



BSA Annual Conference 2019

Glasgow Caledonian University

Challenging Social Hierarchies and Inequalities

Race, Ethnicity and Migration Stream Plenary

Friday, 26th April 2019, 17:00 -18:00

The Politics of Minority Women

Chairs: Rima Saini and Lucy Mayblin

Francesca Scrinzi

Challenging the gendered strategies of the far right. Practices and perspectives from across Europe

In Europe, gender equality issues are a battlefield for anti-immigration actors. Populist radical and far right political parties champion traditional models of the family while, at the same time, they paradoxically frame their anti-immigration agenda as a struggle for gender equality, depicting Islam as incompatible with women's rights. At a time of highly polarised public debate on immigration, those supporting gender equality are under pressure and torn between cultural relativism and cultural fundamentalism. In this paper I expose the paradoxical and under-studied gendered strategies of these radical and far right actors and discuss the challenges which their mobilisation of gender equality issues raises for feminists and minority women activists.

Biography

Francesca Scrinzi is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Glasgow. She has researched women and gender relations in populist radical right parties (project 'Gendering Activism in populist Radical Right Parties: A Comparative Study of Women's and Men's Participation in The Northern League (Italy) and The National Front (France)', ERC Starting Grant 2012-2014). In 2015-2018, she was Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow at the European University Institute (project MIGRANTCHRISTIANITY-Migration, religion and work in comparative perspective. Evangelical 'ethnic churches' in Southern Europe). Further, she has carried out ethnographic comparative research work on gendered migration and migrant care workers in Italy and France. Among her recent publications: 'Caring for the elderly in the family or in the nation? Gender, women and migrant care labour in the Lega Nord', *West European Politics* (2017), and *Migration, Masculinities and Reproductive Labour. Men of the Home*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan (2016), co-authored with Ester Gallo. For further information, please see her personal webpage <http://www.mwpweb.eu/FrancescaScrinzi/>

Gurminder K Bhambra

Neoliberal Inequalities: Borders, Migration, and Postcolonial Critique

Whereas the call for 'open borders' is more commonly associated with activists on the left, it has increasingly been used by neoliberal economists such as Glen Weyl, Eric Posner, and Branko Milanovic. They argue that attempts to address inequality within nation-states do little to alleviate global inequality and that what is needed instead is a global solution to this problem. The movement of individuals from poorer countries to richer ones, and the sending back of remittances, would, they suggest, reduce global inequality more effectively. Such movement is to be facilitated by a new policy of 'open borders' and institutionalised discrimination within richer nation-states that would alleviate the

concerns of their citizens through the establishment of a new caste hierarchy that has been called 'the Qatar model'. Postcolonial 'others' are perceived to undermine the spatial solidarities of national welfare states and the rights of national citizens are asserted against those of migrants and racialized citizens. However, rights which are spatially (and racially) limited should no longer be understood as rights, but as privileges maintained against the rights of others.

Biography

Gurminder K Bhambra is Professor of Postcolonial and Decolonial Studies at the University of Sussex. Previously, she was Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick and has been Guest Professor of Sociology and History at the Centre for Concurrences at Linnaeus University, Sweden. She is author of *Connected Sociologies* (Bloomsbury, 2014, available open access) and *Rethinking Modernity: Postcolonialism and the Sociological Imagination* (Palgrave, 2007), which won the 2008 Philip Abrams Memorial Prize for best first book in sociology. She set up the Global Social Theory website (globalsocialtheory.org) and is co-editor of the online social research magazine, Discover Society (discoversociety.org). She tweets in a personal capacity @gkbhambra and her website is: <http://gkbhambra.net/>

Leah Bassel

Locating Counter-Narratives through a Politics of Listening

This paper begins with two observations. First, I consider the persistent framing of migration as exceptional, a problem to be solved. Second, the contours of 'deservingness' are marked by the simultaneous bite of austerity, backlash and violence against migrants, and rise of far right parties.

I then turn to alternatives. Through a politics of listening, dichotomies of Us and Them – which quickly fall into a logic of 'deserving' and 'undeserving' – can be broken down and replaced with social relations based on solidarity. Counter-narratives are located in the resistance of women of colour across Europe and in migrant justice movements which centre Indigenous sovereignties.

Biography

Leah Bassel is Professor of Sociology at the University of Roehampton, UK where she researches the political sociology of migration, intersectionality and citizenship. In this talk she will draw on her books *The Politics of Listening: Possibilities and Challenges for Democratic Life* (Palgrave, 2017), and *Minority Women and Austerity: Survival and Resistance in France and Britain* co-authored with Akwugo Emejulu (Policy Press 2017). She is currently co-Principal Investigator, with Akwugo Emejulu, of the Open Society-funded project *Women of Colour Resist* and is Assistant Editor of *Citizenship Studies*.