problems confronted by systems-theoretical approaches and formulates elements of a resolution of these problems. A critical relational approach helps us to conceptualise the borders between spheres, it formulates hypothesis for their internal structure and it theorises the contradictions and costs of differentiation.

Kyparissis, D.

University of Essex

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room I, Queens Suite

Becoming a social movement activist. Socio-political continuity and family values in the process of the formation of activists' identities

This paper explores the socio-political and ideological background and its perceived effectiveness in the process of the formation of Social Forum activists' identity and action. Based on 30 life history interviews of young Greek activists (age 20-35) I investigate how their family background, in terms of social position and status, ideological location, and political participation, constitutes this kind of fertile ground of their political socialisation on which, later on their lives, it will, - in times of mass political apathy and disengagement- mould their active political identification and commitment. In this paper I claim that a significant factor that initially paved the way to activism, it is not so much the example of their parents being actively involved or really interested in politics or the fact that most of them have been raised in relatively liberal and serene family environments, but what is really important and surpass any family shortcomings in terms of social status and political commitment is the social values of solidarity, honesty, justice, effectiveness and persistence that have been passed to them by their family environment and become the prerequisite for any political involvement. Of course these appear to be crucial but not sufficient conditions for their activism and other factors in their life trajectories, not investigated here, turned their predispositions into sustained political involvement. In this way I want to shed light not only to structural but also cultural and subjective bedrocks and the way they are perceived by social movement and political activists.

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

University of Newcastle

Food Study Group Stream

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room 1, Exhibition Area

How men and women differ: change in food consumption from adolescence to adulthood (The ASH30 study)

Gender variations exist in attitudes towards food and eating patterns. The family environment and particularly partners are among the numerous factors which influence eating patterns. The ASH30 study provided evidence of dietary change and observed the influence of gender on this change over 20 years from adolescence to adulthood.

Longitudinal dietary data (two x 3-day food diaries) were obtained in 1980 and 2000 from the same 198 respondents (mean age 11.6 and 32.5 years respectively) in Northumberland, North East England. Foods consumed were assigned to one of the five food categories of The Balance of Good Health. Two questionnaires explored respondent's attributions for, and perceptions of their dietary change. Mixed methods were used and quantitative and qualitative results have been combined.

Over 20 years patterns of food intake by male and female respondents had changed differently; men increased their food intake from meat, fish and alternatives and decreased their intake of milk and dairy foods significantly more than female respondents ($p=0.003$ and $p=0.019$). Attributions for change were also different between men and women. Although women were mainly responsible for food related tasks, the influence of male and female partners was perceived to have shaped food patterns. Partners were seen to encourage positive and negative dietary changes, 36% of men felt the healthiness of their diet had improved on living with their spouse, compared with 19% of women ($X^2=13.2$, $p=0.004$).

Gender differences and the influences of partners appear to be an influential factor in eating patterns and dietary change.

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

Landman, M. L.

University of the West of England, Bristol

Food Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room 1, Exhibition Area

'Unconditional love and light': knowledge markets, popular nutritionism, and consuming expertise

The knowledge society is characterized by new forms of the commodification of expertise and knowledge markets. Recent research observed that there is significant uncertainty within the field regarding the respective rôles and functions of dietitians, nutritionists and nutritional therapists (Landman et al, 2005). It reported confusion among other health professionals about the diversity of practices of nutritionists and nutritional therapists. There is an array of sources for 'expert' guidance and 'nutritionists' apparently abound, a phenomenon nowhere more apparent than on prime time television. In the last five years, there has been an explosion of 'nutritionists' featured in 'fact-based' programmes or with their own series. This can be a lucrative business because, if health professionals demonstrate confusion about the delineation and legitimation of professional nutrition knowledge and expertise, programme makers, publishers and health food producers apparently have no qualms. Among the spin-offs a successful, popular 'nutritionist' can count upon are books and food products (the nutritional ingredients of one food bar include 'unconditional love and light'). Consumers, too, apparently have little interest in the delineation and validation associated with the professionalized and bureaucratized expertise of previous occupational orders.

This paper explores explanations for consuming nutritionism as described. The focus is on the reception, rather than delivery, of 'expert' knowledge. The empirical work seeks to explore whether - and how - popular nutritionism is peculiarly constructed as a commodity because of the demand for it. The discussion considers how relevant knowledge producers devise strategies to meet that demand and

Larsen, J.A.

University of Surrey

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room I, Queens Suite

The micro sociology of discrimination: overseas nurses' experiences

Discussions of racism, discrimination and the need for equal opportunities often focus on the macro processes and the policies required to control public behaviour and attitudes. In this paper I direct attention to the micro sociology of how discrimination is expressed in everyday interaction, and I discuss the embodied consequences it may have for individuals and the strategies they employ. The paper draws on in-depth interviews from the REOH study into equal opportunities for overseas nurses working in the UK. In these data overseas nurses describe how their British colleagues often treat them with disrespect and they are socially excluded through recurrent 'little things', such as being questioned about the reality of sickness episodes, never being invited to join their British colleagues for lunch breaks or being assigned the work tasks performed in solitude. When opportunities for promotion arise, overseas nurses see others being favoured and given preferential treatment through informal support from colleagues and managers. As a consequence, some overseas nurses describe how they lose confidence and experience a change of self. They may seek to resist this embodiment of discrimination by directing their life projects towards family life while others self-impose a 'blindness' to racism to keep up hopes for career progression. It is suggested that a micro sociology of discrimination helps illuminating the social dynamics of discrimination and identifying areas of policy development that can support equal opportunities for immigrant workers.

Lashua, B., Hall, T., Coffey, A.

Cardiff University

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room E, Queens Suite

Bring the noise: 'Soundscape' in the context of recorded interviews

This paper addresses what seems, at first, to be no more than a technical 'problem' to do with sound and recording and the sense to be made of interviews. The problem is that of noise - a particular distraction, or disorder. All too often background noises, sudden interruptions, and other audible disturbances make the business of interviewing, transcribing and subsequent analysis a difficult one. They disrupt or baffle; they make it hard to hear what respondents are saying. Two simple 'fixes' suggest themselves: technical and locational. However, we argue that it is not always helpful to consider these as fixes at all. Better microphones, digital recording and editing, mufflers - all these appear to help solve, technically, the problem of unwanted interview noise. Similarly, the setting can be organised so as to minimise the chances of disruption and disturbance - somewhere quiet, somewhere still, somewhere out of the way. We argue that such technical and locational fixes come at a cost, setting limits on sound recording by abstracting (either physically or sonically) respondents from their environment. Using audio data from a series of interviews with young people, conducted outdoors and on the move in local, 'noisy' settings (busy streets, parks, sites of construction, shopping centres) we make the case for a reconsideration of 'noise' and disorder as sociologically significant in the context of recorded interviews and the wider 'soundscapes' in which these are set.

Lebeau, Y., Jary, D.

The Open University

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

What Students Say They Learn: the subject identity/identities of sociology students

The paper will present and discuss some data from our 4-year ESRC Teaching and Learning Research Programme Project: 'What Students Learn at University: The Social and Organisational Mediation of University Learning (SOMUL)'. Drawing on a preliminary analysis of our interviews and questionnaires in a range of sociology departments the paper will present what students and staff think constitutes the 'subject identity' of a sociology graduate today. Student and staff views will be compared to establish how far there is a convergence or divergence of staff and students viewpoints and to evaluate the extent to which narratives on this topic are influenced by academic contexts (institutional 'reputation' and physical infrastructures as well as modes curriculum organisation).

Levine-Rasky C.

Queen's University, Canada

Education

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room C, Queens Suite

Making difference, making choice: parents' responses to a new multiculturalism at their children's school

Beginning in the 1980s, the parents of "Baywoods," a predominantly Jewish and economically privileged neighbourhood, witnessed the neighbourhood elementary public school's rapid transition from monocultural to multicultural. This was the outcome of changes taking place in "Kerrydale," an adjacent neighbourhood part of which falls within the school catchment area. The population at Kerrydale had itself changed to reflect the diversity of Canadian immigration. Thus by 2000, 51% of the students at the school spoke a primary language other than English. Some of the Baywoods parents regard the Kerrydale students as incommensurably different and a threat to the quality of education for their children. Others value the multiculturalism and reject the claim that educational quality has deteriorated. Parents' responses are read through the perspective of middle-class formation, whiteness, and social policy driving school reforms towards commodification compelling middle-class parents' to secure their children's competitive advantage. The study raises new questions about the exercise of power, contradiction, and the intersections between class and culture.

Li, Y.

Birmingham University

Citizenship

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room I, Queens Suite

Inequalities in social capital in Britain at the turn of the century -- Exploring class, ethnicity and religious effects

There is growing concern about the declining stock of social capital in advanced capitalist countries like Britain. Numerous studies have documented the falling levels of formal civic engagement, particularly among the disadvantaged groups, yet systematic research on informal social capital is sketchy. Furthermore, while research has pointed to class differences, there is little research on ethno-religious differences in the different channels of social capital generation.

This paper will try to make a contribution in this regard. I will use the most authoritative data (Home Office Citizenship Survey of 2001) to measure different dimensions of social capital. The dataset contains 14057 respondents and has comprehensive data on formal and informal aspects of social capital. I will use latent structural analysis based on item response theory to construct distinct dimensions of social capital. These dimensions will be construed as consisting of neighbourhood attachment, civic engagement, and formal and informal volunteering. The scores of the dimensions will be analysed as a function of people's socio-cultural factors, namely, class, ethnicity and religion, controlling for demographic attributes. The study will explore the interrelationship of class, ethnicity and religion in the generation of different channels of social capital in Britain at the turn of the new millennium.

Li, Y., Heath, A.

Birmingham University

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Ethnicity, Education and Class Attainment in Britain (1972-2004)

There has been a longstanding debate amongst sociologists on 'meritocracy', that is, the interrelationships between origin, education and destination. However, there has been little empirical study to trace the trajectory of social integration of black and minority ethnic (BME) groups in Britain. This is incompatible with their numerical growth and the roles they play in the socio-economic lives of this country. In this paper, we shall use pooled data from the General Household Survey (1972-2004) and the Labour Force Survey (1975-2004); standardise key variables on ethnicity, educational qualifications, class, marital status, country of birth, etc. and assess the extent to which various ethnic groups 'deviate' from the Whites in their access to the salariat and semi/unskilled manual positions at each of the time points and whether the deviations show signs of convergence as time goes on. In this way, we hope to see whether the BME groups are attaining class positions comparable to the White charter population holding constant their personal attributes, whether there is increasing socio-ethnic equality over time, and if so, for which of the groups.

Lin, M.L.

National Open University, Taiwan

Citizenship

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room I, Queens Suite

The Order and Disorder: Understanding the Impact of Global Networks on Local Social, Political and Cultural Values

The world order reflects ways of doing and thinking inherent in civilization. The increased disorder and illegalities have led to what has been called world society conflicts. Countries in the world are affected differently by global networks, depending on its own local values. Through the consumption of popular culture, especially media products, people can construct a sense of identity. Culture increasingly plays a constitutive role in shaping organizational structures and technologies. The world views shape social practice across different institutional loci of social life that must be investigated. The author presents the diverse pictures of social structures in transition about local communities, concerns with the role of culture in social life and how identity develops in a social context.

The paper has four tasks: (1) To identify structuring determinants of social change; (2) To map the main constituent parts of the emerging social structure using quantitative N=1,300 and qualitative data; (3) Understanding the possibility of increasing integration into the world economy and the process of globalization has been affected by the global networks leading to a convergence of values and raising concerns over cultural hegemony; (4) Giving the major findings and suggestions for policies conducive to social integration and social cohesion, and providing analyses of transformation of social structures in transition economies with a view of existing diversity of these processes. The author presents the revival of local identities and cultures as part of a broader process of social change.

Litva, A., Kennedy, L., Capewell, S., Forrest, D.

University of Liverpool

Food Study Group Stream

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room 1, Exhibition Area

"Empty sacks don't stand": Lay perceptions of food and eating in a Low Income Area

Current government policy has been aimed at reducing morbidity and mortality, particularly amongst the most deprived and vulnerable groups in Britain, by improving nutritional status and diet. Whilst the link between health and diet has been well established, encouraging changes in diet remains problematic. The Sociology of food highlights that eating serves far more than meeting biological need; what is eaten can serve to communicate the different social and cultural values of different societies. This paper reports on a qualitative study of food and eating in a deprived community in England. Although the informants are from a particularly deprived area in Britain, they hold knowledge about food and diet that mostly reflects current dietary advice. We explore the factors that shape the informants' food choices and find that it is a combination of structural and agency issues impacting on food choices thus highlighting the need to engage with both when developing nutritional policy.

Liu, S.

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room C, Queens Suite

Proletariat Conflict in China's Economic Reform

After more than twenty years of economic reform, social relationships that are at odds with socialism have emerged in China. The proletariats, rather than being rulers of the country, suffer from economic, social and political deprivation in an evolving capitalist economy under the auspices of the Chinese Communist Party. Workers and peasants' dissatisfaction with their conditions has mounted to serious conflict with representatives of the party-state. How should we explain the confrontation of workers and peasants? This paper disputes Lockwood's proposal, which draws on Marxist and Durkheimian social theory, to approach this subject matter in terms of incongruity between class and status relationships (Lockwood 1992). It contests that a framework for analysing conflict should be derived from the basic relationships between some fundamental elements that constitute society. Building upon structuration theory (Giddens 1984), this perspective focuses on modification in the relationship of resources between the antagonistic parties and the incompatibility between the 'rules' that underpin their action. In the Chinese case, the rules of disgruntled workers and peasants are in contradiction with the rules of the party-state and its representatives at the practical, normative and ideological levels. Overt confrontation would have been inconceivable if the resource relationship between the authorities and the populace had not undergone fundamental transformation.

Luger, L.

Thames Valley University

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room B, Queens Suite

Enhancing cultural competence in dealing with people with drug problems

The need for better quality services for people from minority ethnic groups with drug problems has widely been recognised. Service providers and members of communities acknowledge that cultural competence and specialist knowledge on substance misuse are needed to provide a high quality service to all problematic drug using people.

Cultural competence training is an effective way of dealing with diversity and ethnic and social inequalities in the provision of care and treatment services and to achieve cultural and behavioural change amongst provider staff and their organisation.

A multi-disciplinary educational module has been developed at Thames Valley University in partnership with local agencies with the aim to enhance cultural competence of professionals working with people from minority ethnic groups with drug problems. The module has been informed by the findings of a local Rapid Need Assessment that brought together the views of people from the communities, service users and staff in a variety of services. Training needs were identified to make staff more culturally competent with the aim to improve the care for drug using clients from different cultures and backgrounds.

The purpose of this presentation:

- Explore the usefulness of the concept of Cultural competence in dealing effectively with diversity and tackling ethnic inequalities
- Present and discuss the findings of the evaluation of this module.

Intended outcomes:

- An understanding of the importance of cultural competence and its application in the care and treatment of people with drug problems
- Recognising culture and its influence on care and treatment.

Macdonald, G.

University of Bristol

Researching

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room E, Queens Suite

All change or no change? Ground-level responses to the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004

In November 2004 the enactment of the Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 represented the 'biggest overhaul of domestic violence legislation for thirty years' (Home Office, 2005). The Act provides tougher measures for dealing with offenders whilst ensuring that victims and survivors receive the support and protection they need (Home Office, 2005). The strategy is based on three discrete but interconnected areas: prevention; protection and justice; and support. At the time of writing, there is still no implementation date for the Act.

This paper draws on empirical data from a qualitative research project which was conducted with representatives of agencies providing dedicated or related domestic violence services in Leicester. The primary aim of this research was to explore the grassroots responses to changes in legislation and the anticipated impact upon local policy, service provision, and, most importantly, upon the problem of domestic violence. The study was set within the historical context of policy development regarding domestic abuse whereby, traditionally, feminist researchers and activists at the grassroots level were highly instrumental in the development of social policy regarding such issues. With respect to the new Domestic Violence Act, this study has three main objectives: to explore whether practitioners at the grassroots level still have a significant impact on the development of domestic violence legislation; how practitioners today are involved in the policy process and what they think of recent developments.

MacDonald, R., Shildrick, T.

University of Teesside

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room H, Queens Suite

'Paradoxes of Identity & Place: Growing Up in Britain's Poor Neighbourhoods'

Based on detailed, 'close-up', longitudinal research with young people and young adults, this paper explores some of the paradoxes of identity and place. Three related studies (funded by ESRC and JRF) examined the longer-term transitions of young adults in one of 'the most de-industrialised locales' in the UK. The neighbourhoods in which these people grew up comprise the poorest parts of one of the poorest towns in England and interviewees could readily identify some of the personal problems of living here (particularly in respect of localised criminal and drug economies). Yet the majority recounted a perhaps surprisingly strong sense of allegiance and belonging to these otherwise negatively defined places (i.e. places that rank high in indices of multiple deprivation, are stigmatised in local folklore and media and act as archetypes in academic discourses on 'the new rabble underclass'). In seeking to understand this paradox, the paper reveals - and explores - others: the sense of social inclusion described by 'socially excluded' individuals; the supportive yet constraining impacts of social networks and the sense of normality expressed by young adults growing up in adverse, extreme conditions.

Marshall, B.L.

Trent University, Canada

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room G, Queens Suite

Manufacturing disorder: managing the body in the sexual dysfunction 'epidemic'

This paper explores epidemic-making in relation to the growth of sexual pharmacology, and the related manner in which sexual bodies are 1) constructed as disordered and 2) brought back to order through biomedical management. Given that 'distress' is a diagnostic criterion for most sexual dysfunctions, the role of commercial interests in manufacturing distress is analyzed as particularly important in the construction of disorders. Using examples from my research on 'erectile dysfunction', 'female sexual arousal disorder', 'androgen deficiency in the aging male', and 'female androgen insufficiency syndrome', I argue that a convergence of scientific and commercial interests has configured the sexually disordered body as a social problem. This has occurred primarily through a deployment of the rhetoric of 'epidemic' and an expansion of horizons of 'risk', which have newly responsabilized individuals, health care practitioners and health policy bodies to increase surveillance and intervention.

Mason, J., Tipper, B., Flowerdew, J.

University of Manchester

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room G, Queens Suite

Disorderly relations? How children define and create kinship

There has been considerable debate about how kinship is changing. One argument is that 'conventional' distinctions between kinship and friendship are blurring, with increasing complexity and fluidity in who counts as a relative or friend. Yet notions of relatedness, blood, and lineage are tenacious and are undeniable sources of human fascination. Curiously, these debates centre upon relationships between adults, as though only these have the capacity to speak of social change or continuity. Children, it seems (in some quarters at least), have nothing to do with kinship or with social change.

This paper argues that we might conversely see children in the vanguard of changing definitions and practices of kinship. Drawing on qualitative data from an ESRC funded study 'Children Creating Kinship', it will examine how 7-11 year olds make sense of sometimes complex and always dynamic relationships in their everyday lives, and it will explore different ways in which they think about and practice 'relatedness'.

Children's opportunities for self determination are fewer than those of adults, yet they are creative in how they define their relationships. Children do not usually have extensive formal kinship knowledge about their own families, nor about how relationships are conventionally ordered and categorised. Against this background, their ways of defining relationships might be considered 'disorderly'. However, children use sometimes a great deal of creative energy to order their relationships, and in the process they not only draw on but also extend, challenge and reinterpret the kin conventions and definitions that they encounter.

McCarry, M.

University of Bristol

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room G, Queens Suite

Justifications and Contradictions: How young people assimilate male control of women through violence and abuse as constitutive of normative heterosexual interpersonal relationships

Interpersonal male violence against women and children remains a significant social problem with one woman in four experiencing domestic abuse at some point in her life and two women are killed each week by a current or former male partner (Home Office, 1998, 2003). The prevalence, incidence and normalisation of male violence suggests that normative heterosexual male gender identity, or 'masculinity', needs to be re-examined from a critical perspective. Male violence and abuse which leads to the control of women is currently an 'acceptable' element of hegemonic heterosexual masculinity and this has been under-theorised by mainstream masculinity theorists. The way in which hegemonic heterosexual masculinity is 'constructed' to perpetuate individualised and structural power imbalances between women and men, and the sense of male entitlement which leads to the perpetuation of inequalities in power, has also been neglected.

This paper draws on empirical data from a qualitative research project which was conducted with young people in Glasgow. The findings suggest that these young people accept a hegemonic masculinity which perpetuates power differentials between women and men and the tolerance, acceptance and justification of male violence is integral to this gender model. This has implications for challenging male violence because if young people are accepting this as part of what men 'do' then it suggests that strategies for prevention will have to challenge not only gendered behaviour but gender constructions themselves.

McFerran, C., Standing, K.

Liverpool John Moore

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room I, Queens Suite

"We do not treat asylum-seeking children well in this country" - The case of dependant children in Merseyside: citizenship, social inequality & disorderly lives

This paper explores issues of marginalisation for asylum-seeking children (ASC) in families, based on the preliminary findings of a Hefce funded, exploratory and scoping study of the needs, circumstances and service provision for ASC in Merseyside. The project takes a grounded theory approach, exploring the array of issues for ASC in Merseyside, both encouraging and detrimental.

The barrier to social equality and justice for ASC is citizenship, the access rules for which routinely change according to the direction of power and politics at the time. Across the industrialised world, the 'reactive comprehensive' approach aims to minimise asylum applications by preventative action such as; restrictive measures; regional containment; temporary protection and repatriation. In Britain, the disparity of power is now mercilessly expanding as the government targets the children more directly through new legislature and policy measures. While direct and open political discrimination, exclusion and contradictions are primary causes of marginalisation for all ASC, other factors such as conceptualisations of 'family', and the neglect, ignorance and confusion of those in contact with the children also play a role. The social inequality and disorderly lives of ASC are observed in different ways and is partially dependant on whether the children are 'unaccompanied' (UASC) or 'dependant'.

Initial findings suggest that in Merseyside there is a difference in the care and reception of UASC and dependant children. Also discussed are the responses to and coping strategies for, the circumstances of dependant children both nationally and locally from the Children's Commissioners to Liverpool support groups.

McNaughton, C.

University of Glasgow

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room F, Queens Suite

Disordered transitions - disordered identities? Negotiating with negative situations over the life course

This paper uses homelessness as an empirical example to explore what happens when transitional phases in the life course become disordered, leading to a situation or outcome that is viewed as problematic. Longitudinal, qualitative data charting the transitions into, through, and in some cases out of homelessness that a group of people took, is analysed to present how disordered transitions lead to disordered identities, creating a dual disorder - objectively someone is experiencing a problematic situation that they should resolve, and subjectively they attain a problematic identity as a 'homeless person'. Strategies then have to be developed to negotiate with this situation, objectively through interaction with the social welfare system in place to assist people who are homeless, or through other housing options, and subjectively to normalise this identity through a process of rejection or internalisation. These strategies will impact on the ability an individual has to make the final transition out of homelessness - to becoming housed and no longer identifying themselves as homeless person. Ricoeur's theory of narrative identity, and Ezzy's concept of integrative and divestment passages are utilised to highlight how, on both objective and subjective levels, people have to be able to resolve problematic situations they are in, if they are to attain an ordered existence once more and not become trapped within the system they have accessed to assist them, and the identity it labels them with.

McNulty, A.

University of Newcastle upon Tyne

Researching

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room E, Queens Suite

Out of order: young women's pregnancies

The research project was commissioned by Northumberland NHS Trust, with the aim of exploring events and experiences leading up to 'teenage pregnancy'. The research sits within the context of a national strategy to reduce the rate of teenage conception by half by 2010. The teenage pregnancy target is cross-referenced across policy documents produced by the Department of Health, Department for Education and Skills, Department of Work and Pensions, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Home Office.

The data produced in biographical narrative interviews illuminates changing vocabularies and stigmas related to young women's sexuality, sex and pregnancy. The historical period covered in interviews is: 1930s to the present day. The research project explores links between changing social and economic contexts and personal transitions.

Mellor, J.

University of York

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room E, Queens Suite

Migration, Class and Social Research: South Asian Muslim Women in Northern England

Migration, diaspora and ethno-religious hybridity are central to a consideration of the divisions and identities of social class in contemporary Britain. Movements in space play an important role in the objective as well as the subjective dimensions of class, such as feelings of dis/advantage, home and belonging, and the interrelationship between class and caste. Research on class has historically been dominated by quantitative research utilising objective measurements, most commonly income, or the Registrar General's classification based on occupation. However, these methods often place economic measurements as the only, or main component of social class, ignoring the subjective and gendered dimensions of class. Recently, many feminist and post-structuralist researchers have recognised the importance of identity, subjectivity and the 'felt' dimensions of class, and use qualitative methods such as ethnography, focus groups and in-depth interviews to research class (Skeggs 1997; Lawler 2000; Walkerdine et al 2001). However, for these feminists researching class, white British women have been the main focus, and many questions and silences remain around classed experiences of migrant, non-white and other minority women.

Drawing upon on-going indepth interviews with second-generation migrants, namely South Asian Muslim and white women living in the UK, I analyse some of the different and similar ways the women talk about their experiences of social class. In particular, I explore the importance of issues such as Islam, caste, location, kin relations and social mobility and argue that experiences of migration and faith should be considered central themes when conceptualising class in contemporary Britain.

Michael, L.

Keele University

Citizenship

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room I, Queens Suite

Ordering inequalities through leadership

This paper looks at the position of community leadership in relation to the creation and maintenance of order in two ways. The first, and recently most explored within Muslim communities, relates to the maintenance of order with regard to the social behaviours of young people, whilst the second relates to the ordering of access to and use of the city's resources. Using analyses of interviews and observations conducted in Muslim communities of Manchester and Stoke-on-Trent in 2004/5, a broad picture is drawn of the place of ethnic community leadership in terms of wider questions of what constitutes 'community leadership' in Britain today.

The political engagement of minority ethnic groups where such engagement involves the use of grassroots mobilisations and low level resources to 'order' inequalities in the city involves community leadership as a key element in these processes. Here this is explored through analyses of relationships between 'leaders' and local institutions of governance, which define and achieve order at community level through partnership and mobilisations of opposition. The direct impact of changes in leadership on the social, economic and political position of the minority ethnic group is traced and can be seen in parallel to the changes in how leadership engages with systems of ordering both social behaviours and the use of resources in the city. The conclusions that are drawn go some way to updating extant research on the creation and utilisation of ethnic leadership in local governance in contemporary Britain.

Mitchell, J.D.

University of Liverpool

Identity

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room F, Queens Suite

The threat to order of chronic illness: disorder in symptoms, self and social bonds

Chronic Heart Failure (CHF) is a terminal medical condition which represents the advanced phase of a range of cardiovascular conditions.

The signs and symptoms of CHF are intrusive and complex to manage. Prognosis is uncertain, and behind the inevitable decline in health and functional capacity lurks the risk of sudden death. As such, CHF is a particularly threatening, disorderly condition.

This paper explores the utility of Symbolic Interactionism and Scheff's notion of 'Shame' as the theoretical basis of a doctoral study to investigate the meaning of living with CHF. 'Shame' is understood the basic emotion which regulates the strength and appropriateness of social bonds. A range of expressions of this emotion emerges in the Self when social bonds are threatened.

The disorder of CHF influences interactions within a web of relationships around a patient. Threats to social bonds and the re-evaluation of meaning which emerges will feed back into the concept of Self, potentially changing identities and roles. This disorder may persist, creating emotional health problems, or may allow new meanings and a new order to emerge. The constructed social background around heart disease, deriving from health politics, public health and health promotion, can contribute to stigmatisation of those suffering the consequences of perceived behavioural shortcomings. This discourse can be read as the imposition of the order of rational and appropriate healthy activities upon the disorder of impulsive individual behaviour. In CHF, the impact may be the reverse, worsening disorder in self and social bonds, adversely affecting emotions and coping.

Moles, K.

Cardiff University

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room H, Queens Suite

The Empirical Strikes Back: Liminality and the Postcolonial in Ireland

Postcolonial theory has been largely confined to ideas of the literary, with little work exploring the empirical ramifications of many of its key components. Drawing on the work of Homi K Bhabha (1991), this paper seeks to explore the ways in which this theory can be used to understand Phoenix Park, Dublin. Using ideas of the liminal, hybridity and ambivalence it is revealing to investigate how the past and present, natural and man-made come together in a space which is linked with national symbolism and iconic events. The interwoven narratives and overlapping discourses that come together in the park compete with and complement each other to produce a unique local culture. The manner in which this is (re)presented within the interpretative centre opens a discussion on how the story of the park is told, and why it is told like it is. The paper will conclude by thinking about how this form of liminality can be positioned spatially, thus drawing together the liminal of postcolonial theory and the liminal in ideas of the spatial (Hetherington, 1998; Shields, 2001; Soja, 1996) to open up a new epistemological space of enquiry.

Monro, S.

Leeds Metropolitan University

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room G, Queens Suite

Ordering sexuality: new institutionalism and equalities work in local government

Recent statutory and policy changes have raised the profile of lesbian, gay and bisexual equalities initiatives within the local government arena. These initiatives are increasingly developed and delivered via interagency partnerships, which order sexualities work in particular ways. Sexualities equalities work in local government has historically been the site of controversy and of fluid, sometimes difficult insider/outsider relationships. These dynamics have now changed, given a more hospitable environment in at least some localities, and a normalisation of equalities work in this field nationally. However, sexualities equalities initiatives continue to highlight the divergences and tensions associated with community engagement and organisational cultural change in a sensitive area of work. This paper applies concepts from the sociological branch of new institutionalism to the field of sexualities equalities partnership work in local government, drawing on findings from a large empirical project. Notions of norms, ritual, templates and isomorphism all have purchase in this value-laden field, providing insight into the organisational dynamics associated with interagency and partnership working. The paper introduces the notion of institutional hybridisation as a means of understanding the collaborative, and sometimes conflicting and unstable, processes associated with governance in the field of sexualities equalities work.

Moore, N.

The University of Manchester

Qualitative Data Panel

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 12.40

Room D, Queens Suite

Reusing Qualitative Data: Problems and Possibilities

Niamh Moore's '(Re)Using Qualitative Data?' opens up current debates on reuse, challenging the current polarization of debate between those advocates of reuse and those more skeptical of the possibilities. Through a critique of how debates about 'reusing qualitative data' have emerged, and how principles of qualitative methodology which have been invoked in these debates, particularly around the importance of 'context' and 'reflexivity', this paper suggests more fruitful conceptualizations of the project of 'reusing qualitative data'. This opening paper is followed by two papers drawing on empirical research from the two major British archives for qualitative data, Qualidata and the Mass Observation Archive.

Morawska, E.

University of Essex

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room I, Queens Suite

Making Order in Disorder: Coping Strategies of Arbeitstouristen from East in West Europe

The presence of large numbers of undocumented migrants workers from underdeveloped regions of the world and of the thriving informal economic sectors that employ them in post-industrial societies of Western Europe represents a well entrenched element of disorder that undermines the legal-institutional frameworks of these receiver nation-states. This paper looks at the ways East European migrants who come to West European countries to earn money without official work permits and who remain there beyond their official sojourn allowances, "order" their out-of-order situations as undocumented visitor-workers. Specifically, it examines creative applications in the new environment of these migrants' habituated homo sovieticus coping strategies or beat-the-system/bend-the-law orientations and practices mastered in their (post-)communist home countries as effective resources for navigating the capitalist system by those left outside of its formal structures.

It seems ironic indeed that while Western Europe has been the model of liberal democracy for post-communist transformations of its eastern neighbors, millions of East European citizens who today undertake working visits in the western parts of the Continent find there Soviet-style coping strategies of "going around the system" (or disrespect for the law) to be the best resource for success in a capitalist system.

Murakami-Wood, D.

University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

Cities/Spaces

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room H, Queens Suite

Re-ordering Society? Pervasive Computing, Indirect Surveillance and the sociospatial control of cities

In this paper I attempt to expand current debates about the 'surveillance society' by critically considering the social implications of new technologies of pervasive computing. The paper explores and in particular the relationship those embedded technologies that allow forms of surveillance of inhuman objects, for example Radio-Frequency Identify (RFID) tagging and data-mining, which nevertheless have important indirect surveillant impacts on human subjects, and changing social relations in urban societies, in the context of broader trends towards economic liberalisation and social polarisation. The paper addresses the iterations between social and technical through an interrogation of the work of Bruno Latour, John Law and Michalis Lianos, and argues that it is crucial for social justice and social change that we recognise that 'society' is no longer constituted (if it ever has been) by purely social relations but by the interaction of human, nonhuman and inhuman actants involved in shifting networks that may not even 'intend' to produce controlling effects but do so inadvertently. I argue further that such networks can act to conceal the social and political content of such socio-technological networks, which is particularly important if, as Andrew Barry argues, all politics is now the politics of technology.

Murphy, J.

Crime

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room B, Queens Suite

Citizenship and identity in the Canadian carceral city

Discussions of citizenship, the common good and social justice in relation to issues of reintegration and rehabilitation of parolees and ex-offenders into society upon release from prison are predicated on definitions of community, which determine "insider" and "outsider" status. While modern communities have to struggle to balance competing rights, including the rights of the individual as compared to the rights of the collective, some groups, in particular parolees and ex-offenders, are inevitably relegated to "outsider" status. This presentation focuses on the parolees' experiences of reintegration into community through interviews with five women in the first "three-quarters" house in Canada: a pilot project funded by the Correctional Service of Canada and administered by the John Howard Society, Thompson Region (Kamloops, British Columbia). A "three-quarters" house provides less supervision than a halfway house and is the final step for inmates before release into the community on their own. The interviews were conducted using the collective case study approach, and the study was framed within the theoretical perspectives of Critical Theory (Habermas and Foucault), Canadian theoreticians of citizenship (Kymlicka, Taylor and Ignatieff) and Garland's critical analysis of punishment and the culture of control. Findings focus on the "hidden" identity of the women and their families (most have children), their "invisibility" within the wider community and their loss of citizenship/"insider" status within society at large.

Myers, M.

Goldsmiths College, University of London

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

The Imaginary Gypsy

This paper will consider the front-page stories run by The Sun and The Independent on Monday 21 March 2005; both newspapers lead with front-page spreads about Gypsies. The immediate context for these stories was firstly a largely hostile campaign The Sun had been running about the impact of Gypsy sites on the dominant population (aka their readers) and secondly an advertisement placed by The Conservative Party in various Sunday newspapers the previous day. Whilst The Independent story presented a very sympathetic picture of Gypsy as opposed to The Sun's antagonistic stance one reading of both articles and their associated images is that both newspapers simply constructed imaginary accounts of Gypsy culture and its role within British society. This paper will examine how such constructions have historical precedents, in particular how understandings of nationhood have been shaped by the recognition of Gypsy culture as strange and outside of the dominant culture since the middle ages. The images of The Gypsy created by both newspapers have a symbiotic relationship to each other and within this relationship the boundary markers of the dominant society can be identified. This paper will consider the consequences for multi-cultural society that the recognition of the transgression of such boundaries implies.

Neary, M.

University of Warwick

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

Renewing Critical Pedagogy: Popular Education as a Site of Struggle in UK Universities

The paper explores the concept of popular education by tracing its connections to progressive education theory and the more radical critical pedagogy. The paper shows how the principles of popular education have been integrated within progressive global networks and how the practice of popular education has spread around the world in a range of projects and programmes at the local, national and international level.

In the recent period popular education activists have been interested in how popular education connects with mainstream education provision without being incorporated and comprised by engaging directly with the capitalist state. This paper contributes to this debate with

Neff, D., Olsen, W.

University of Manchester

Realism Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

Subjective Well-Being Measures and the Underlying Differentiated Reality Among India's People

The literature on the subjective measurement of welfare and well-being (i.e. quality of life, happiness, life-domains satisfaction, subjective well-being, and others) is rapidly growing. The World Database of Happiness (www.eur.nl/fsw/research/happiness 2005) which accommodates most of the works in this field already contains 4061 titles (at the current date - 29.09.05).

Subjective well-being refers to a person's declared well-being and is based on a person's answer to either a single question or a group of questions about his/her well-being (Rojas 2003). It is therefore regarded as an outcome measure by which to judge successful living (Diener and Suh 2000). This paper explores the concept of subjective well-being in a theoretical and empirical way.

Firstly, the debate about the subjective objective divide regarding social indicators will be discussed with a critical realists' outlook. It will be argued that the objective subjective divide should be blurred and reworked. Secondly, the underlying schools of thought regarding the subjective well-being concept are elaborated and the main existing theories are reviewed. Utilitarian schools of thought are particular problematic. Thirdly, the main empirical findings regarding the relationship between subjective well-being and other indicators such as income, education or age are summarised. Thirdly, the prospects for understanding the reality of well-being in India are explored using secondary sources. We refer to the World Values Survey data for India and the measurement of real human capabilities such as education and health. Inevitably the subjectivity of the researcher is engaged in the research. Finally, the implications of the results are discussed.

Nehring, D.

University of Essex

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room C, Queens Suite

Beyond modernisation: Theoretical perspectives on the cultural dimensions of couple relationships in a globalising world

My paper examines theoretical perspectives on contemporary changes in gender relations in Mexico and suggests some important amendments to existing strands of enquiry. Recent social research has focused on analysing transformations of couple relationships under the impact of globalisation, economic crises, and neoliberal reforms. Much of this research has been conducted within a predominantly socio-economic or demographic framework. This research fails to grasp the constitution of the cultural logics that shape gender relations in Mexican society and the ways in which Mexicans draw on these to make sense of their gendered everyday experiences. The limited amount of research undertaken on the cultural side of gender relations has largely been built around a homogenising and dualistic conceptual model that simply contrasts predominantly 'traditional' and patriarchal patterns with the supposedly more 'modern' and secular ones that are emerging. My paper aims to help close the gap between these two research approaches. I argue that the constitution of gender relations in Mexico should be understood in terms of long-term processes of cultural globalisation, hybridisation, and the interpenetration of cultural elements from diverse internal and external sources. These cultural elements are not present in contemporary Mexican society in the form of unified, fully integrated, hegemonic or subordinate cultural systems patterning Mexicans' daily lives. Rather, they take the form of multiple, loose, coexisting cultural logics on which Mexicans draw in fluid and often contradictory ways to make sense of their experiences and formulate strategies of action concerning particular problems.

Ngala, B.

Montgomery College, USA

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room G, Queens Suite

Experiences of Gender in Africa: The Role of Class and Ethnicity

Discussions of inequalities experienced by women in Africa often neglect the intersection of class, ethnicity and gender that situate women within the matrix of domination and treat women's experiences as based on gender alone. This paper discusses the impact of the intersection of class, ethnicity and gender on women's disadvantaged experience in education, employment, and power in Kenya. Drawing information from gender studies and women experiences in Kenya, the findings indicate that the oppression of women in Kenya is not attributable primarily to gender because class and ethnicity are prominent social hierarchical arrangements oppressing Kenyan women. Gender is defined with not apart from class and ethnicity. Women and men do not experience themselves simply as gendered subjects because the whole range of hierarchical social relations include class and ethnicity in which women and men's participation operates to construct the experience of gender. For the analysis of Kenyan women's experience of gender inequality in Kenya to be fully understood, we must move beyond the analyses that are based on gender differences alone to one that connects different systems of social stratification that oppress women in the current global capitalist economy.

O'Boyle, N.

Trinity College Dublin

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room A, Queens Suite

Consensual creativity and conformist identities in Irish advertising

This paper approaches the subject of order/disorder from the perspective of creative practices in Irish advertising. Advertising is a potent form of mass communication that is instrumental in developing symbolic associations for brands within consumer culture (Elliott 1999). However the work of advertising agencies and practitioners as 'cultural intermediaries' (Bourdieu 1984) remains relatively under-explored. My work examines creative production in advertising with particular reference to identity.

In this paper I will firstly propose that despite a prevailing narrative of change within the Irish media, interculturalism remains a partial reality in the Republic that is only beginning to spill from the confines of the service sector. In regard to advertising, my suggestion is that both institutionally and textually Irish advertising does not represent diversity or hybridity but conforms generally to an established cultural code and organizational order. Thus, despite the rhetoric of change (even disorder), organizational composition and representative identities remain strongly conformist.

Secondly, despite artistic connotations and a continued association with innovation and newness I will propose that 'creativity' can be a problematic and misleading concept when applied to advertising. My suggestion (based on research in Ireland) is that despite an historical correlation between creativity and divergent, freethinking or critical thought, creativity in advertising is largely the product of order, convention and consensus. It is therefore creative constraint rather than latitude that largely defines creativity in advertising and we are forced to acknowledge the paradox that in an industry where creativity is championed it is also heavily censored and regulated.

Oliver, J., Murray, P.

University of Edinburgh

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room A, Queens Suite

'Artfull: Public Policy, Evidence and Culture'

In 'globalized' society, markets dominate many notions of stability and order, and such stability is measured in GDP. Yet Mental Health and Well-being are now becoming high priorities in public policy. They particularly straddle issues of social inclusion/exclusion and 'happiness' that Health and Social policies (or Economic Policy!) cannot tackle alone. It is becoming a crosscutting public policy issue. Furthermore, it is an issue that increasingly impinges on Cultural policies and the added value that might be gained from directing more resources to the Arts and Cultural participation. However, the field of public policy domain is influenced by powerful health and economic agendas. There is also a strongly rationalist and positivist heritage of viewing 'the evidence base.' In order to justify their public value, the Arts and other cultural activity are expected to justify their value in terms that are often alien to their practice. This paper discusses the case of the Arts and Culture as a crosscutting element of human experience and expression that can help other policy sectors deliver better health and inclusion. Therefore, in terms of order and disorder in society, this paper discusses the potential for the Arts, as a way of seeing and doing, that challenges notions of order and disorder that inform public policy and its evidence base. This research is presented in the context of the development and implementation of Artfull, the Scottish Executives National Programme for the Arts, Mental Health and Well-being.

O'Neill, M., Holdaway, S.

University of Salford

Crime

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

Black Police Associations and the police occupational culture

In our recent research, we have demonstrated how Black Police Associations are becoming key forces of change within the police service. Many are involved in minority ethnic recruitment, retention initiatives and work closely with senior management. Others are not as involved in management issues, but serve as vital mechanisms of support for new and existing minority ethnic members of their constabularies. What has not yet been considered is the effect these groups are having on the police occupational culture. This issue will be the focus of our paper. Using data from our ESRC-funded research we will explore if a parallel, 'black' occupational culture is emerging alongside the traditional 'white' one, or if it is the case that BPAs are leading the way to a new, more diverse and tolerant, general police occupational culture, and the implications this has for the charges of 'institutional racism' the police routinely experience.

Ormrod, J.S., Dickens, P.

University of Essex

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Social Order, Social Disorder and the Universe

We propose a sociology of the universe. Constructions of the cosmos are frequently based on constructions of society. Similarly, constructions of the society are repeatedly based on understandings of the cosmos. From the Ancient Egyptians and Greeks, through the Middle Ages and up to Newton, a dominant picture is of a God-given, harmonious, orderly and pure universe. This was opposed to the dominant picture of society which was seen as disordered and chaotic.

Conveniently, however, the socially-dominant powers on earth (priests, scientists, kings, philosophers) claimed they had the knowledge to regulate society, making it part of the universe. Representative democracy, for example, was an 18th century vision of the universe (constituted of individual entities obeying certain 'laws') projected back to society.

Such models of society and the universe changed from the time of Einstein onwards. The universe is itself now envisaged as disordered and chaotic. Many social certainties were gone and this is reflected by contemporary cosmologies. The Big Bang, an Inflating Universe, Multiple Universes and even a chaotic universe are now proposed. The disordered nature of society is again projected back on to the heavens.

Notions of 'order' and 'disorder' need careful dissection. They are used to serve distinct social and political ends and interests. We favour a critical realist view which attributes certain relatively enduring properties to the physical and social worlds but which recognises that these can take many different, and changing, forms. Both society and the universe are in this sense simultaneously 'ordered' and

Pahl, R., Pevalin, D.J., Spencer, E.

University of Essex

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room G, Queens Suite

Friendships over the life course

The increasing role for chosen friends is a key element in current debates on individualisation and the transformation of intimacy. This paper examines friendship choices at different stages of the life course and how life events subsequently impact on those choices. We concentrate on the latter stages of the life course and how friendship choices, within and outside the family, relate to earlier life choices and the implications this has for caring policies. We analyse data from a qualitative study funded by the ESRC combined with ten years of the British Household Panel Survey data. We frame the results in a discussion of the saliency and nature of friendship at stages of the life

Peter, T.

University of Manitoba, Canada

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room G, Queens Suite

Overshadowed Identities: The Impact of Maternal Sexual Abuse on Daughters

In Western culture, great emphasis is placed on an individual's identity. Occurring alongside the development of identities are social forces that include discursive constructions of the outside world. For daughters of maternal sexual abuse, mainstream discourses of motherhood, femininity, and heterosexuality operate to silence their experiences of violence. By drawing on these dominant discourses the purpose of this paper is to explore the impact of survivors' experiences with mother-daughter sexual abuse on their identity formation. Specifically, qualitative data are analyzed from multiple un-structured interviews with eight Canadian women who were sexually abused by their mother or female caregiver. In keeping with a feminist poststructuralist perspective, this research supports the idea of fractured identities, which means that identities are neither fixed nor static. Although identities are infinitely plural, the focus is on the formation of survivors' gender, sexual, and maternal identities. For many survivors, their experiences with maternal sexual abuse have blurred gender boundaries (i.e., most reject mainstream notions of femininity when identifying self and others). In addition, many survivors reported having extreme difficulties forming and expressing sexual identities, which they linked to their mother's violence. Finally, results suggest that survivors' own identity as mothers is related to their past experiences of abuse in large part because most women made conscious decisions not to have children or, if they did become mothers, not to parent.

Pettinger, L.

University of Essex

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room H, Queens Suite

'Artworld' Economies: Informal markets and social networks in music production

This paper discusses the role of informal markets in cultural production, focussing on amateur and semi-professional musicians. It begins by considering the importance of analysing markets through a sociological lens, comparing briefly 'New Economic Sociology' and 'Cultural Economy' approaches, both instrumental in challenging the discipline of economic's focus on rational actors in formal systems. This paper examines what is revealed about the market for cultural products when the focus is on grounded, small-scale and informal creative activities. It does this by challenging the dichotomies which economic (and sociological economic) analysis tends to be implicitly organised: between public/private; formal/informal and professional/amateur. Reporting on a qualitative study of amateur and semi-professional musicians performing in the rock and alt-country genres, the paper argues that networks of these musicians constitute an informal market that is significantly different to the industrial organisation of music production of large record companies, because of the low levels of money involved and because of a integrated labour process whereby performers must also be producers and promoters. The informal markets serve as one pathway to adoption by a large company and financial success, with participation allowing musicians to make necessary claims for authenticity and credibility. However, 'success' within these informal markets is subject to a process of mediation through the 'Artworld', via networks of friendship and sociability, critique and exclusion, thus illustrating how social and market relations are strongly interlinked.

Phillips, B., Curtiss, P.

Grand Valley State University, USA

Identity

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room F, Queens Suite

Union Commitment and Citizenship Behavior: Survey Analysis of a U.S. General Motors Automobile Plant

Introduction

Increasing attention is being paid to raising the consciousness of union members to the importance of unionization. A number of studies have investigated the relationships between workers' commitment and citizenship behavior within union membership.

In this study we review the issue of commitment by comparing two groups of workers within the same plant: those on standing United Automobile Workers (UAW) committees and those UAW members who are not.

We pose two questions: 1) Are there differences between these two groups of workers? 2) Are these differences due to demographic scales (i.e., do other factors such as race, gender, age, marital status and length of service at the plant affect the way workers view their union)?

Methodology

In order to investigate the issue of workers' commitment, a three-page, 28 question survey was developed. This questionnaire was endorsed by the UAW and responses to the questionnaire were anonymous. In October 2003, the questionnaire was distributed to 140 of the 150 standing committee members. One hundred thirty six completed questionnaires were returned in usable form. On May 20, 2004, the survey was distributed to all remaining rank and file members. Out of a total possible return of 1468 questionnaires, 876 were returned in usable form. This paper is an inquire into the results of that survey.

Platt, J.

University of Sussex

Education

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room C, Queens Suite

British women's articles since 1950

A third of a century after the 1974 BSA conference, which was not merely the first on gender issues but initiated the significant impact on British sociology of second-wave feminism, it is appropriate to start to assess the intellectual impact of a movement many of whose earliest members are now at the peak of their careers and approaching retirement. This paper presents data on articles by women in British sociological journals since 1950, their topics and methodological styles and how these have changed over time, and compares those with articles by men, or men and women jointly, over the same period. It cannot be assumed that every woman would identify herself as a feminist while no man would, or that all feminists take the same positions; where information is available to make such distinctions it is used, but it is assumed that such a major movement is likely to have effects even on those who do not actively identify with it. Equally it cannot be assumed that feminism has remained static, and younger colleagues have started their careers under different circumstances from their seniors, so the attempt is made to compare cohorts as well as periods.

Radford, J., Harne, L., Trotter, J.

University of Teesside

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room B, Queens Suite

Disabling practices - agency responses to disabled women's experiences of domestic violence

The British Crime Survey indicates that a significant number of women experiencing domestic violence have some form of 'disabling' impairment or illness and international research indicates that disabled women are likely to experience domestic violence much longer, than non-disabled women. However in the UK there has been very little research on disabled women's experience of domestic violence or on how agencies respond to enable disabled women to gain protection and justice - a requirement demanded by international human rights conventions and UK legislation.

This paper discusses the findings from an exploratory examination of how local domestic violence and disability services respond to disabled women experiencing domestic violence. It found a very low level of reporting by disabled women. This can largely be viewed as a consequence of the social barriers which indicate to disabled women that such organisations cannot assist them..

In addition, it found that some agencies had attempted to make their services accessible, these were often inadequate to meet the needs of the few disabled women who did report domestic violence. Further, a lack of appropriate action was frequently premised on a medical model of disability, where a woman's impairment was blamed for being unable to provide appropriate protection or justice. The research, suggests that agencies need to shift their attitudes and practices if disabled women are to be empowered to pursue the options afforded to other women experiencing domestic violence such as leaving violent partners and gaining justice through the criminal courts.

Rafnsdóttir, G.L., Sigurvinsdóttir, L.R.

University of Iceland

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room D, Queens Suite

All-seeing eye in the world of the stranger On surveillance in the wake of 9/11

George Orwell wrote the book 1984 following the Second World War. It deals with political totalitarianism, where the State, assisted by technological monitoring, deprives individuals of all freedom. Various parts of Orwell's book are reminiscent of the efforts in many Western countries today, focusing on developing software intended for electronic monitoring or electronic surveillance of individuals.

The purpose of the research presented here is to acquire an understanding of the status of personal information protection and electronic surveillance before and after the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001. This is done through discourse-analysis of articles in one of the largest newspapers in Iceland. Ideas about surveillance, based on concepts like social grouping, risk, personal protection, new threat and discipline are analysed. It is interesting to examine the discussion in the mass media because, at the same time as mass media should be the conveyors of news, they tend to shape people's attitudes toward the matters being discussed.

It has been asserted that the terrorist attacks have been like oil on fire for those involved in the development of technology used for electronic monitoring of individuals, at work and on the streets, and the technological innovations that were previously regarded as violations of law on personal information protection are now regarded as normal to manufacture. It is therefore interesting to examine whether discussion of this technology has changed in Iceland, even though the country has not been a site for similar attacks.

Ray, L.

University of Kent

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room B, Queens Suite

Legislating Emotion - Hate Crime, Power and Difference

This paper discusses the growing importance of 'hate crime' in public policy. Originating in US jurisdictions, 'hate crime' legislation features prominently on European policy and research agendas, displacing to some extent discrete issues of targeted violence. Hate crime legislation reconfigures the ways in which the criminal justice system deals with certain types of violence and reflects extensive social movement activity directed towards changing the ways we think about violence. Hate crime initiatives resonate with wider political agendas that focus on social inclusion and exclusion, identity and victim politics. But they are also embedded in a contested cultural shift that relates ultimately to the redefinition of parameters of a politics of difference. Moreover for sociology, the 'hate debate' has raised important issues about the juridification of emotions and the ways in which speech acts instantiate structures of power and difference. Drawing on the hegemonic masculinities literature theories of 'doing difference' (e.g. Perry) place hate crime within frameworks of power and racialized and sexual hegemonies. However, while these open up new ways of looking at hate crime they also underestimate role of media in constructing hate crime epidemics. They also have a one-dimensional understanding of power and underestimate the complex dynamics of power, territory, shame and the ways in which symbolic rituals of violence transform perceived humiliation into rage. The latter claim is elaborated in the conclusion of the paper.

Reay, D., Crozier, G., James, D., Hollingworth, S., Williams, K.

Cambridge University

Education

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room C, Queens Suite

Re-invigorating democracy?: White middle class identities and the educational field

Historically white middle class identity in the UK has been an idealised one held up for the working classes to aspire to. Currently, in the 2000s the white middle classes, and particularly the white middle classes as they are inscribed in policy discourses, best fit the ideal of the democratic citizen - individualistic, responsible, participatory, the active chooser. However, recent research on social class and whiteness both here in the UK and in the USA point to particularly disquieting aspects of this normative white middle class identity. We have Tony Giddens' excluding and exclusive white middle classes, Butler and Robson's isolationist non-mixers, Stephen Ball's strategic, self-interested profit maximisers, and in the US, Barbara Ehrenreich's anxious paranoid middle classes with their over inflated fear of falling socially. This paper cuts across this social and conceptual terrain by focusing on middle class identities that are grounded in sociality and a commitment to 'the common good', and the ways in which these might work against, and disrupt, normative views of what it means to be 'middle class' at the beginning of the 21st Century. Drawing on data from those middle classes who choose to send their children to urban comprehensives we are examining processes of 'thinking and acting otherwise' in order to uncover some of the commitments and investments that might make for a renewed and reinvigorated democratic citizenry.

Rettie, R.

Kingston University

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room A, Queens Suite

The social ordering of mobile phone communication

Mediated communication has been neglected as a distinct arena of interaction. It is either ignored, regarded as an inferior substitute for face-to-face interaction, or treated simply as information flows. All of these approaches ignore the interactional differences between forms of mediated communication. This paper develops a theory of mediated interaction and argues that new mediated communication channels constitute different forms of social interaction, with channel specific social orders.

The paper is based on empirical research on mobile phones which combine several communication channels in one device, encouraging users' awareness of the interactional differences. The research consisted primarily of 32 extended qualitative interviews with mobile phones users, supplemented with communication diaries, saved text messages, and mobile phone bills. The interviews focused on users' perceptions, including the salience and relevance of channel specific social orders.

Analysis suggests that channel choice and usage are related to technological affordances, but also to the perceived normative rules of the medium because these affect interpretation. For example, it is acceptable to send a text that simply contains one line of information, but not to make a one sentence phone call: a text message is brief for social rather than technical reasons. Respondents perceived different obligations of reciprocity, greetings, and content for the two media, and were conscious that social practices had not stabilized. In addition, text messaging seems to create new interaction rituals, such as the exchange of good night messages, and these in turn create new social obligations.

Reynolds, T., Zontini, E., Mand, K.

London South Bank University

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room G, Queens Suite

Multi-generational families: settlement, social mobility and social capital in a transnational context

Traditional understandings of social capital are often associated with cohesive communities based on face-to-face relations that are little affected by change. These communities are usually seen as ethnically homogeneous and largely harmonious. However, this understanding of social capital does not accurately reflect the reality of contemporary society, particularly in light of globalisation and growing individualism. In recent years societies have witnessed a dynamic process of social change. Migration, for example, in with and between the north and the south has led to new forms of familial relationships no longer confined to national and ethnic boundaries. An outcome of this process of change is the need to understand transnational and intergenerational families as central for the constitution and organisation of households and social relationships in multi-cultural societies. The aim of this paper is to explore intergenerational patterns on the dynamics of family life in a transnational context. Themes that we aim to cover in this paper includes: intergenerational and intra-generational settlement patterns, social mobility and family care and provision across three generation and across three ethnic groups: Caribbean, Italian and South Asian communities. This paper will be based on preliminary findings of three comparative projects within the Ethnicity Strand of the Family and Social Capital ESRC Research Group.

Richards, J.

Durham University

Culture

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room A, Queens Suite

Love on the net: challenging the online/offline divide

The rapid advancement of Information Technology in contemporary society has enabled new means of communication between individuals such as email and online real-time chat. The popularity of computer mediated interaction has sparked academic debate concerning the relationship between online interactions in cyberspace and offline, face-to -face interactions. Does cyberspace provide an arena for new ways of interacting that then 'spill over' into our offline, everyday lives? (Turkle). Or are our 'virtual' interactions online clearly demarcated from our 'real' offline interactions? Online dating sites, it could be argued, 'close the gap' between our 'disembodied' interactions online (Stone, Waskul and Douglas) and our offline, embodied existence as, in the majority of cases, email communication within the context of a dating site will lead to an offline encounter. In this paper, consideration will be given to how interaction in cyberspace has changed the nature of dating behaviour both online and offline for a group of thirty heterosexual, single women in 'middle age' who are using online dating sites to find love, friendship and/or sexual partners. Firstly, I will argue that cyberspace has influenced dating behaviour in that it has enabled greater opportunities for older women to initiate contact and get to know a potential romantic partner in an environment seen as a more 'respectable' means of searching for love. Secondly, when an offline meeting occurs, offline dating behaviour was recognised by respondents as significantly changed as a result of online experiences, thus challenging the online/offline divide.

Roberts, K.

University of Liverpool

Researching Students

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 13.30 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

Sociology and the present-day university student experience in the UK

The young people who enter higher education are now the UK's largest youth career group. This paper considers the implications of the post-1970s expansion in student numbers for the typical student experience. The available evidence is assembled and interpreted, and gaps are noted. It is argued that the student experience depends more on context than upon whatever happens (or fails to happen) in lectures, seminars, laboratories and other study episodes and places. Three contexts that impact powerfully on the student experience are discussed - the biographical, the rest of the students' lives, and what happens to the rest of their age group. Perhaps surprisingly, it is found that in many important respects the typical student experience is little changed since the 1950s and 60s. Compared with the rest of their age group, students are still privileged in terms of both labour market and lifestyle prospects. However, students are no longer an elite in any sense, and their sheer numbers, and the associated 'studentification' of many city centres, have led to greater visibility. It is argued that in the future UK students will be increasingly likely to compare their own treatment and prospects with those of counterparts in other home and European countries.

Robertson, D., McIntosh, I.

University of Stirling

Scottish Studies study group

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room A, Queens Suite

'Whaur are you frae?' Place, time and identity

Questions of identity and belonging have long been core to the sociological canon. Having a sense of knowing 'where you are from?' can be a key part of an understanding one's identity and one's relation to others. Asserting that you are 'from' a particular nation, region, town or neighbourhood can be a key way in which individuals locate themselves both socially, politically and culturally. It is an understanding of this sense of attachment to a particular place or 'locality', the intensity, connotations and development of this attachment that is the central consideration of this paper.

Through examining the notion of 'neighbourhood identity' the paper draws out how people in three different neighbourhoods in Stirling understand and relate to where they live. The paper details the initial finding of an on-going empirical study, funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation. It opens up new understandings of individuals' attachments to place, and their 'sense of belonging' to where they reside. It also examines how others view them, and their locality. The paper goes on to explore whether they have a shared sense of self, and a collective sense of remembering – what Benedict Anderson defined as a 'symbolic sense of community'. Through gaining a deeper understanding of the perceptions about their own and the other two localities, the paper seeks to explain how these identities have been constructed, and changed over a 70 year period. The paper concludes by considering the significance of these findings to current policy debates about the fostering and promoting 'sustainable communities'.

Robinson, J., Thetford, C.

University of Liverpool

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room H, Queens Suite

Changing places: Experiences of moving home for older people in Liverpool

Recent research with older people has found that quality of life for older people is linked to where they live, their material circumstances and their neighbourhoods. Older people living in deprived urban areas suffer multiple risks of social exclusion, including poverty, vulnerability to crime and serious social isolation. High rates of depression are associated with residence in poor quality housing, particularly in urban areas, linked to a decrease in physical activity and associated health problems. Successive housing-led regeneration projects in urban areas may require older people to leave their homes for new or alternative accommodation which is thought to positively affect their overall quality of life by improving their immediate physical environment and neighbourhood. However older people who have resided in an area for many years are likely to have an emotional attachment to their home, with much of their current social and economic activity confined to their immediate neighbourhood. Social networks may be disrupted by changes to place of residence, and/or by altering the immediate physical environment.

It is therefore important to understand the many experiences of moving home as part of regeneration project from the point of view of older people themselves, through direct accounts of their lived experience. This qualitative research project explores the experience of moving home with 20 people aged over 70 living in Liverpool who have recently moved as part of the Liverpool Housing Action Trust

Rogers, P.

University of Manchester

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room H, Queens Suite

Public Enemies? The Revenge of Urban Renaissance on Youth Participation, Public Space & Citizenship

In recent years there has been a glut of research on both public and private spaces as well as an increased interest in both structural and cultural approaches to youth research. This paper seeks to combine these issues through a dynamic appraisal of theory and policy in practice.

Using a theoretically informed and empirically grounded approach a fine-grained case study, centred around the regeneration of Old Eldon Square in Newcastle upon Tyne, assesses the development and implementation of strategic conceptual policies, the tactics of exclusion and inclusion embedded in institutional negotiations with stakeholder partners and the street-level users of public space in the city centre.

These themes run alongside an ethnographic appraisal of young people's identities and lived experiences, including: collective distinction, conflicting tensions between youth groups and the how the external perceptions of these distinct youth groups are driven through spatial practices in situ.

Further, by assessing Lefebvrian theory within grounded practices and lived experiences of key agents then difficult contradictions emerge from within the rhetoric's urban renaissance. The need for a clearer definition of what is acceptable or anti-social in public and private spaces lead to creative opportunities for more inclusive and participatory structures of youth participation and citizenship to develop from both the top-down and bottom-up approaches to urban research and governance.

This paper will be of interest to theorists, practitioners and policy-makers in understanding better the interplay of distinct economic and

Rogers, P.

University of Manchester

BSA Youth Study Group: 'Young People, Citizenship and Identity'

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room B, Queens Suite

Public Enemies? The development of a skatepark in Newcastle City Centre

This presentation advances the general issues and concerns raised in the day 1 paper on the nature and structure of renaissance in practice. A case study of the skate park redevelopment in the city centre is unpacked in detail. This assesses the extent to which youth involvement in the redevelopment process was participatory (in terms of input), meaningful (in terms of results), and sustainable (in terms of duration).

The form, position and process involved in this youth targeted redevelopment scheme, within the wider regeneration plans of the city centre, allows for a broader picture of the reality of a lived urban renaissance for a difficult to manage group, urban skaters and associated youth cultural niche markets. The contention here is that as consumers, stakeholders and citizens young people are excluded from meaningful participation, through the existing practices of local government. Participation itself can result in implicit values of entrepreneurial and commercial renaissance which stimulate and urban aesthetic more conducive to the orderly flow of commerce than the disorderly urban 'playscapes' of youth.

The discussion of the skate park sits within a wider research project addressing these issues and discusses specifically the form and practice of consultation and the resultant explicit and implicit exclusion inherent in youth participation.

Rozanova, J.

University of Alberta, Canada

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room A, Queens Suite

Newspaper portrayals of health and illness among Canadian seniors: who ages healthily and at what cost?

While media representations of health and illness receive growing attention from researchers, few studies have considered the newspaper portrayals of health and illness among the elderly. Yet, this question merits careful analysis, both theoretically and practically. Print media are one vehicle through which the governments, in a climate of concern about population aging and the sustainability of the social safety net, emphasize individual responsibility for health and well-being in later life. By praising healthy aging, the media may, perhaps inadvertently, perpetuate new ageist stereotypes that marginalize vulnerable adults who fail to age healthily, and downplay the role of social institutions and structural inequalities (particularly gender and social class) in influencing individuals' personal resources and lifestyle choices. This paper will analyze whether, and if so, how the media represent interrelations between health, gender, socio-economic status, and socio-political environment of older persons, through content analysis of articles about seniors published in Canada's national newspaper "Globe and Mail" in 2005. All articles featuring seniors in various contexts, including, but not limited to, family, work (broadly defined), social and health care policy, and leisure, will be included for analysis. The keywords for retrieving the articles will be developed through a systematic review of research literature on critical gerontology and healthy/successful aging, and the categories for analysis will be refined after a rigorous thematic examination of the pre-selected articles. The findings will be interpreted using the lens of Giddens' structuration theory, McLaren's critical post-modern media theory, political economy of health, and the gendered perspective on social policy transformation.

Rushton, P.

University of Sunderland

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room D, Queens Suite

'Violence, Social Order, the State and the Absence of 'Regulation' in Working-Class Communities in Eighteenth-Century England'

The most striking political and social characteristic of many urban communities in the eighteenth century was the complete absence of government. The parish remained the basic unit of organization, treated and run as though they were still small country parishes. This was particularly true of the urbanising areas at the mouths of the Rivers Tyne and the Wear, as well as of the industrial districts of Yorkshire and Lancashire. Even in the 1830s, de Tocqueville commented on the absence of government in Manchester. These communities were prone to varieties of collective violence associated with food prices and industrial disputes, yet were left largely to their own devices, where people were sometimes described as having escaped many of the 'evils of regulation'.

The dilemma for both the local and central authorities was a choice between peace or punishment, that is, a decision whether to negotiate a return to order through accepting the 'moral economy' of the crowd, and follow widely-understood protocols adopted during riot, or to pursue repression and punishment through military force and criminal prosecutions. The state could assert its power, but lose its authority in the eyes of local people. The violence of the state could be effective in the short-term, but never a permanent presence of control in the community: the capricious use of violence might therefore destroy the moral order between working people and local authorities. The state in this pre-modern age was therefore prone to being alternately capricious and violent, or emollient and amenable to compromise.

Ryan, L.

National University of Ireland,

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room C, Queens Suite

Knowledge orders: Gender Equality and Human Capital Development in the Knowledge-Based Economy: Science Subject Up-take and Career Aspirations amongst Post-Primary Students

The Lisbon Strategy commits the Member States of the European Union to acting in ways which result in the production of a dynamic knowledge based economy, an economy which is supported by the supply of skilled workers: 'knowledge workers'. These 'knowledge workers' are those with science and engineering skills and such skills are gained through participation in courses at second and third level. Why girls do not select physics, as one particular science subject, has been a particular focus of concern in the literature and is a focus of the policy and practice responses developed. This study explored this issue through interviews with male and female second-level students, focusing on their perceptions of science subjects and future career aspirations.

Quantitative and qualitative data were collected. The study's findings indicate that schools rarely address gender equality issues, nor are such issues identified by management and staff as a concern. Similarly, students, both male and female, were reluctant to engage in discussions about gender equality and science subject uptake, yet traditional, gendered notions of 'appropriate' subjects and girls' perceived lesser ability were expressed in the interviews undertaken. The 'unusualness' of girls who take higher level physics, mathematics and, to a lesser extent, chemistry was expressed by the girls themselves. The study concludes with recommendations for the promotion of science, particularly physics (a subject in which girls are under-represented relative to boys) both as a subject for general scientific literacy and as a career, with particular reference to gender equality.

This study was supported under the third level research grants programme of the department of education and science, gender equality unit

Salah-Eddine, L.

University of Paris

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room E, Queens Suite

What is "moral harassment"?

The French psychiatrist Marie-France Hirigoyen was the pioneer of research on the "moral harassment" phenomenon. She coined the phrase and used it as the title of her best-selling book. From then on, so many people identified themselves as victims of "moral harassment" that it became a social phenomenon. "Moral harassment" has now become the main common expression for describing work disorders in France.

Marie-France Hirigoyen defines moral harassment at work as "all abusive conduct, notably manifesting itself through behavior, words, acts, gestures, or writing that can harm a person's personality, dignity, physical or psychic integrity, put their employment at risk, or degrade the atmosphere at work". Influenced by the media buzz surrounding Hirigoyen's book, lawmakers banned "repeated acts of moral harassment that have as their object or effect the deterioration of work conditions likely to affect the employee's rights and dignity, to alter his/her physical or mental health, or to endanger his/her professional future".

From the above, we notice that neither Hirigoyen's definition, nor the judicial one are clear because moral harassment is identified by its consequences as opposed to its content. The question is then: what is moral harassment? Is it a practice? A syndrome? What are its boundaries? Our project aims to find the answers through conducting interviews with so-called victims and harassers, human resource consultants and managers, trade unionists, barristers, occupational therapists, psychologists, and work inspectors. What can we infer from their words? Do they lend a greater understanding of moral harassment?

Sanders, T., Soothill, K.

University of Leeds

Crime

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room B, Queens Suite

The Policing of Pleasure

The boundaries of policing fall between the policing of the powerful, the policing of protest and the policing of pleasure. In times when the police force have the job of protecting the public as well as appeasing the politicians, this paper takes a critical look at the role of the police in regulating pleasure. Historical patterns of working class pursuits such as gambling and hunting animals illustrates how the pleasures of some groups have been more closely monitored and at times outlawed while the leisured classes have been afforded the freedom to enjoy. The question this paper explores is what is the police role in the democratisation of pleasure and to what extent should the police be involved in the policing of pleasure. Using contemporary examples, such as female prostitution in the UK and recent changes in the gambling industry, this paper illustrates how the influence of morality in policing continues to be strong as pleasurable activities are framed as disruptive and harmful to justify state regulation. Here we argue that in terms of 'policing pleasure', the social context should usefully define how the law is administered and so it is quite reasonable that the law is upheld in some situations but not others. Indeed, if pleasure is not harming or causing severe disruption then why should the law be involved at all?

Sanders, T.

University of Leeds

Identity

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room F, Queens Suite

Becoming an Ex-Sex worker

This paper reports on preliminary findings from an exploratory study with women leave prostitution in the UK. A sample of thirty women, half of whom worked on the street and the other half worked in saunas and as independent escorts were interviewed about their experiences of leaving the sex industry. For the street workers, the findings suggest the difficulties of leaving related to failed or absent drug treatments. For indoor workers the financial trap of affluence and lifestyle was noted although these women had a more strategic exit route that involved a financial plan. In both groups women experienced a 'yo-yo' effect, as they returned to the sex industry several times before finally leaving. In addition, all the interviewees described how they had to confront leaving a 'deviant' activity and social network and assimilate into the mainstream labour market. Highlighting the 'insider/outsider' dichotomy, tales of stigma, deceit, secrecy and 'coming out' was a common consequence of working at the margins.

Sandison, I.W.

University of Essex

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room E, Queens Suite

Moving Targets: the effect of environment and respondents in qualitative research

In attempting to identify and describe an Actor-Network - that grouping of interests, individuals, institutions and technologies/techniques claiming access to particular problem solving capacities - one is obliged to isolate, first: the discrete elements of the Actor-Network and, second: those toward whom the technologies or discourse are directed, that is, the enrolees or potential allies.

The paper will discuss research into a "Discourse of Addiction", the concomitant approaches proposed to deal with the problems of "addiction", and practices associated with addiction. The method of research, participant observation, intends to produce an ethnographic account of street-homeless - rough sleepers and vulnerably housed people - in an urban environment.

The Actor-Network, in this study, are the organisations, agencies and institutions implementing policies directed towards the solution of the problem of legal and illegal substance use (problematisation); in particular toward marginal or marginalised populations; enrolees are members of the population, defined as 'hard to reach'.

The paper will discuss initial attempts to impose order on the populations being studied, recognition of the futility of such an exercise and reconciliation of the research role; recording elements of order and disorder within and between populations; examination of the how and why, in their own accounts, of the constitution of order and disorder and, finally, identifying elements within each framework that have served to create conflict or, alternatively, have facilitated resolution.

Savage, M.

University of Manchester

Qualitative Data Panel

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 12.40

Room D, Queens Suite

Understanding popular identities in post-war

Britain: the case of social class' draws on research from the Mass Observation Archive at the University of Sussex. The paper addresses how we can use the data from qualitative studies as evidence for social and cultural change. Hitherto, most of the debates about the reuse of qualitative data have been concerned with reinterpreting specific studies carried out at particular times, and there has been little interest in how various studies, conducted at different times, can be re-read to explore trends. The paper considers the methodological issues involved in using data from the Mass-Observation Archive to explore changing popular identities in England since 1945. Focusing on the specific case of how respondents talk about their social class identity, an issue which has been asked by numerous qualitative researchers since 1948, the paper shows that we can learn a great deal from the form, rather than the content, of 'class talk'. Whereas survey researchers suggest considerable continuities in class identification in the post-war years, the paper demonstrates that although certain terms such as middle and working class remain relatively constant, the narrative styles within which they are framed changes considerably, and offers revealing, and hitherto unexploited, evidence for changes in popular identities. In conclusion the paper extrapolates from this particular issue to offer more general remarks about how we might deepen our understanding of socio-cultural change in England since 1945 using this approach.

Sheard, L.

Centre for Research in Primary Care

Crime

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room B, Queens Suite

A qualitative exploration of the lives of women drug users who are injected by others.

Forty five women illicit drug users were interviewed in depth about their experiences of receiving drug injections from other people. A grounded theory analysis was used. Here, I examine findings from ten of the interviews selected for my masters dissertation. The methods used to access, recruit and interview these hard to reach women will also be discussed. Reasons why these women did not or could not inject themselves will be explored.

Cleanliness during the injection process was important for many women who provided accounts of themselves as 'clean' and moral in contrast with other "dirty" drug users. Women had experienced a tremendous amount of deceit from associates, partners and 'friends'. They often had to make an exchange for someone else to administer their injection, such as giving some of their drugs as 'payment'. However, the closer the relationship to the injector, the less likely women were to make an exchange. Physical pain and harm was an everyday occurrence for many women. Partnerships, especially where the man also used drugs, were especially complex and women were sometimes initiated into injecting by their partners and also injected by them. Women described how injecting had left visible marks and scars on their body. Shame, guilt and embarrassment were often attached to these "lumps and bumps" and led to concealment methods. Women's future aspirations were discussed.

Shearn, P.A.

University of Salford

Risk, Safety and Justice

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room D, Queens Suite

Workforce participation in the management of occupational health and safety: workplace perspectives on worker participation in decision making and risk management

Despite the dominance of non-unionised organisations there has been little research into risk management in non-unionised firms, even less into the specific issue of workforce participation. On the basis of a qualitative study of workforce participation, this paper reports on research carried out with managers, workers and safety representatives / advisors in non-unionised workplaces to establish how a workforce participation strategy is implemented and operationalised, and to establish whether approaches depart from the theories and prescriptions advanced by industrial advisors and other government bodies or stakeholders.

In addition, this paper focuses on the industrial relations and risk perceptions that give rise to certain participatory processes. First, formal participation is generally set up as a 'top down' initiative, which advocates a 'bottom up' approach, with the inevitable power imbalances that this implies. Secondly, comparison of the points of view expressed by managers and workers reveals differences in the commitment to procedures, safety policies and participation per se. For example, the apparent bureaucratisation of safety was counter-intuitive for workers in many instances. Where workers were highly experienced in the tasks they undertake, there was a tendency to contribute to risk management in an ad hoc or informal manner. Findings suggest that the differences underline a plurality of safety cultures, attitudes, and forms of knowledge, which each group activates as it responds to risk. The implications for participatory processes are briefly discussed.

Sheng, X.

Beijing University, China

Education

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room C, Queens Suite

Put Bourdieu to Work: Gender-based Social Inequality in the National Curriculum of PE in China

In the past decades the transition from Maoist Communism in China has brought about radical sociocultural changes, which were reflected in the construction of gender identity in school education. Furthermore, Chinese studies have criticized educationalists who have failed to deal with inequitable gender issues relations in PE curriculum in China (Mao, 1999; Hu, 2001; Ding, 2000).

This paper has adopted the sociocultural perspective and employed Bourdieu's concepts of 'habitus' and 'capital' to explore whether there exists gender-based social inequality, it examines the ways in which school-based PE and physical activity contribute to the reproduction of gender-based social inequality and stereotyped ideas about femininity and masculinity against the background of marketisation of educational reform. Documentary analysis and secondary research have been employed in this study, and the analysed data are mainly collected from the official documents.

This research found that Bourdieu's concept of habitus contributed to explaining the ways in which gender-based social inequality developed in the setting of PE curriculum. For Bourdieu, not only is culture imprinted on the body but also the central means through which culture is produced and reproduced (Bourdieu, 1977). This makes it possible to explore the important role that the experience of participation in school-based PE might play in the social construction of boys' and girl's gender identity. This study revealed that gender-based social inequalities can be embedded in the habitus through particular body practices, which are both culture and class specific.

Shoveller J.A., Chabot C., Johnson J.L.

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room G, Queens Suite

"Ageing out": When policy and social orders clash with the "disordered" realities of young mothers

Spatial and material frameworks have advanced our understanding of the structural and contextual forces that affect the lives of low-income young mothers. These approaches often assume a closed system which may reinforce the notion of identity as fixed. In examining space/place and time, we draw on Doreen Massey's notion of temporality to unpack assumptions about the "disordered" lives of young mothers, conceptualising space as the heterogeneous product of interrelations, as always in process.

An important form of temporality in a young mother's life is the notion of "ageing out", which occurs when she no longer qualifies for specialised services because she has reached the age of majority. To access these services she must be deemed to be: "at risk"; submit to surveillance; and comply with State requirements for ordering her life in relation to her education, employment, intimate relationships, parenting, and personal behaviour. When a young woman "ages out", current policies dictate that although she bore her child at "too early an age," she has become "old enough" to manage on her own.

Drawing on ethnographic data, we examine how space/place and time shape the lives and shifting identities of 25 young mothers (ages 15-25 years) in a remote, northern Canadian city. We critique current policy approaches that identify early maternal age as a danger to social orders. We also explore ideas about reshaping dominant social orders by using the concept of time to politicize spatial and material explanations for the "disordered" realities of young mothers.

Simpson, R.

University of Edinburgh

Culture

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room A, Queens Suite

'Defying Nature'?: Contemporary Discourses around Delayed Childbearing and Childlessness in Britain

There has been a great deal of academic attention and political concern expressed in recent years about declining fertility rates and related ageing of populations in countries across Western Europe. There are several competing and sometimes contradictory discourses prevailing in the public domain, while academic theories relating to concepts of individualisation prevalent in both sociological and demographic explanations, despite considerable variability between countries. This paper draws on ongoing research into delayed childbearing and childlessness in Britain to explore the social processes underlying fertility change, surveying causal explanations and considering the available evidence from across a range of disciplines. It also presents the findings of research based on in-depth interviews with never-married older mothers and childless women; using narrative analysis to investigate the ways in which these women account for their parental status, the research found women did not account for this in terms of deliberative choice. These accounts are considered less as straightforward 'explanations' of childlessness or older motherhood than as particular constructions of identity. As such, these accounts provide insights into the role of changing gender identities, in the context of wider social change, to contemporary familial change. The paper concludes by arguing for the need to consider the importance of changing subjectivities as an important explanatory factor in fertility decline.

Skinner, D.

Anglia Polytechnic University, Cambridge

Identity

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room F, Queens Suite

Ordered and Disordered Bodies: Sociology, Science and Racial Categorisation

Sociologists not only study social order and disorder; they engage in their own processes of ordering and disordering and, in doing so, participate in wider practice and politics. This paper focuses on a basic but important aspect of (social and academic) ordering: racial categorisation.

Sociologists adopt a range of different stances when conceptualising and using racial and ethnic categories. These stances can be broadly characterised as culturalist or realist or constructionist in outlook but are all united in (and partly defined by) their active rejection of any suggestion that racial categories have any objective natural basis. This rejection of naturalised accounts of racial similarity and difference has been foundational to much of the sociology of 'race': it has supported claims for the distinctive contribution of the sub-discipline and suggested an unproblematic alignment between intellectual rigour and antiracism.

How are sociologists to respond to a new wave of science that reinvigorates biological accounts of difference and problematises the fundamental distinction between nature and culture on which their conventional disciplinary narrative rests? This paper explores the ways in which 'biologisation' is altering the basis and dynamics of self and group identification and at the same time also reframing debates about the legitimacy of objective racial classifications. Drawing on analysis of a range of examples taken from recent debates about the use of race and ethnic categories in health research, the paper suggests that the time has come to rethink how sociology engages with academic and public discussion of race and biology.

Smart, C., Shipman, B., Mason, J.

University of Manchester

Gender/Sexuality

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room G, Queens Suite

"Your friends sort of jibed about you being married": Complexities of exclusion and inclusion for same-sex couples

Entering into a Civil Partnership or holding a commitment ceremony (henceforth CP) can be described as a 'critical moment' for same sex couples. While marriage is clearly significant for heterosexual couples, CP has a different set of resonances for gay men and lesbians because it is a new development and because - being marriage-like - it can be seen as (amongst other things) a sign of conforming to heteronormative values. In this paper, which is based on an ESRC funded research project involving in-depth interviews with 50 same sex couples, we shall explore the complex ways in which entering into a marriage-like arrangement alters relationships of inclusion and exclusion with families and friends such that some couples experience greater rejection by families, while others are embraced by kin, while at the same time being shunned or supported or by friends. Many couples we have interviewed have expressed the view that entering into a CP indicates to family that their sexual orientation is not a 'phase' they will grow out of but that it is something 'serious'. This can bring new confrontations. But friends may be simultaneously backing away because it is interpreted as a form of heteronormative conformity. Same sex couples report having to be cautious about whom they invite to such ceremonies and finding euphemistic terms to make their decision more acceptable to different communities. We shall explore the multi-dimensional aspects of 'claims to recognition' and the methods that different personal constituencies resist recognising the legitimacy of CP.

Smetherham, C.

Cardiff University

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Organizing and ordering the self in the competition for jobs: the CV accounts of graduates with first class honours degrees

The proposed paper will explore the social construction of self through the narratives that graduates use within their Curriculum Vitae (CVs). Here the construction of self is seen as an active process, but one which is also bounded by ideas of acceptability, shaped by perceptions of what employers and others will surmise from particular constructions of the self. It will be argued that constructions of self, particularly within what are essentially marketing documents such as CVs, designed for a specific purpose, are also bounded by moral considerations of what is acceptable. The paper will therefore emphasize the social construction of self, analyzing the accounts and strategies that different individuals devise and practice in the competition for jobs within the contemporary graduate labour market.

The paper will draw on qualitative interview data from a recently completed study of UK university graduates (from different social backgrounds, educational biographies and genders) with the highest academic credentials - First Class honours degrees - in order to examine these issues. The data reveal that although graduates attempt to construct, present and package themselves and their employability through their CVs in different ways, at the same time there are also elements of commonality.

In focusing on these issues the paper will address the conference themes of social order(s) and disorder(s) in the construction of graduate employability within an increasingly competitive and diverse graduate labour market where graduates are becoming more reflexive about who they are and what is the appropriate way to portray themselves.

Smith, G.J.D.

University of Aberdeen

Cities/Spaces

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room H, Queens Suite

Exploring relations between the watchers and the watched: CCTV, hermeneutics, resistance, interaction and the creation of 'celebnotoriety'

Maintenance of social order in the city centre has, and always will be, of prime importance to local authorities, with regional and national government, along with police forces, town centre management groups and the business sector, increasingly forming a variety of partnerships and coalitions in a bid to install, run and operate cutting edge Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) surveillance systems. Such technology, amongst other tasks, is generally used as a tool to gather intelligence, control populations, preserve order and encourage the safe and successful flow of consumerism, a key priority of late modernity. Whilst much has been said regarding the effectiveness of CCTV, many themes and unanswered questions remain as to how such systems operate on a daily basis.

Using ethnographic observation as evidence, and utilising as an exploratory guide a range of both micro and macro theory, this paper seeks to cast sociological light onto two of these themes - namely, the relations and interactions between CCTV operators (generally located within distanced monitoring suites) and those watched. It also seeks to examine the operatives' interpretations of the various places, scenes and incidents they observe.

In so doing, the author suggests all sorts of interesting sociological factors are at play, including examples of a Foucauldian power and resistance thesis, Weberian bureaucracy and increasing centralization, hermeneutical narratives creating characters and spaces with meanings, socially constructed characterisations of the sacred and the profane, and a range of fascinating illustrations of both strained and creative relations between operative and machine.

Smith, R., Grimshaw, R.

King's College London

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room C, Queens Suite

Poverty and disadvantage amongst prisoners' families: developing a theoretical understanding of imposed disorder

This paper will discuss theoretical aspects of recent research concerned with poverty and 'disadvantage' amongst families and partners of prisoners. The discussion will situate current research in the context of feminist debates concerned with 'women', caring, and the welfare state, and debates about mass imprisonment in the United States. The paper will draw on Williams' (2004) work, concerned with diversity of family form, the gendered moral frameworks through which 'care' is negotiated and the 'work ethic' underlying the restructuring of the welfare state, to understand the differentiated social and economic experiences found amongst families, - who, like any other family, attempt to adapt to their circumstances - in this case imprisonment of a loved one. Studies of mass imprisonment in the United States will be used to demonstrate the impact of imprisonment at a community level in the construction of 'race' and disadvantage. The paper will suggest elements of a theoretical approach that reaches down to the roots of social processes, which produce and sustain the poor and disadvantaged positions inhabited by families of people in prison.

Soker, Z., Hailan, N., Grossman, R.

The Open University of Israel

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room F, Queens Suite

Banal maps: Representations of Israel in sketch maps

Michael Billig (1995) distinguishes between two kinds of nationalism: "Hot" nationalism which is usually related with an extreme and violent ideology that erupts suddenly into the orderly daily routine and disrupts it, and "banal" nationalism which is characteristic of Western nation-states, whose citizens maintain it without feeling that they are doing so; i.e. "naturally". According to Billig the Western citizenry is daily reminded of their nationality. However, this reminding is so familiar, so continual, that it is not consciously registered as reminding: "The metonymic image of banal nationalism is not the flag which is being consciously waved with fervent passion; it is the flag hanging unnoticed on the public building." (1995:8)

This study puts the thesis of "banal nationalism" to an especially stringent test by asking to what extent the national map may constitute a banal reminder of the imagined national territory even in a state such as Israel, where a fierce debate over its territorial sovereignty and borders is taking place. An analysis of 346 maps drawn by Israeli students who were asked to draw a map of Israel as they would want it to be, reveals that most respondents (70%) could not see through the politics of the map and took the common and prevalent model map of "Greater Israel" for granted and as objective. Only a minority (30%) succeeded in stamping their drawings with political meanings and attitudes. This finding corroborates Billig's notion of banal nationalism and highlights its significance in contemporary national identity.

Southerton, D., Warde, A.

University of Manchester

Culture

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room A, Queens Suite

Constructions of consumption and 'the consumer': evidence from analysis of changing household expenditure categories in National surveys since the 1970s in France, Norway and the UK

From the 1950s most states began to collect information on the income and expenditure patterns of their populations, primarily for policy purposes of taxation and economic management. Spending is disaggregated across many categories and patterns can be examined for different households and individuals. States constructed their own surveys independently of one another and changed their approaches and categories as they saw fit. Using household expenditure surveys as a source of data, this paper examines the process of construction of the consumer, historical development of consumer culture, and change of categorisation of consumption for three countries, since the mid 1970s. This provides insight into the localised understandings of the nature and significance of consumption at different points in time, with implications for constructing the consumer in social structural contexts (c.f. Jacobs & Shipp, 1993). Questions addressed include: what categories of expenditure are considered relevant for understanding individual and household patterns of consumption; how do these change over time; what are the principal deletions and additions over time how do the institutional circumstances of the conduct of the surveys influence their content; what presumptions about understandings of 'the consumer' are revealed by comparing countries?

Stitt, S.

University of Bolton

Food Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room 1, Exhibition Area

An International Perspective on the MacDonalised Food Education

The National Curriculum was imposed upon English and Welsh schools and occurred in the absence of any meaningful dialogue with teachers and other actors in the education system and in other related agencies. One of the main implications of this feat has been that food studies have become optionalised within schools' curricula. The outcome, it is predicted, will constitute another increase in households' dependence on pre-cooked, convenience foods which, research proves, are, generally, nutritionally inferior in comparison with meals cooked at home - and, in general, a lot more expensive, representing a primary concern for low income households. Thus, the worry is that the diet of the nation will be substantially damaged which, consequentially, will result in a deleterious impact upon the health of the nation. This discussion paper addresses the validity of these worries in Britain but also debates information gleaned from dialogue with professional practitioners within the education and health sectors in a number of other nations. The paper strives to reinforce the campaign for prioritizing food cookery skills in the curriculum of schools as constituting, arguably, the most efficient health promotion tool in enhancing the skills that households possess to influence the foodstuffs they eat, instead of sacrificing this to the mass-processed food industry.

Stones, R.

University of Essex

Social Theory

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room C, Queens Suite

Transatlantic Developments in Structuration Theory

I will draw out, and seek to clarify, conceptual overlaps between the synthesis of theoretical and empirical work in my book Structuration Theory (2005, Palgrave Macmillan), the influential writings of Mustafa Emirbayer and Ann Mische on agency, and Martha Nussbaum's distinction between background and situational emotions. The link with the conference theme revolves simply around meta-theoretical questions about the roles played by the phenomenology and practices of agents and by social structures in the creation of order and disorder. Through the conceptual clarification I will hope to incrementally extend and deepen my book's argument for a strong synthesis in structuration. This synthesis combines insights from writers often thought to be at odds with each other, such as Archer, Giddens, Mouzelis, Sewell Jnr, and Bourdieu, whilst also insisting that structuration theory is at its most fruitful when it is directed towards the in-situ, empirical level, rather than remaining only at the abstract and generalising level of analysis.

Strange, M.

University of Essex

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room E, Queens Suite

The role of a 'global' identity amongst civil society activists: the case of campaigning against the WTO's General Agreement on Trade-in-Services (GATS)

Using a case study of civil society campaigning against the GATS, the research considers the extent to which such activity suggests the emergence of a 'global social movement' contesting the decisions of the World Trade Organisation.

The findings suggest that whilst civil groups have utilised cross-border linkages in the form of networks for sharing critical information, analysis, and even master frames, the degree of cohesion between protest activity is modest with great disparities between the levels of mobilisation, that is often dependent upon national political opportunity structures.

Despite the lack of evidence for a 'global social movement', I argue the growing role of the claim to a 'global' identity, that has become increasingly important as a legitimating device for civil society activity, even where, empirically, activity is clearly dominated by groups from the Global North. This has implications for how one is to understand debates around the concept of 'global civil society', and whether or not they should be understood empirically or ideologically.

Talbot, D.

Open University

Crime

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room B, Queens Suite

Concepts of disorder and social differentiation in the regulation of nightlife

Disorder has again emerged as an explicit theme in contemporary discourses on nightlife or the 'night-time economy', this time represented as 'alcohol-related' or 'alcohol-fuelled' disorder where health concerns as to the effects of binge drinking have coalesced with more generalised preoccupations with uncivil behaviour in public or quasi-public spaces.

In order to understand the emergence of such discourses, this paper advocates a return to history. Through an examination of historical records it will be argued that there are three interrelated issues that lie at the core of such discourses. Firstly, that they are representative of class, racial, gendered and generational conflicts. Secondly, that they are concerned with order and discipline and that popular entertainment has been perceived to be symbolically opposed in diverse ways to disciplinary processes. Third, that it has been understood that control over public and quasi-public space is key to establishing social order.

These official preoccupations run as a connecting thread through historical and contemporary discussions around nightlife, albeit channelled through different forms of social control, and illustrate that social fears concerning nightlife are derived from and embedded within social organisation and development in general. While this paper does not dispute therefore that there are problems associated with the organisation of nightlife (particularly related to cultural planning and the place of bars and clubs within such provision) it will argue that there are inherent dangers for the possibility of cultural development in including the night-time economy in the 'law and order' nexus.

Taylor, Y.

University of Newcastle

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room H, Queens Suite

That's not really my scene: working-class lesbians non/participation in scene spaces

I consider working-class lesbians' views, experiences and exclusions from 'ordered' commercialised scene space, based upon my ESRC funded research 'Working-class lesbians: classed in a classless climate' (2001-2004). I argue for the necessity of including experiences of classed individuals, in order to understand the socio-economic inequalities operating in scene space, which have been given attention in terms of the structuring of scene space, via commercialism, regeneration and 'sophistication', serving to produce upmarket and 'classy' scene space. While general 'structural' forces defining the trend of commodification have been well commented upon, there has been virtually no attempt to understand it from the perspective of the meaning that individual lesbians find in commercialised scene spaces. Working-class lesbians are often rendered unentitled to occupy scene spaces, where devaluations occur through 'failure' to display, via appearance, the 'correct', 'gay' signifiers: the use of these leisure spaces is rarely experienced as pleasurable reclamations or as equal mixing of identities, appearances, bodies, and lifestyles. However, the women I interviewed were far from passive in these processes and in charting their responses I highlight significant critiques of scene space(s) as 'middle-class', 'pretentious' and 'male', which ultimately affected a sense that it was not really 'their' space – even if, fraught and fragmentary, entitlement claims were still made upon it. I point to the need to more thoroughly 'class' scene space and I suggest that consideration of the experiences of working-class lesbians furthers this agenda, highlighting processes of inclusion/exclusion and the dis/ordering presence of differently classed individuals in scene space.

Tsoi, S.S.K.

University of Auckland, New Zealand

International Order

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room E, Queens Suite

The Church as a social institution which enhances the integration of Chinese immigrants into the mainstream of society

This paper studies the impacts of engaging in the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand as a social institution on Chinese immigrants. It examines the building of cooperative relationship, mitigating social conflicts and discrimination, and helping Chinese immigrants to integrate into the wider contemporary society. The study approaches the research questions by conducting in-depth interviews with the local church ministers of five congregations, with church leaders and also with Chinese immigrants from Mainland China and Hong Kong. Participant observation of four congregations supplements the analysis of information gathered from interviews. I argue that the level of engaging in faith significantly influences the effectiveness of integrating into mainstream society. The missionary spirit of a church also shapes the identity building of Chinese immigrants through the launching of different programmes and special events to connect Chinese immigrants with European New Zealanders.

The impact of the churches' activities and service on the Chinese immigrants suggests that the church acts as an empowerment agent, a social welfare agent, a facilitator of building a multicultural community, and as a mediator mitigating the social and cultural conflicts between European New Zealanders and Chinese immigrants.

Vanderstraeten, R.

University of Bielefeld, Germany

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 12.50 - 13.50

Room D, Queens Suite

The discursive constitution of modern society

In the 'long' eighteenth century, the conceptual apparatus used in the Western world transformed in fundamental ways. Numerous key social concepts that are characteristic of modernity are (re)coined in this epoch, such as tolerance, authority, ideology, civil society, culture, history or progress. The new basic concepts indicate how the social and political reality is comprehended in the modern era. Various segments of the population relied on them to act, to understand, interpret and reform reality. These concepts are crucial to the discursive constitution of the world. They take part in the dissolution of the 'old' world and the emergence of a 'new' order. They can thus also be studied with regard to their functioning as both a factor in, and an indicator of evolutionary processes.

Starting point of this paper is the idea that the conceptual and discursive changes are part of the 'great transformation' of society. This transformation took away socio-structural supports and elicited profound changes in the conceptual resources of society. Against this background, the paper will deal with a small aspect of the historical co-evolution of concepts and structures. It will highlight the non-random character of the variations in discourse on the social function of education/socialization, especially at the end of the Enlightenment. More particularly, my focus will be on the political and economic environment, which developed specific interests in the outcomes of education. The analysis of this triangulation of education, politics and economy illuminates the genesis of the modern societal order.

Vinnicombe, S.

Realism Study Group Stream

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 16.10

Room A, Queens Suite

A Critical Evaluation of Freedom and Capabilities Across Six Sectors in China.

This study examines the complexity inherent within notions of freedom and capabilities in Mainland China. It does this by addressing the ways in which official policies across six sectors have contradictory positive and negative outcomes concerning an individual's capabilities. It examines recent changes to policies and determines whether they are encouraging or limiting individual freedoms.

It begins with a discussion of case study methodology and a description of the methodology used within the project. This is a mixture of qualitative case study with quantitative scoring of each sector.

It then examines notions of freedom and suggests that perceptions of freedom vary according to values and objectives. It discusses various theoretical viewpoints and addresses these to the Chinese context.

The main section of this project assesses the individual sectors against Martha Nussbaum's list of central human functional capabilities. This combines qualitative discussion with an attempt to quantify the trend of official policy on capabilities in an attempt to reinforce or to disprove the general impression of Chinese people as lacking fundamental freedoms. The sectors chosen have all been highlighted by Freedom House as deserving of attention - this means that this study may be viewed as a pessimistic view of freedom and capabilities in China.

At the end of the main section there is an analysis of the trends that were made obvious by the study. The conclusion then discusses some of the issues raised during the study and some key areas of concern for the future.

Wakeling, P.B.J.

University of Manchester

Researching

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room E, Queens Suite

"In a glass house throwing stones? A look at the ethnic background of postgraduate students in sociology"

Although there is now an understanding of patterns of access to first degree study and ethnicity, very little research has been undertaken on the ethnic background of postgraduate students. Whilst all minority ethnic groups (MEGs) have a higher proportional representation among students than in the general population, there are sectoral cleavages within higher education which see MEG students clustered in particular institutions and subjects. At the same time, there has been debate about the low number of MEG academics in UK higher education institutions, especially in senior grades. In the social sciences this has included claims relating to the low status or absence of Black Studies in academic departments. As a discipline, sociology should be concerned with these issues, both as they relate to the role of higher education in the social mobility of MEGs and for what they tell us about the state of the discipline itself.

I will present the findings of research into the ethnic background of postgraduate students as they relate to sociology. The research uses data collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency, effectively a census of UK students. I will seek to address the following:

- What is the ethnic group composition of the postgraduate student body in sociology?
- What do sociology first degree graduates do after graduation and how does this differ by ethnic group?
- Is ethnicity itself important once we consider other factors such as gender, academic achievement or social class?
- How might we explain these patterns sociologically?

Wall, C., Strangleman, T., Jefferys, S., Kirk, J., Martin, J.

London Metropolitan University

History

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room D, Queens Suite

Order/disorder in the experience and representation of work: a historical study of banking, teaching and railway occupations

This paper investigates historical change in workers' understanding of employment in three occupational sectors: teaching, banking and the railways. The post-war premise of tradition, stability and an ordered career is explored through photo-elicitation interviews with those who started their working lives in the 1950s and 1960s. This is contrasted with the experience and expectations of the cohort entering employment at the start of the twenty-first century. Together with these differing work history narratives, visual methodology is used to trace the changes in the iconography of a 'career' in the occupations studied. The initial findings, from the project Does Work Still Shape Social Identity? part of the ESRC Identities Programme, depict a rich and complex pattern of both continuity and change in the history of work over the last half-century that questions the frequent juxtaposition of the ordered and predictable past with the instability of the

Walls, S.

University of Durham

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room H, Queens Suite

"Are You Being Served?" The Emotional and Aesthetic Labour of Male Retail Staff

As we have seen a shift from traditional industries towards the service sector it has become increasingly important to research how men are coping with this transition in areas undergoing significant change. My research looks at men employed in fashion retail in order to explore gendered emotional and aesthetic labour performances within and outside of the workplace. Fieldwork consisted of 6 months participant observation and semi-structured interviews with 26 employees from 3 comparable but contrasting retailers located in the same shopping centre in the North East of England. In this paper I will draw attention to the way the appearance of staff was highly regulated, how gender had an impact upon this regulation and how workers negotiated this. Discussion will then explore the similarities and differences between male and female employees from the different stores by outlining how gender affected interaction between staff and customers. Attention will focus upon techniques of selling and skills of persuasion used by workers and how they adapted these according to gender and sexuality. Finally I will highlight the alarming extent to which emotional and aesthetic labour 'escape' the workplace. Many of the staff spoke of being 'forced' to continue servicing customers when they saw them outside of work. Here I will illustrate typical scenarios staff found themselves compelled to act out by customers, how employees dealt with these situations, experiences of intimidation and frustration suffered by workers when this occurs, as well as how workers manipulate these relationships to their own advantage.

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

The Open University

Identity

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room F, Queens Suite

Senior Citizen: Remaining a Citizen in an Ageist Society

As a society we seem to be reaching for order through the regulation of old age. Formal age segregation is achieved by installing older people in institutionalised forms of care or housing facilities, thereby avoiding intergenerational conflict over security, care and costs. Informally, older people are frequently shunned socially, ignored and vilified according to a pervasive distaste for old age and repugnance for anything that signals an aged identity. Such order is disrupted and the regulation of old age upon which it rests is threatened when an older person lays claim to citizenship.

Discrimination attenuates our capacity to belong and the rights we may enjoy as citizens. This much, it seems, is understood with policy and legislation now gathering force to restrict formal discrimination, if not the attitudes that fuel them. Campaigning groups argue that there is a need to understand discrimination; how it operates, where it occurs, what impact it has, how it feels and how it may be tackled. Yet, age discrimination is arguably so pervasive that it is often overlooked or denied by those who experience it.

Such conditions present a challenge to research: how best to reveal age discrimination and how to account for the effect it has upon the lives of older people. This paper will draw on a participative study of age discrimination, and will consider some of the challenges associated with gathering evidence, assessing its significance and promoting resistance.

Watson, M., Shove, E.

Durham University

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room E, Queens Suite

The uneven re-ordering of amateur photography

Digital technology has initiated a rapid reshaping of photographic practice. Whilst digital cameras share core functions and purposes with the analogue models they now outsell, this is not a tale of simple technological substitution. Taking, processing, storing and sharing photographic images demands new practices and competencies from digital users, not least to select, assemble and master an appropriate suite of technologies and services which previously had no role in photography. The diffusion of image capturing devices (cameras) into other technologies, and the liberation of photography from commercial processors, have helped create new technological, temporal and social settings in which images are made and shared.

Recent years have seen rapid co-evolution between technologies and practices as manufacturers and users engage with a growing constellation of technologies and the proliferation of socially sanctioned photographic practices. In all of this, there are important strands of continuity: new arrangements build upon a remarkably continuous tradition of amateur photography ordered around core conventions of subjects, aesthetics, and social settings. In many respects the practice of taking pictures remains largely unchallenged, despite the licence and potential of digital imaging.

In this paper we report on users' experiences of the shifting terrain of contemporary amateur photography. We focus, in particular, on the ways in which apparently chaotic re-orderings (occasioned by the co-evolution of technology and practice), can reproduce tradition in this and in other mundane socio-technical fields.

Watt, L., Elliot, M., Olsen, W., Fenwick, K.

University of Manchester

Gender/Sexuality

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room G, Queens Suite

Attitudes towards relationships within the 18-30 age group

Empirical and theoretical work regarding young people's attitudes towards relationships is limited. Working in conjunction with the charity Relate the authors are researching this area examining existing theoretical models concerning what young people want from their relationships, and therefore how they assess them.

Within this paper these models are critically evaluated with a particular focus on Giddens' model of the "pure relationship". Giddens' work receives mixed support from alternative relationship models. Opposed to Giddens are feminist writers such as Duncombe and Marsden based on the notion of the gendered division of emotion work. Through this concept it is claimed that women assume the responsibility for the management of emotion in their relationships. This idea stands in stark opposition to Giddens' claim for the democratisation of the private sphere, which he claims, is made possible through what he terms "confluent love". This paper also evaluates Beck and Beck-Gernsheim's model of individualism, a model of investment based upon exchange theory, and the romantic model.

Through the critical discussion of these models the issue of how attitudes towards relationships may differ between groups is also raised. Inevitably gender is a central theme in this respect; however, issues of religion and race are also considered and the complexity of factors interacting with such attitudes is acknowledged. Finally, the paper discusses how these models may relate to emerging patterns in the UK concerning how young people view their relationships.

Watt, P.

Buckingham Chilterns University College

Cities/Spaces

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 16.20 - 17.20

Room H, Queens Suite

Tough jobs and good jobs: employment contradictions among immigrant hotel workers in Toronto

Global cities like London and New York are said to be characterized by social polarization with an increasing divide between high-earning, high-skilled professional employment, and low-wage, low-skill jobs frequently undertaken by immigrants. The fast food industry is typically associated with the latter 'flexible' employment, but another candidate is the hotel industry with high rates of labour turnover, insecure hours and limited unionisation. This paper discusses research on a major downtown Toronto hotel, a global city which acts as the Canadian gateway for many immigrants. Using qualitative interview data with staff and managers, it highlights a series of contradictions in the employment circumstances of the largely unionised, multiethnic workforce who came from a variety of developing countries, notably the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Many immigrants worked in the lowest paid and physically demanding jobs such as room and laundry attendants, i.e. 'tough jobs' that white Canadians are loathe to do. Since most immigrants came from educated backgrounds 'back home', they regarded these manual jobs as socially demeaning. Nevertheless, despite the demands and limited rewards characteristic of such 'tough jobs', they were also paradoxically considered 'good jobs'. Working in the unionised hotel industry was seen as preferable to the options available to immigrants in the Toronto labour market, for example restaurant, shop and factory employment. The paper concludes by emphasising the differential nature of low-wage/low skilled jobs, and that greater attention needs to be paid to the institutional context within which service industries operate in global cities.

Wattis, L.

Liverpool John Moore University

Crime

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 11.40 - 12.40

Room B, Queens Suite

Crime, Fear, Identity and Place: Considering the Significance of the Situated and the Material in Explaining Fear of Crime

A significant body of literature has emerged in recent decades focusing on the fear of crime problematic (Hale, 1996). Concerns originate from assertions that fear of crime had become a bigger problem than crime itself as fears superseded actual rates of victimisation and where those groups least at risk appeared to be the most fearful. More sophisticated analyses of victimisation, disorder and social inequality evident within left realist and feminist work highlighted that the fears of vulnerable groups were justified. However, other writers have argued that crime and fear of crime experiences should not merely be framed in terms of objective exposure to risk and disorder (Sparks, 1992).

More recent work has highlighted the theoretical and methodological complexities of researching crime and fear, emphasising the significance of the political and the discursive, the material, and the biographical when exploring how individuals encounter crime and disorder and construct related fears (Walklate, 1998, 2000; Girling et al. 2000; Sparks et al. 2001; Jefferson and Holloway, 1997).

Drawing upon doctoral research which explored the crime and fear experiences of women students within a particular locale, this paper aims to highlight the difficulties in researching and representing crime and fear experiences. In addition, it aims to highlight the significance of situated and material experiences, drawing attention to the role of place and identity in shaping fears and concerns about crime and arguing that employing the concept of disorder may be a more effective means of understanding localised crime experiences.

Whimster, S.

London Metropolitan University

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room C, Queens Suite

Max Weber's economics of society (Sozialökonomik). A neglected contribution to economic sociology and the problem of the capitalistic "order"

The first part of the paper presents Weber's lectures in Nationalökonomie from the period 1894-1899, which till now have escaped the attention of commentators. They show that Weber had mastered the new Austrian marginalist analysis (of Menger, Wieser and Böhm-Bawerk) whose work he placed at the start of his lecture course. Schumpeter's treatment of the Austrian school (in his History of Economic Analysis) is criticised for its retrospective interpretation in the light of neo-classical equilibrium theory. Weber, by contrast, did not close the door to the research problem of capitalism, as developed by Marx and Rodbertus, and by Simmel and Sombart. The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism does not represent the emergence of a Weberian sociology but rather a solution to the 'capitalism problem' in Nationalökonomie. Weber's 'solution' had a number of critical weaknesses which forced him into comparative analysis - and the development of a sociology.

The second part explains Weber's conceptualization of the embeddedness of economic behaviour in culture, values, needs and interests as well as his concept of the 'economic subject'. This is contrasted to contemporary economic theory that has compacted all external determinants of behaviour within a concept of price and markets. The paper concludes with a brief consideration of sustainability; whether it can be properly treated through market-based solutions, or whether a different understanding can be reached through the application of Weberian social-economics.

Wills, W.J.

University of Hertfordshire

Food Study Group Stream

Sunday the 23 April 2006 at 10.30 - 11.30

Room 1, Exhibition Area

Restoring order: Young peoples' attempts to make positive dietary changes after leaving school

Many young people experiment with 'risky' health-relevant behaviours, including the adoption of 'unhealthy' eating habits or dietary practices during the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Situations which often coincide with the end of compulsory schooling – experiencing new social spaces/places and trying to negotiate autonomy away from the gaze of the family, for example, are thought to (negatively) influence young peoples' food choices. What remains unexplored, however, is whether young people attempt to positively change or improve their diet during this (often) chaotic or disordered period of their life, and what factors influence this.

This paper, which focuses on findings from qualitative research with 16-24 year olds, illustrates that some young adults manage to restore order to their eating habits after leaving school, after an initial period of involuntary dietary change or experimentation with food practices. Interviews with 31 young men and women attending a college of further education showed that many perceived themselves as achieving change, including choosing 'healthier' meals instead of 'unhealthy' snacks; trying to lose excess weight; and attempting to avoid meal skipping. Changes to dietary order/disorder were connected to young peoples' goal setting; how supported they perceived they were by family and friends and issues of control, risk and anxiety, mainly in relation to their appearance, appetite and weight.

Won, V.

National University of Singapore

Researching

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room E, Queens Suite

Negotiating Mental Illness: A case study of Schizophrenia caregivers in Singapore

This paper deals with the processes of interpretation, communication and negotiation of a "problematic" signs and symptoms, i.e. behaviours produced by the schizophrenic patient that are outside the usual behavioural repertoire of human beings and social interaction. It examines the manner in which ideas about health and illness interact with those of normality and abnormality to produce caregivers' definitions of unusual behaviour and crisis situations. Mental illness - although conceptualized by health agencies as an illness with an organic aetiology - continues to be widely perceived in terms of a madness-sanity binary, whereby disorders of the mind are often explained with lay and traditional beliefs. I argue that the protean nature of the condition of schizophrenia creates ambiguity in the identification of illness/madness amongst the "normals"; I also argue that personal and social beliefs about the nature and aetiology of mental illness serve to prolong and complicate the help-seeking process. The data offered are derived from fieldwork conducted among a selected group of Chinese caregivers who are part of a community-based mental health support group. Singaporean Chinese, albeit being the ethnic majority, live amongst a plurality of ethnic and religious groups in a nation-state where a myriad selection of alternative healing systems coexist with Western biomedicine. This paper also explores the conflict and competition of paradigms among biomedicine, ethnomedicine and the lay beliefs of a multiethnic population.

Wood, M.

University of Cambridge

Citizenship

Friday the 21 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room I, Queens Suite

Religious practices and neoliberal disciplines: governmentality, embodiment and ritual

Central to classical sociology's understanding of social order, it is now well documented how the sociology of religion became marginalised as religion became viewed in terms of decline. Recent years, however, have seen renewed interest in religion in relation to social theories of globalisation, civil society and new social movements, emphasising issues of identity, values and meaning in rapidly changing social contexts, where social order is both lost and secured. In particular, this is often set in terms of theories of subjectivisation and individualisation, with religion expressing or inhibiting these. But largely left out of such accounts has been an understanding of the actual practices upon which religiosity, religious authority and religious organisation is founded - thus, studies of religion pay little attention to disciplines, rituals and other socially embodied aspects of practice. For example, although the practice-oriented approaches of Bourdieu's and Foucault's sociologies of power have at times been flagged up as relevant to understanding religion, there has been scant attempt at applying their insights, particularly with respect to contemporary resurgent religions. Without such attention, a rather incomplete and unsatisfactory account of religions, such as Pentecostalism and the so-called 'New Age Movement', has resulted. Drawing upon ethnographic research, this paper focuses upon their practices, especially the centrality of spirit possession to each, to suggest ways of understanding their relationship to the social orders and disorders of capitalist restructurings. In particular, it highlights new modes of subjectification and embodiment that renew religions, their missionising tendencies, and their insertions into political economy.

Yokoyama, K.

RIHE Hiroshima University, Japan

Education

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 15.10 - 16.10

Room C, Queens Suite

Neo-liberalism and the Transformation of Higher Education Systems: England and Japan

The purpose of this study is to identify the function of neo-liberalism and university autonomy, for the mutating university systems towards more market-oriented in England and Japan. The paper examines the change in multiple stakeholders' value and legitimacy, and their power relationship in two countries. The significance of the study is, taking a pluralistic position, to explore Margaret Archers' Social Origins of Educational systems (1979) by giving attention to change in policy sphere.

The study is theoretical driven, with the partial incorporation of empirical study based upon documentation and documental analysis. The study takes historical and comparative approach. The scope of the study is the 1980s and 2004, with partial reference to previous years, if necessary.

The study concludes that in England, neo-liberalism has changed a funding council's nature and the relationship between government, funding council, and the universities in the late 1980s, subordinating the traditional sense of university autonomy - the ideology of the universities. Neo-liberalism has been used to justify government's minimal funding responsibility. In contrast, in Japan neo-liberalism has functioned to justify government minimal funding expenditure in higher education, and empowered neo-liberal proponents such as the Liberal Democratic Party and the Ministry of Finance in higher education policymaking sphere, challenging the MECST's conservatism.

The study implies that different interpretation and function of neo-liberalism between England and Japan can be partially explained by different political regimes and systems and different higher education history between the two.

Yuill, C.

The Robert Gordon University

Social Theory

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 09.00 - 10.00

Room C, Queens Suite

Disordered health - Marx, labour power and theorising health inequalities.

The enduring and persisting existence of class and health inequalities within Britain is well established in the (medical) sociology literature. The class and health differential shows no signs of closing, with a widening gap actually becoming evident in recent years. However, there is a growing disquiet at the level of theoretical debate and analysis within the health inequalities field. Much research and publication is informed by neo-positivist and interpretivist perspectives. While they are highly useful in charting the statistical aspects and lived experiences of health inequality the deeper 'beneath the surface' relationships are left untouched with the theorising of structure being particularly absent.

The case will be made here that a particular reading of the Marxian theory of labour power has explanatory power for understanding health inequalities, in that it combines an appreciation of the 'socially-mediated' biology of the human body with an analysis of that body within exploitative social structures. An examination of the body within Marx's work will lay the foundations of this argument before moving onto the relationship with structure. Essentially, the main point that will be put across is that under capitalism in commodifying the body to sell in return for wages the worker sells her health and that the need for capitalism to continually search out new profits leads to negative health outcomes for the human body.

Zieleniec, A.J.L.

University of Glasgow

Cities/Spaces

Saturday the 22 April 2006 at 14.00 - 15.00

Room H, Queens Suite

Foucault And The Medicalisation Of Space

This paper examines Foucault's contention that doctors were among the 'first managers of collective space' through an examination of the application of Foucault's concept of power/knowledge to the medical justifications underpinning the large-scale local-state investment in urban public parks in the 19th century. The physical and mental health benefits of urban public parks on the environment and populations of rapidly expanding towns and cities were a common theme of the 'Public Parks Movements' campaign for urban public spaces. Using 19th century Glasgow as a case study, it will be demonstrated that the role of a medical discourse was fundamental in the creation of a network of urban public parks in the city. This discourse is still in use in the development of strategies for healthy and sustainable cities.