

BSA Annual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

10:15 – 11:30

Paper Session 1

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Waiting for tomorrow: Walking in the post-disaster city

Eirini Glynou-Lefaki

(Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila Italy)

Disasters continue to affect the areas and the local populations long after their occurrence. In the case of the Italian city of L'Aquila, a catastrophic earthquake that hit the city in 2009 caused many casualties, great damages in buildings and displaced the local population. More than ten years after, the city continues to recover from the effects of the earthquake. While anticipating its future "rebirth", L'Aquila still struggles with the complexities inherited from the disaster. This presentation underlines the fact that it is important to return to the affected areas and examine catastrophic events such as earthquakes from a quotidian point of view, as disasters "inhabit" in the everyday. To address the contradicting elements of everyday life in the recovering city this paper is using a mix of sedentary and participatory walking interviews. Walking as a method has been widely praised in the literature as a means of sensing the city as well as for challenging the dominant representations by offering insights into the way places are lived. As it will be suggested, walking interviews can assist in the articulation of entangled landscapes, such as those that are recovering from a disaster as during the walks, memories of the past and hopes for the future emerge. Therefore this presentation will address the complex character of daily life more than a decade after the disaster in L'Aquila and discuss how the present and the future of the city are negotiated.

Crises and the State: Multimodal Ethnography and the Co-production of the Future

Alex Kirby-Reynolds

(University of Sheffield)

In the wake of austerity, climate change, racist violence, 'the rise of populism', and the pandemic, crisis and emergency are, for many people, part of the fabric of ordinary life. Such crises coincide with panics that the liberal state is under threat following the increasing prevalence of disaffection, cynicism and distrust. In engaging with the affective lives of protracted crises, scholars such as Ben Anderson (2017, 2018), Rebecca Coleman (2014), and Lauren Berlant (2011) variously draw our attention to the ways in which possible futures are brought into everyday life. In this capacity, forces such as hope, fear, boredom, weariness, pessimism, and anxiety create vehicles for action and inaction through which possible states of affairs can be realised or missed. Such an engagement should beg the question of how our research participants can use their everyday experiences to develop skills and resources that they will find useful in attempting to build these futures. Moreover, it should also ask how such commitments can be built into our research methodologies. This paper explores these questions, drawing upon ongoing multimodal ethnographic research into precarious workers' everyday experiences of crises and the state. In doing so it brings into conversation multiple calls for a sociology that is at once public, inventive, messy, sensory, and co-produced.

Picture this: 'Collaging' young adult migrant identities in Scotland

Maggie Laidlaw, Marcus Nicolson
(Glasgow Caledonian University)

This presentation discusses the use of collage to investigate the identity negotiation processes of young adult migrants in Scotland. In collaborative research with a small group of young adults in Glasgow we explored how this group visualised their own identities and, also, how they constructed Scottish national identity. This co-investigative social research method encouraged the participants to think creatively about their everyday lives and world views.

By its very nature, collage is about separation, forming, and joining together. It is a medium that speaks to the aspects of diversity, belonging, relationality, space and time - where images disappear, appear and reappear to create new narratives. This workshop was followed with semi-structured interviews using the collages to generate rich conversations about the participants' lives, including the barriers faced to Scottish identity claims. Results from the workshop also suggest that young adults with more years of living in Scotland are more inclined to be critical of the local environment, and highlight shortcomings in relation to diversity policy and welcoming country narratives.

Using our activity as an example, we are able to highlight the ways in which creative engagement encourages us to reach 'beyond what we think we know, [and to] imagine, sometimes disturbing, ways of being or living together' (Matarasso, 2016:5). In our talk, we also consider the benefits and potential of using collage, and other creative practice, across various contexts and groups: as inclusive and creative research methods to construct knowledge, and, that complement other, more traditional research methods.

Listening-on-sea: Re-imagining the urban seaside

Bethan Prosser
(University of Brighton)

The urban seaside is a distinct landscape that has undergone waves of re-imaginings from gentry resort to mass tourism through decline to regeneration. Historical perspectives help us understand how the seaside has been constructed and consumed as a unique place with early health practices, post-war carnivalesque behaviours and more recent hedonism epitomised by hen and stag weekends. But how are current seaside stories unfolding in times of Covid and what can they tell us about possible urban seaside futures?

This paper will explore such questions drawing on doctoral research undertaken during the pandemic with residents of the UK south coast. Making a Covid-induced digital pivot, I have developed new sound and mobile methods to explore urban seaside gentrification and residents' experiences of displacement. Residents have been supported remotely to carry out listening walks and listening-at-home activities and creatively capture their sensory experiences. Online and telephone elicitation interviews have yielded in-depth reflections on residents' changing sense of place through spring lockdown, summer easing and into autumnal restrictions.

Competing narratives play out in our media that swing between heralding the renaissance of seaside towns as a therapeutic bolthole and sensationalising images of 'irresponsible' masses on beaches. These tales thread through resident's hopes and fears for their homes and neighbourhoods as they grapple with fluctuating tourist and residential im/mobilities. The rich textual, visual and audio material generated from my Covid-transformed methods will therefore be employed alongside deep listening techniques to delve into possibilities for living in liquid landscapes.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

Symbolic Space and Symbolic Domination in Three Nations

William Atkinson
(University of Bristol)

This paper reports on a comparative analysis of class, lifestyles and symbolic domination in three nations: Sweden, Germany and the US. Drawing on data from a specially commissioned survey and inspired by Pierre Bourdieu's analysis of 1970s France, it presents a model of the 'space of lifestyles' for each country and its homologies with indicators of

social position. Mapped using multiple correspondence analysis and based on comparable indicators, the core conclusion is that, while there are some differences in substance, the fundamental structures of the three spaces and their relationships to class are the same – and, what is more, similar to those discovered by Bourdieu – and thus indicative of general features of Western capitalist societies. We are able, moreover, to document the prevalence and correspondence of symbolic domination in the spaces, finding that it is typically those with least cultural capital who tend to feel looked down upon by others.

Reimagining our future: culture for all

Maria Barrett

(University of Warwick)

The COVID pandemic has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities in arts and culture as it has in our societies. Both cultural production and consumption have long been dominated by white, middle class people, and this is likely to be consolidated as effects of lockdown such as furlough and redundancy disproportionately affect those who are least well paid and most precarious. The devastating effects of COVID on the cultural sector will necessitate rebuilding. Rather than trying to recapture what was lost and replicating a broken model, this is our opportunity for arts and culture to 'build back better', to redress the balance and give culture back to all of the people. To do that, we need to understand what is at stake for marginalised people in our cultural spaces. The classed relationship with culture has been misrecognised by policy makers who have focused on an inability to pay at the expense of more deep-seated problems. Bourdieu illuminates issues around not only a class-related 'taste', but a conception of a classed field that signals belonging or otherwise to marginalised people who may respond by self-exclusion. As well as making spaces that welcome marginalised groups, we need to hand over the spaces to be run and managed by and for them. This paper draws on Bourdieu's work on class and taste as well as empirical studies of theatre audiences to understand how we can create culture that is fit for the future and solve culture's crisis of legitimacy in the post-COVID era.

Virtual displays of cultural taste: the ritual of livestreamed concerts

Femke Vandenberg

(Erasmus University Rotterdam)

The research examines the audience experience of virtual music concerts, in a time when all place-based concerts are cancelled due to the COVID-19 "lockdown". Through content analyses of the comment sections of livestreamed concerts, it compares the differing ability of three cultural taste patterns (popular, highbrow, folk) to provide a collective ritualistic experience in a virtual space. By combining neo-Durkheimian insights on rituals with a Bourdieusian notion of socially situated taste, it not only aims to analyse one of the most prominent modes of cultural participation during the lockdown but also adds to our understanding of the collective experience of online participation, something specifically pressing in times when all large scale events are forced to be held online.

"Is it a cultural greeting now to begin with 'can you hear me?': The use of digital platforms during the pandemic and what it means for our future

Neta Yodovich, Tally Katz-Gerro

(University of Haifa)

In early 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has begun to spread throughout the world. The threat of fatalities and the collapse of healthcare systems brought many countries to enforce various levels of national lockdown. New social distancing rules and the shutdown of universities, workplaces, theatres, and other public sites have made individuals reshape how they work, study, socialise, and participate in cultural or leisure activities as most practices have become digitalised. In the following presentation, we ask: what kind of uses did digital platforms serve for individuals during the lockdown? What are individuals' perceptions of such digital services? What can we learn about online engagement in a post-covid-19 world? Based on a survey conducted in the UK and Israel (including over 200 participants total), we found three significant purposes for digital platforms during lockdown: work, social occasions, and cultural consumption. In each of these uses, we found ambiguity in the way individuals perceived the switch from face to face to online engagement. While some reported an increase in cultural practices and a burst of creativity, others reported a decrease in activities and motivation due to a lack of human contact. Based on these findings, we discuss if digital platforms can sustain as a suitable replacement for face to face everyday practices and what kind of online activities will remain in the post-COVID world.

Families and Relationships 1

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on British Parents with Young children

Anis Ben Brik

(Hamad Bin Khalifa University College of Public Policy)

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges for parents and children across the world. This study examined the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to parental perceived stress and the parent-child relationship. An online survey has been conducted with parents (N = 1236) with a child under the age of 18 years in the UK between May and August 2020. The coronavirus disease pandemic has had a substantial tandem impact on parents and children in the UK. The study highlights additional measures to mitigate the effects of the pandemic on families, and emphasizes the importance of parental support and early intervention for children exhibiting mental health and relationship tension. Policymakers should consider the unique needs of families with children.

COVID-19, perinatal mental health and maternal anxiety: Individualisation, inequality and gender amidst the English lockdown of spring 2020

Ranjana Das

(University of Surrey)

This paper speaks from a project which explored perinatal mental health challenges created or exacerbated by COVID-19, and to understand the roles of the rapid turn to online support. The social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing measures and consequent changes to both formal and informal ante-natal and post-natal support services left new mothers isolated and disconnected at very vulnerable times. These outcomes were investigated through 14 qualitative, semi-structured interviews with pregnant women and new mothers, during the spring lockdown in England in 2020. In this paper, I develop three intersecting strands which address distinctive features of the ways in which the pandemic, and the resultant pausing, transformation or cessation of both formal and informal pregnancy and maternity support, created conditions for perinatal anxiety to intensify and sustain itself. The first strand considers how the intensification of anxiety, far from being an individualizable condition specific to individual women, was shaped by existing vulnerabilities and inequalities which heightened the load on some perinatal women more than others, against a backdrop of a broader intensification of distress in the vast majority of participants. The second strand focuses particularly on the role of gender, in relation to the 'intensive' ways in which mothers and mothers-to-be experienced heightened anxiety. The third strand considers how perinatal anxiety amidst the pandemic continued to be experienced as an individual burden, rather than understood within broader, structural contexts, at a time when institutional support systems for the perinatal were drastically impacted by the pandemic.

Reclaiming my time – black parents, parental leave and contemporary parenting cultures

Patricia Hamilton

(Thomas Coram Research Unit, UCL Social Research Institute)

In their current form and indeed, throughout the history of their development, parental leave policies have been framed as capable of fulfilling multiple functions. Leave policies are meant to protect women's attachment to the paid workforce, encourage fathers' involvement in childrearing and ensure children's optimal development by, for example, facilitating practices such as breastfeeding. A growing body of scholarship has examined these sometimes competing functions and attended to the ways that policies both perpetuate and are influenced by patriarchal gender norms and middle-class standards of childrearing. In this paper, I employ an intersectional framework to examine how parental leave operates as a mechanism through which ideal parenting behaviours are promoted, particularly as they are gendered, classed and* raced. I draw on data from interviews with black parents and a discursive analysis of parental leave policy development in Britain to argue that use and design of parental leave policies are implicitly shaped by racialised notions of what constitutes a good citizen and a good parent.

Exploring the intersectional and intergenerational impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on young fathers and the organisations who support them

Anna Tarrant, Linzi Ladlow, Laura Way
(University of Lincoln)

This presentation considers the intersectional and intergenerational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on young fathers (aged 25 and under) and their families. We draw on insights from the first wave of 'Following Young Fathers Further', a UKRI funded qualitative longitudinal study that is intensively tracking the parenting journeys and support needs of young fathers over an extended four-year time frame. We develop both spatial and temporal perspectives to understand how young fathers and national organisations who support them have been impacted by, but have also adapted to, the new social conditions wrought by the crisis. Our paper explores both how young men adapted to the crisis and how different support organisations observed and sought to mitigate its positive and negative effects on low-income families. Analyses of these data reveal a varied and dynamic picture of new opportunities and constraints. For some young dads, confinement to the home produced valued space and time to bond with their child. For non-resident dads however, the lockdown became another barrier to contact. We seek to unpick the complexities of the spatialised constraints that social distancing measures engendered, as well as how the co-creation of community spaces for young fathers and their children came under threat, but inspired new innovations. Advancing a small existing literature that interrogates continuity and change in fathering, we contribute timely insights about the dynamics of young fathers' lives via analysis of the immediate and medium-term impacts of the crisis on the lifecourse trajectories of these young men and their families.

Families and Relationships 2

He said yes: new perspectives on marriage proposals

Daniela Pirani, Vera Hoelscher
(University of Liverpool)

To date, research on marriage proposals has focussed on heteronormative practices (Howard, 2008; Ogletree, 2010; Otnes & Scott, 1996; Sassler & Miller, 2011) and with the hyper-gendered and conspicuous performances of 'the perfect day' (Carter & Duncan, 2017). Yet, with the advent of fourth-wave feminism, the #MeToo movement and the rise of gay marriage, this is changing, as shown by work on the transformation of wedding rituals (Mamali & Stevens, 2020).

As part of an exploratory, qualitative study that combines netnography in themed forums and website and 23 in-depth interviews, we look into the experience of women proposing. While have been investigated in same-sex relationship commitment rituals (Heaphy et al, 2013), no attention has yet been given to women subverting one of the rituals of heterosexual marriage. At an early stage of theorisation, we use display work (Finch, 2007) to understand how women legitimise their proposal. With a focus on how gift-exchange and unobtrusive consumption, we look at how women re-enact the normative framework of the proposal, negotiating the expectations of their partner as well as those of families. This study provides insights on the changes of marriage as an institution, and it expands the documented imagery around this ritual beyond the lavish wedding.

Interethnic couples: the dynamics of power and intimacy across cultural and ethnic backgrounds

Hong Yang
(The University of Edinburgh)

The number of Chinese-British marriage has doubled in the last decade. However, little research specially has addressed this growing phenomenon. Besides, the literature available on interethnic heterosexual couples mainly focuses on female migrants, while men are usually omitted. Traditional mail-order bride discourse portrays women as opportunistic. Influenced by postcolonial feminist perspectives, recent work pays great attention to women's empowerment. Yet, the discussion of women's agency requires further investigation, as it is often interpreted as resistance against incongruous gender relations within the persistent patriarchal and heteronormative framework. In order to address knowledge gaps and fill the omitted research on men, the study is aiming to explore power relations and intimacy in Chinese-British marriage from the perspective of both wife and husband. Specifically, following 3 questions are proposed:

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(1) how are daily operations of a family discussed and performed, including relocating plan making, housekeeping, child upbringing, in-law relationships building, financial management, couple quality time and sexual life?

(2) what do couple's power dynamics look like in the process of discussing and managing household activities?

(3) how are power dynamics and couple's intimacy interacting with each other?

Questionnaire is used to collect participants' demographic information, socioeconomic features, and family background. And more detailed information about how couples operate daily life and sustain intimacy is gained by face-to face in depth semi-structured interviews.

The study aims to provide a more insightful analysis of the gender, family, and social cohesion in a global setting.

Lifecourse

'It was time for him to go': time as enacted social practice at the end of life

Glenys Caswell

(University of Nottingham)

Lives are bounded by time and humans are aware of this. People have the capacity to make sense of time, questioning what it is, where it comes from, how it works and its influence on their lives. The notion that individuals live in linear sequence, from the past, through the present and on into the future, seems obvious. The concepts of seasons, years, clocks and calendars are apparently straightforward, yet do not encapsulate the human experience of time. Individuals have different experiences and understandings of time, but they also have access to a shared stock of knowledge about time which can be actualised through social practice. It is therefore possible for a group of individuals to engage in collective action at the same time, for example attending a conference or gathering in a vigil around the bed of a dying person. This paper draws on findings from a research project exploring people's experiences and perspectives on time in relation to death. Data were generated through interviews with individuals who had undergone a bereavement to explore the role of time within that experience. Professionals who either worked with dying people or the bodies of the dead were also interviewed. Until asked to consider it, people took time for granted; it is pervasive within the context of the end of life, but some moments – possibly endless ones – are of key importance. The paper will discuss these and examine what they can tell us about human experiences and understandings of time.

Culture and Attitudes Towards Euthanasia: An Integrative Review

Anjana Karumathil, Ritu Tripathi

(Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru)

We examine and integrate the last two decades of research on euthanasia from a cultural perspective. After an exhaustive search on Scopus and Web of Science, 40 studies matching our criteria are included in the review. We qualitatively summarize the literature country-wise and use text map of co-occurring terms in the titles, keywords, and abstracts of these articles to determine the similarities and differences among sub-themes in continental clusters. Research done in Asian, European, North American, and multi-cultural studies suggests that attributes unique to each culture are instrumental in shaping public attitudes towards euthanasia. We also find that some cultures, despite the prevalence of euthanasia, are underrepresented in empirical research. This systematic literature on the cultural nuances in end-of-life decisions such as euthanasia is pertinent to social scientists, healthcare professionals and social workers in any given time, but more so during such critical events as worldwide COVID-19 pandemic.

Making 'a life worth living' whilst dying with heart failure: introducing the theoretical framework of unmaking/remaking.

Caitlin Pilbeam

(University of Oxford)

End-of-life literature is dominated by narratives of inevitable deterioration and death, focusing on clinical spaces and terminal illnesses like cancer during final days/weeks of life. Advanced care planning is seen as key in preparing for

death. In heart failure, health can fluctuate over years through turbulent trajectories from diagnosis to (sometimes unexpected) death. How does one go about making decisions and living whilst dying with heart failure?

Ethnographically exploring everyday bodily experiences at home, I develop a theoretical framework of iterative 'unmaking/remaking' in chronic dying. I conducted participant observation with fourteen participants (aged 67-98) with heart failure over two years, in their own homes. I also observed heart failure support groups, clinics, and forty home visits with heart failure specialist nurses.

Throughout the process of living whilst dying with heart failure, bodies, lifeworlds, and priorities fluctuate. Participants continuously experiment with how they move through daily life, negotiating ways of living that they deem meaningful. Building on work by Scarry (1985), Mattingly (1994), Mol (2010), and Ingold (2010), I show that unmaking/remaking involves active bodily movement and motivating future-oriented narratives. Over time, participants gradually slow and settle into stillness, as they turn away from making altogether and towards 'being done' with living.

My theoretical contribution demonstrates that making life worth living is not complete until narratives are no longer forward-looking, and movement is stilled. Attending to processes of making – through movement and stillness of bodies and stories – allows us to reconsider dominant biomedical discourses of end-of-life care and decision-making.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

Being, Presence, and Stillness: Towards a Sociology of Mindfulness

Alp Arat
(Cardiff University)

Mindfulness meditation has emerged as one of the most popular and accessible interventions for tackling the growing challenges of mental health and wellbeing in western societies. The vast majority of research on mindfulness however remains targeted exclusively on the clinical efficacy of such interventions rather than the people, places and practices that constitute this nascent yet ubiquitous field in the first place. This paper draws on the recently completed 'Mapping Mindfulness in the UK' project (Leverhulme Trust, with S. Stanley, P. Hemming, E. Hailwood, and R. King), the first nationwide sociological study of the contemporary mindfulness milieu to date. Over the last three years, this project has produced a survey of 800 qualified mindfulness teachers, 80 in-depth interviews with leading practitioners, 4 focus groups with key advocacy groups and stakeholder organisations, as well as extensive ethnographies of the delivery of mindfulness programmes across hospitals, schools, workplaces, and the UK parliament. Based on these findings, this paper will provide original insights into the professionalisation and institutionalisation of one of the oldest religious ritual practices known to humanity, and the growing currency of highly abstract yet deeply embodied notions such as being, presence, and stillness in modern life.

Alterity and my intercultural sense of self in counselling practice

Priti Chopra
(University of Greenwich)

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) people, in the UK context, encounter multi-layered challenges in inclusive and equitable access to mental health care services and facilities. Central to these challenges are barriers in-between clients' and counsellors' felt experiences of being present with otherness. Through an autoethnographic research approach this paper reflects on the extent to which my intercultural sense of self, as a female first generation BAME migrant counsellor, contributes to a process of facilitating space for an empowering working alliance with diverse BAME clients. I draw on some memories (re)presented and (re)constructed through visual artefacts and autoethnographic vignettes related to my lived experience in the rural areas of Bihar and Uttarakhand (northern India) and my present work as a counsellor in a British mental health charity organisation. My autoethnographic narrative endeavours to gain reflexive insight into my motives, desires, fears and notions of my self-in-interaction with otherness influenced by my sense of alterity. I engage in this process by applying concepts of interculturalism, intersectionality and polyvocality in my autoethnographic narrative. This shapes my positionality and ways in which my stories of experiencing otherness are communicated. The findings of this study suggest means through which reflective insight can be developed about diverse ways in which experience of otherness may shape subjective intracultural processes, and location of self and others, in therapeutic work and contexts. This can contribute to reflexive processes for in-depth exploration of the counsellor's use of self, in the therapeutic relationship, to enhance inclusivity for practice with-in diversity.

The Homeworking Myth

Nicola Eccles
(Wellspace)

COVID-19 has altered lives in profound and diverse ways. One significant change, for many individuals in the UK, is the shift to home working.

This 'side effect' of a global pandemic has become normalised and accepted despite the lack of skills and preparation which individuals may need in order to work effectively. Initial research with a variety of organisations in the UK suggests that following an initial positive appraisal

around working from home, employees now feel anxious, isolated and less productive. There has been a rhetoric around the benefits of home working from the world of business and psychology. However, organisations are now trying to partially open offices following requests from employees who feel disengaged at home.

This presentation will discuss qualitative research from diverse global organisations around individual experiences of working at home and how this has changed during the course of the pandemic. The presentation will consider the complex interactions between being in a home environment and the difficulties that emerge when trying to create boundaries between home and work. The presentation will reflect on issues such as isolation, productivity, the 'commute' and work identity. Finally we will consider how employers can support individuals to work at home happily and productively.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

Assisted Reproductive Technologies in the Islamic Republic: Infertility, Inequality and Masculinities in Iran

Tara Asgarilaleh
(University of Cambridge)

This research examines how (in)fertile couples, men in particular, can access and utilize assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) in the socio-cultural, legal, religious and medical context of contemporary Iran. Iran is the only Muslim country in which ARTs, including the use of donor gametes and embryos, have been partly regulated by the state through the recent Increasing Population Policies, and more significantly, have been widely legitimized by religious authorities. Although the state partly subsidizes ARTs, they are not equally accessible to all. In Iran, infertility—a stigmatized condition—is considered a 'woman's problem'; male infertility is hardly recognized or discussed in families, society, or the social sciences. This ethnographic study will yield insights into male infertility and the use of ARTs in Iran and how this relates to dominant notions of masculinity. It will build on four core theoretical notions—'reproductive navigation', '(Islamic) biopolitics', 'stratified reproduction' and 'emerging masculinities'—and take an intersectional perspective considering gender, class and religion. For the purpose of BSA annual conference, I will present a critical review of the literature on masculinities and Iranian ARTs. I will show how in conversation with the literature I designed my study, in particular, at the times of COVID-19. I will begin with my empirical research in autumn 2020 which is building on months of initial contacts and my previous research on similar topic in Iran. The research methods will include: observations of online platforms used and shared by (in)fertile couples; interviews with couples, religious authorities, medical professionals and policymakers.

Abortion and Sisterhood: A Non-Rights-Based Approach to Reproductive Health in China

Ruby Lai
(Lingnan University)

This paper demonstrates the significance of "sisterhood" for healthcare organizations, social networks, and self-help initiatives in enhancing women's reproductive health. Researchers in the field of reproduction have examined how the rights-based approach has advanced the legalization and provision of abortion globally; however, non-rights-based approaches as means to facilitate reproductive healthcare are still underdocumented. Focusing on China, where social movements and advocacy for human rights have long been repressed, this study explores how "sisterhood", deployed by women as a form of homosocial relational resource, has substituted the rights discourse and become a discursive, networking, and organizing strategy to achieve reproductive well-being at the individual and collective levels. The data

was collected through ethnographic observations in multiple medical facilities, in-depth interviews with 62 women who had had abortion and 18 medical workers in two cities in China, and content analysis of online materials conducted between 2013 and 2019. The findings illustrate the role of sisterhood in three contexts, namely, medical facility, peer groups, and online platforms. It is observed that women proactively cultivated stable or occasional homosocial relationships to cope with the challenges and risks brought about by an unintended pregnancy. These relationships, which are authentic and affectionate, not only assisted the delivery of abortion and other healthcare interventions but also helped women to rebut abortion stigma and manage their emotions. Nevertheless, the sense of apolitical sisterhood could hardly be transformed to critical reflection on the policies and system which created the structural constraints that limited the women's reproductive autonomy.

'For me, surrogacy was the first option': British gay men's experiences of surrogacy in the UK or overseas

Marcin Smietana

(University of Cambridge, Reproductive Sociology Research Group)

In this paper, I present an overview of findings from a qualitative interview study I have carried out during the pandemic in 2020 via videocalls with gay men who live in the UK or identify as British, and who have pursued surrogacy in the UK or overseas. What stood out among the interviewees was that many of them treated surrogacy as the first option on their path to parenthood. However, for some of them it came only as a result of a long negotiation of their gay identities, and for some it was available only thanks to the existence of the relatively inexpensive altruistic surrogacy model in the UK. On the other hand, some other interviewees sought surrogacy in the US or Canada for reasons as diverse as their HIV+ status or what they thought was a more efficient or transactional process overseas. I read these preliminary findings together with work on reproductive justice. In particular, I consider how gay rights narratives and memory of former marginalisation as reproductive subjects, evoked in gay men's use of surrogacy and in community building around it, may often be referred to in more obvious ways than other reproductive justice considerations, such as those about race or ethnicity (as the men usually matched or were asked to match their perceived race or ethnicity to that of egg donors, in those cases where they used donors' help). Funded by the Wellcome Trust - please see: <https://www.cifp.sociology.cam.ac.uk/work-packages/lgbtq-in-fertilities> - Please consider for the 'Human Reproduction' panel.

A study of women's knowledge about neural tube defects and prevention in Pakistan.

Shazia Yasmin, Jaleel Miyan

(The University of Manchester)

Introduction: In Pakistan, no public information program exists concerning the risks of neural tube defects (NTDs) and their prevention through dietary supplements, specifically folic acid. The main objective of the present study was to explore the knowledge and understanding about NTDs and the effectiveness of folic acid as a preventative among women of childbearing age.

Methods: The study was carried out in the gynaecology department of DHQ hospital in Faisalabad, Pakistan. A sample of 355 married women were selected simple randomly from gynaecology section. Quantitative data was collected using questionnaires in face to face interviews. Data was analysed through SPSS v22.0.

Results: The study findings showed that 85.4% of respondents had no knowledge of neural tube defects and 76.7% of respondents had no knowledge about folic acid. The majority of respondents (86.2%) did not know that folic acid protected against NTDs. Knowledge of NTDs was significantly associated with education of respondents ($P < .001$), pregnancy planning ($P < .002$), knowledge of folic acid ($P < .003$), folic acid protecting against NTDs ($P < .002$), and health decision making in the family ($P < .002$).

Conclusion: The study findings highlight very poor knowledge about NTDs and folic acid. There is an urgent need to educate women with proper knowledge and awareness about NTDs and their prevention through folic acid supplements through a targeted or general health education program.

Methodological Innovations

QUALITATIVE METHODS, WALKING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

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“Prison is the easy bit, it’s coming home that’s hard” an exploration of methods for engaging with criminalised individuals as they adjust to life after punishment in the absence of face-to-face interaction.

Julie Parsons, Chloe Pettit
(University of Plymouth)

This paper will report on methodological issues arising from a British Academy Covid-19 research grant, 'finishing time at a distance: an exploration of support mechanisms for socio-economically disadvantaged and criminalised individuals during the Covid-19 crisis and beyond.' The research has been conducted with LandWorks CIO (LWC), a resettlement charity that provides a supported route into employment and community for prisoners and people on community sentences (collectively called trainees), many of whom are socio-economically disadvantaged in terms of employment, housing and health indicators. Since lockdown LWC have maintained and/or re-established relationships with trainees, graduates and their families. This research follows some of those who have graduated from the scheme and into the community after punishment. The research utilises a modified 'photo-voice' technique originally developed as a community-based participatory action research (PAR) method, intended to give a 'voice' to participants, as well as photo dialogue/elicitation techniques during semi-structured interviews. Incorporating creative/art-based resources within the research process is important as it promotes dialogue and storytelling. In the absence of face-to-face support for those released into the community after punishment, the research explores the ways in which the research has engaged with individuals through the exchange of weekly texts, images and phone calls to a mobile phone number specifically set up for this purpose, which have then been used to inform semi-structured interviews. To date fifteen people have engaged in a modified photo-voice activity documenting their covid-19 experience(s). We report here on the benefits and dis/benefits of using non face-to-face approaches to research.

Reflections on the use of Asynchronous Qualitative Longitudinal Research Methods in Contexts of Dramatic and Unexpected Changes ‘in the field’: The Case of the French Highly Skilled in ‘Brexit Britain’

Louise Ryan, Jon Mulholland
(London Metropolitan University)

In this paper we draw upon our research, conducted over eight years, with French migrants in London, not only to examine the challenges and opportunities associated with qualitative longitudinal research (QLR) methods, but specifically when the original research project was not designed to be followed up longitudinally. Researchers may find themselves confronted by dramatic and unexpected societal events that invite, or necessitate, re-engaging participants years after the original research project is completed. However, follow up research may be especially challenging when the team lacks the resources to support new data collection. In this paper, we reflect upon our experiences of using asynchronous methods (e-mail interviews) to collect new data with participants after a significant lapse of time in the light of our decision to re-contact our original study participants in the context of Brexit. We argue that when approached appropriately, e-mail based asynchronous longitudinal methods may offer a range of pragmatic advantages in such contexts. Nonetheless, there are significant practical and ethical issues to be considered when embarking upon this type of research. Our paper contributes at the nexus between the emerging body of literature on unplanned QLR and scholarship on asynchronous, e-mail based interviewing.

Walking the now to reimagine the future: ‘Arts of noticing’, the somatechnics of bodily engagement and trans(disciplinary)mattering

Carol Taylor, Nikki Fairchild
(University of Bath)

We take up Tsing’s (2015) call to develop ‘arts of noticing’ to explore how walking in the now can bring back curiosity in research and open up opportunities to reimagine more capacious futures. Theoretically, we explore walking as a somatechnics of bodily mattering. Methodologically, we develop a relational-materialist sociological approach. Navigating a theory-practice line the paper speaks to modes of feminist indiscipline as ongoing praxis to un-discipline normative qualitative research practices. Our context is the Anthropocene’s destruction of the natural world and precarity of ecosystems arising from capitalism and White, Western colonialist ‘progress’ imperatives. We contest these orientations and ask: How can walking in the now help reimagine better futures? Drawing on a number of walking experiments, including walking in the post-industrial city, walking with whiteness, walking with wild spaces, and walking with teachers we pose walking as a transdisciplinary means to attend to relational human-nonhuman connections and ‘unheard’ voices. Envisaging walking as a somatechnic methodology of slow relationality – of micro-moments of noticing – encourages us to ‘stay with the trouble’ (Haraway, 2016). Walking somatechnics choreograph bodily engagements

anew with landscapes, environments, natures, cities; they 'stretch our imagination to grasp its contours' (Tsing, 2015: 3). Walking the now reimagines futures through the embodied doing of research as sensory, affective, relational, political practice. It is an affirmative critical response to Barad's (2007: 49) statement that 'knowing does not come from standing at a distance and representing but rather from a direct material engagement with the world'.

Exploring walking interviews in longitudinal research with ageing migrants: ethical and methodological considerations

*Louise Ryan, Magdolna Lorinc, Majella Kilkey, Obert Tawodzera
(London Metropolitan University/University of Sheffield)*

Mobile methods, including walking interviews have received increasing attention in social research (Anderson, 2004; Carpiano, 2009; Emmel and Clark, 2009; Evans and Jones, 2011; Kusenbach, 2003; Peyrefitte, 2012; Reed, 2002). However, the experiences and perspective of older people, let alone ageing migrants, have been less explored through this method. Although walking interviews provide a unique access to participants' attitudes, feelings and knowledge about place(s), their spacial practices, perceptions of the environment, elements of their biographies and patterns of interactions in the neighbourhood; the method can be resource intensive due to practical and ethical challenges. Nonetheless, the context of an ageing society, growing numbers of older migrants and the policy focus on ageing in place provide a strong rationale for investigating how older adults, migrants among them, access, navigate and make sense of particular places through the ageing process.

In this paper, we critically reflect on the methodological and ethical issues we encountered while conducting walking interviews with ageing migrants in Britain, as part of a longitudinal, multi-sited, multi-method research study, embedded into the large ESRC-funded Sustainable Care Programme. We argue that an 'ethics of care' (Gilligan, 1982; Tronto, 1993; 2013) approach to research can help in responding to ethical challenges. Through this lens, we explore: (1) safety and convenience; (2) working with NGOs (3) walking interviews as part of a longitudinal design; (4) limitations.

With the majority of our participants being 80 years old and over, this paper contributes significantly to the methodological literature on researching old age and migration.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

SouthAsians4BlackLives: The prospects for cross-racial coalitions between South Asian Americans and African Americans in the USA

*Bindi Shah, Les Carr
(University of Southampton)*

The brutal killing of George Floyd in May 2020 has highlighted systemic racial inequalities in the USA and galvanised protests both in the USA and around the world. A feature of these mobilizations, at least in the USA and the UK, has been participation from people of all races protesting in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. In this exploratory study, I examine efforts among South Asian Americans to build allyship and investigate the possibilities and limits to engendering cross-racial solidarity. Specifically, I ask a) how do South Asian Americans frame solidarity and allyship with BLM?; and b) how does the construction of South Asian American activism exhibit differentiated experiences of age/generation, class, gender, ethnicity, and religion amongst South Asians? At a time when most countries were in 'lockdown' social media played a critical role in mobilizing various groups, disseminating educational events and resources, and shaping the 'conversation'. Through thematic analysis of data from two social media platforms – Twitter and Instagram - spanning 4 months from 25 May to 25 September 2020, I argue that the prospects for cross-racial solidarity are shaped by racial hierarchies in the USA, South Asian Americans' relatively privileged position by virtue of class, caste and immigration status, and the Model Minority myth. However, young South Asian Americans are also addressing colourism and casteism that lead to anti-Blackness within South Asian communities. These processes engender complex inter-minority relations in the USA, and prospects for cross-racial alliances that are contingent on political commitments.

#Black Lives Matter – from hashtag to a global movement for change?

Shaminder Takhar

Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 10:15 – 11:30

PAPER SESSION 1

(London South Bank University)

We are living in disrupted times with COVID-19 and the #Black Lives Matter movement colliding at the intersection of race and class. The #BLM protests are anti-racist and have been described as a specific response to inequality and oppression, temporarily freeing people to give voice to demands for race equality in the UK. Racial inequality is a deeply political issue forcing governments to respond in specific ways such as the UK Government's Race Disparity Report (2017) which found overall inequalities and disadvantage amongst minority ethnic groups in education, housing, employment, policing and the criminal justice system (CJS). This year it was the compelling evidence of the impact of COVID-19 on minority ethnic groups which finally prompted the government to set up a Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities. This paper examines how the #BLM movement has firstly, provided an impetus for us to take action against racial inequality, secondly how it has become a global movement, thirdly, the multiracial composition of protests and finally the extent to which policy making can be influenced. This is looked at in the context of a hostile environment in which the oppressed voice and urgency for change is questioned at the highest levels of government. The #BLM movement presents a challenge to cultural hegemony which seeks to define common-sense positions on race by claiming that institutional racism is a myth, that diversity divides and that anti-racism is merely ideological.

A New World Awaits: Best, Beckford and Girvan's Moment

Scott Timcke, Shelene Gomes

(University of Havana)

We examine the conception of decolonisation by selected members of the Caribbean New World Group (NWG). Emerging from the incubator of the West Indian Society for the Study of Social Issues at The University of The West Indies, Mona, the NWG was formed in 1963 specifically to address the reformation of social and political forces in the wake of Caribbean territories gaining formal independence from European colonial powers. As Norman Girvan writes, this reformation was broader than the political economy, it included psychological and ideological reworkings, all items necessary to evaluate the kinds of societies West Indians could strive for. Drawing upon Southern sociology of knowledge approaches, this presentation focuses on the collaboration and creative tensions between Norman Girvan, George Beckford, and Lloyd Best as they helped one another construct their respective political philosophy, social theory and economic analysis of the logic of plantation societies, which while incomplete from our vantage, did mostly capture the historical dynamics of the Caribbean in the 1970s. We end by providing recommendations for current scholars whose targets of critique are not sadly not too dissimilar to the NWG, and how they could draw upon this conceptual archive and intellectual practice to drive social justice initiatives both in the Caribbean and in the UK.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Pandemic Politics: Rearticulating Islamophobic discourse through a COVID-19 Lens

Zainab Mourad

(Western Sydney University)

Muslims and Islam have long- been feared in the West and across the globe. Since the 1980's, Islamophobic discourse amplified in the West. Several events in the Middle East contributed to negative portrayal of Islam and Muslims across Western States, and exacerbated Islam's inferiority as a religious and political ideology in relation to Western liberal values. During the 1980's, the Islamic threat was considered external; however, in the aftermath of 9/11, the dynamics of the Muslim 'other' changed. The the defining feature of Islamophobia shifted to a Muslim threat now within, rather than a threat from abroad. While the dynamics of islamophobia have been arguably consistent in the West since 9/11, shifting depending on imperial ambitions of hegemonic states, COVID-19 has re-articulated Islamophobia through a new narrative. This health epidemic has been weaponised in media discourse to attack Islam and Muslims, blaming them as culprits responsible for breaking social distancing guidelines and spreading the virus. In this paper, drawing on Critical theory and the co-constitutive theory of Discourse/power/knowledge (Foucault, 1980), I examine the discursive constructions of Islamophobia during the COVID-19 pandemic, to outline the ways in which discriminatory discourses have been re-articulated to dehumanize Muslims through a 'them and us' narrative to further marginalise Muslim communities in the UK and Australia. While there is minimal research on the micro- aggressions that result from such discourses, it is expected that this paper will bring light to this issue with the potential for further exploration of how this manifests at the micro-level.

Live-streaming the diaspora in the times of COVID-19: A digital ethnography of online Indian festivals in the UK

Utsa Mukherjee
(University of Southampton)

This paper draws on my digital ethnographic study of online Indian festivals that were organised by Indian diasporic communities in the UK amidst the current COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, I explore the case of Durga Puja organised by UK-based Indian Bengalis in the autumn of 2020. Existing scholarship highlight the important role played by ethnic festivals and other community leisure spaces as vehicles through which diasporic groups direct place-making, build community and reinforce ethnic pride. Durga Puja is a Hindu religious festival that lasts for 5 days in the autumn and is considered to be the biggest festival among Indian Bengalis. While over the years Indian Bengali communities across the UK have organised Durga Pujas in community spaces, the current COVID-19 pandemic has meant that in-person mass gatherings can no longer be held. In response, many of these diasporic groups have adapted to the situation, choosing to stage small-scale indoor religious ceremonies and cultural programmes that comply with current guidelines and then livestreaming them free through their YouTube channels and Facebook groups. Based on observation of these festival livestreams and interviews with organisers, I demonstrate how Durga Puja organisers in the UK have dealt with the pandemic and mobilised digital technologies to nurture social networks and enact the festivities. The study offers a window into how minority ethnic groups - who have disproportionately been affected by the pandemic - are cultivating ethnic ties and articulating their sense of belonging at a time when physical community gatherings can no longer be organised.

The Legacies of 'Race' Science, Anti-Chinese Racism, and COVID-19 in Mexico

R Sanchez-Rivera
(Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge)

In Mexico, links have been made between the COVID-19 pandemic and China that point to the continuing degradation of the Chinese and the perpetuation of anti-Chinese logics reflecting the legacies of 'race' science. This short article argues that these dynamics reflect a systemic and collective anti-Chinese sentiment that stems from Mexican eugenics and the modern conceptions of mestizaje. The purpose of this piece is to observe how discourses of 'race' link with the COVID-19 pandemic in order to explore how these ostensibly natural occurrences exacerbate pre-existing social inequalities.

Rights, Violence and Crime

Porous binaries: Anti-trafficking NGOs and informal brokers in India

Pankhuri Agarwal
(University of Bristol)

In India, an informal economy, workers move for work in various sectors. As they move from one state to another within India, they lose access to welfare entitlements such as food and housing as these are attached to the proof of residence. This together with precarious work such as in brick kilns and construction, often inducts them to being rescued under anti-trafficking laws. The workers then wait for years (as long as 37 years) in the legal system as the process is long and uncertain. While the legal definition of human trafficking assumes a binary between "brokers as traffickers" and "NGOs as saviours", workers negotiate relationships of patronage and exploitation with the brokers and the NGOs. While the brokers present workers as "ideal workers" in the city, the NGOs present workers as "ideal victims". Narratives of workers from multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork conducted in India in 2019 shows that since workers lack the acuity to navigate city spaces, NGOs, like brokers, exploit them by dictating material performance (what to wear to appear destitute); tutoring (what to say); and manipulating without completely taking away hope. Workers are then falsely implicated and made to wait in the legal system against their will, incurring significant personal and material loss. This paper juxtaposes two separate pieces of literature on exploitation caused by brokers and NGOs onto Bourdieu's framework of 'absolute power' (Pascalian Meditations, 2000) to argue that the binary of a "trafficker" and a "saviour" in anti-trafficking interventions is porous and not fixed.

The Thorn In The Throat Of A Nation: Boko Haram Insurgency And Community Policing In Nigeria

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Aminu Musa Audu

(Institute Of Community Policing)

The government and people of Nigeria have been striving to contain the menace of insecurity, occasioned by the insurgent Boko Haram since 2007. Most especially in the Northern part of the country, the group has notably used various operational approaches ranging from suicide bombing, gun attacks, disguising and issuance of threat messages, to recruitment of willing and unwilling youths. Families and individuals, religious institutions, media houses, government agencies as well as security organisations in the country have had their respective share of the ugly experience. Their activities have not only wrecked tremendous havoc, leading to wanting and large scale destruction of lives and property and impacting negatively on the socio-economic progress of the country, it has constituted an embarrassment to government that has protection of her citizens as the primary constitutional responsibility. The efforts of the government and other stakeholders in Nigeria to bring the violent disposition of the Boko Haram to its end have not been successful. Amidst many other risk factors, it is partly because of wide communication and trust gaps among stakeholders of the country's defence and security systems. In the context of Ochamalienwu (Squirrel whining) theory of community policing and reviews of other relevant literature, the paper argues that the Nigeria's success in the war against the insurgency is largely determined by embrace of community policing ideals to guarantee the needed intelligence gathering mechanism by security providers in Nigeria.

Damaged Hardmen: Organised Crime and the Half-life of Deindustrialisation

Alistair Fraser, Andy Clark

(University of Glasgow)

Despite frequent associations, deindustrialisation features rarely in studies of organised crime, and organised crime is at best a spectral presence in studies of deindustrialisation. By developing an original application of Linkon's concept of the 'half-life', we present an empirical case for the symbiotic relationship between former sites of industry and the emergence of criminal markets. Based on a detailed case-study in the west of Scotland, an area long associated with both industry and crime, the paper interrogates the environmental, social and cultural after-effects of deindustrialisation at a community level. Drawing on fifty-five interviews with residents and service-providers in Tunbrooke, an urban community where an enduring criminal market grew in the ruins of industry, the paper elaborates the complex landscapes of identity, vulnerability and harm that are embedded in the symbiosis of crime and deindustrialisation. Building on recent scholarship, the paper argues that organised crime in Tunbrooke is best understood as an instance of 'residual culture' grafted onto a fragmented, volatile criminal marketplace where the stable props of territorial identity are unsettled. The analysis allows for an extension of both the study of deindustrialisation and organised crime, appreciating the 'enduring legacies' of closure on young people, communal identity and social relations in the twenty-first century.

Exploring the Interface between Asylum and 'Modern Slavery' in the UK

Patricia Hynes

(University of Bedfordshire)

Tightening of legislation around asylum in the UK has, for the past few decades, resulted in an environment described as 'hostile' and/or 'compliant'. Since the mid-1990s the term 'asylum seeker' has become increasingly used in mainstream discourse. The trajectory of asylum legislation has since been one of increasing focus on deterrence with the use of detention, destitution, enforced dispersal and/or deportation. This has resulted in increasing precarity, liminality and a fractioning of protection with a range of differential rights and insecure legal status that can lead to individuals being rendered 'vulnerable' to exploitation. Also since the mid-1990s, a discourse around 'human trafficking' has emerged in the UK. With the passing of the Modern Slavery Act in 2015, referrals into a National Referral Mechanism established to proactively identify 'victims' of human trafficking or 'modern slavery' have increased.

As such, anti-trafficking efforts run parallel to broader asylum and immigration agendas of control and deterrence. However, there are definitional differences, distinct legal frameworks, separate recording of statistics and separate literatures which reify these distinct policy agendas. This paper considers the interface, key points of contact and disconnects between the asylum system and the system established for identifying and supporting 'modern slaves', including examination of journeys into the UK, entitlements and access to a range of parallel services. Empirical material will be drawn from a study conducted between 2017 and 2019 into 'vulnerability' to human trafficking from Albania, Viet Nam and Nigeria.

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Near Future Societies - what science fiction has to say

David Byrne
(Durham University)

Science fiction authors, notably Kim Stanley Gordon, Cory Doctorow, Malka Older, have imagined plausible close near futures which deal with science and technology close to the their present state and engage with how politics, governance, the economy, and culture intersect with them in shaping the trajectories of society. Kim Stanley Gordon's primary engagement is with the relationships among all of these and impending climate catastrophe. Doctorow's with the use of information technology in surveillance. Older's with the use of information technology as the platform for political decision making. All do so in a context of inequality of power. This paper will discuss how these and other imaginations of near futures can be used as framings for social engagement towards the construction of futures. This is not new. There is a history of speculative future fiction informing political thinking and action. The argument will draw on complexity theory and crisis theory's framings of how actions can shape system trajectories towards very different end states and pay particular attention to the ways in which these authors define and describe actions at varying levels which have system determining consequences.

An exploration of the use of networks by Latvian workers vis-a-vis Brexit

Lyndsey Kramer
(The University of York)

This paper explores the ways in which EU workers settle into a new life in the UK. More specifically presented here is an analysis of qualitative data collected from twenty-two Latvian workers who have emigrated to West Yorkshire using the Freedom of Movement Provision. There is an evaluation using Bourdieu's (1986) understanding and application of social, cultural and economic capitals to the participants' perceptions of the networks that have aided their ability to settle in West Yorkshire and the role that these networks continue to have in the light of Brexit; and vis-à-vis the Coronavirus Pandemic.

A Peep into Nigeria's Future as a Country in the Wake of "#EndSARS" Protests

Bonaventure Uzoh
(Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka - Anambra State, Nigeria)

It is no longer news that Nigeria as a country has been grappling with the problem of poor leadership which became more pronounced after the collapse of the First Republic in 1966. The poor leadership has ensured that corruption in all its ramifications, ethnicity and gross human rights violations have been elevated to institutional levels. The wealth of the nation is not equitably distributed among the citizenry, the people that find themselves in positions of authority use their positions to appropriate more than their fair of the commonwealth. The youths as agents of change have been protesting against the evil activities of a special unit of the Nigeria Police Force (NPF) saddled with the responsibility of combating armed robbery and police brutality in general as well as poor governance (#EndSARS) in Nigeria. The "#EndSARS" protesters have outlined the demands to the Government and have insisted that there is no going back on those demands. As these protests gather momentum amid high support base, it is very clear that the wind of change has started to blow in Nigeria. This paper therefore intends to examine Nigeria's future in the wake of "#EndSARS" protests which will likely continue until Government begins to respond positively to the demands of the youths. The theoretical thrust of this paper includes Marx's class theory and Max Weber's social action theory. The contention of this paper is that by the time these protests are done with, things must begin to change in Nigeria for the better.

Boundaries, Migration and Covid-19: Perspectives from Rural Scotland

Ruth Wilson, Margaret Currie, Christina Noble, Annie Mckee
(The James Hutton Institute)

During July and August 2020 we conducted 30 in-depth, semi-structured interviews with stakeholders across Scotland's rural and island regions regarding the impacts and future implications of Covid-19 and lockdown. Interviewees included

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members of local and national government, representatives of community organisations and leaders of key sectoral organisations.

This paper presents themes emerging from these interviews and discusses their meaning for the future of our rural and island communities. In particular, we reflect on how the pandemic has prompted a shift in the actual and perceived boundaries between rural and non-rural areas, as well as between and within rural and island communities, with new lines drawn between locals and outsiders, those considered to be safe and those who represent a risk. At the same time, changes in lifestyle initiated by lockdown have resulted in an increase in demand for rural properties, bringing new migrants to rural areas in search of space, outdoor access and community spirit.

Drawing on themes of community identity, belonging and exclusion, we will discuss how the shifting boundaries and social trends introduced by the events of 2020 may influence life in our rural and island areas in years to come. While our interviewees recognised the opportunities for repopulation and for building the rural recovery around a more equal and equitable society, the pandemic has highlighted some of the tensions this implies – not least between movement of people, access to housing and community cohesion – which this paper will begin to unpack.

Sociology of Education 1

The Structure of Social Class in Japan: Application of the Great British Class Survey Experiment to Japanese National Representative Datasets

Shinichi Aizawa, Kentaro Hori, Ken Tanioka
(Sophia University)

This paper depicts the contemporary structure of social class in Japan. The statistical method used in the Great British Class Survey experiment is applied (Savage et al. 2013; Savage et al. 2016). Savage's original study was suggested that an inductive analysis through latent class model could be possibly used to map social classes and fields; therefore, our paper applied this method to map Japanese social classes using the Japanese national representative dataset, which has been updated every ten years starting from 1955. The dataset, referred to as "Social Stratification and Social Mobility Survey Data" in Japan (abbreviated to SSM data), has been known to be the resource in discussing Japanese social class structures academically. In particular, the most recent dataset has not only contained variables about economic capital and occupation, but also cultural capital; this enables us to analyze and map inductive social class structures as a methodological application of the Bourdieusian method. We have already gathered preliminary findings using latent class analysis from this data. The Japanese social class structure is divided into five or six classes, unlike the British one, which has seven classes. Naturally, these five or six classes have characteristics that are similar to and differ from the British inductive classification. Our study will also focus other aspects of gender and education in the social class structure. It aims to contribute to the improvement of the Bourdieusian methodology to depict social classes.

The intergenerational transmission of parental literacy involvement: evidence from the 1970 British Cohort Study

Katherin Barg, William Baker
(University of Exeter)

The subject of intergenerational transmission of parenting behaviours has attracted much attention for understanding causes of child maltreatment or harsh parenting. It has, however, not been studied in relation to parental involvement in education and social stratification in education.

In this paper we ask (1) whether there is an association between people's experience of their parents' reading to them when they were children and their reading to their own children (i.e. intergenerational transmission of parental literacy involvement) and (2) whether the intergenerational transmission of parents' literacy involvement is a process that partly explains social class differentials in parents' literacy involvement. We also investigate (3) whether the transmission leads to an augmentation (social reproduction theory) or compensation (social mobility hypothesis) of cultural resource levels across generations; that means we study whether being read to as a child moderates the relationship between parents' social class and their literacy involvement with their own children.

We use data from the 1970 British Cohort Study which is highly suitable for our analysis as it provides information on the involvement of the cohort members' parents (when the cohort members were 5 years old) and the cohort members' involvement in their own children's education (when they were 34 years old).

We find that there is intergenerational transmission of parents' reading to their child and that it reinforces social class differentials in parental involvement.

Unpacking 'middle-class advantage' in contemporary India: an empirical assessment of parental investment in children's schooling

Achala Gupta

(University of Surrey)

Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of field and capital as 'thinking tools', this paper aims to capture the complexity underlying the relationship between social class privilege and educational advantage in an inherently heterogeneous group of the contemporary middle class in India. To do so, it explores three aspects of the home-school relationship—how socio-economic transformations shape parents' aspirations for their children's future, educational decisions that parents make to realise these aspirations, and mothers' engagement in their children's everyday schooling—in interviews with parents in 53 middle-class families in Dehradun, India.

The tripartite analysis reveals the discrepancy in the mobilisation of accumulated resources in participant families, resulting in unequal middle-class advantages.

The paper shows that middle-class parents use their resources strategically to gain what they think would provide their children with valuable educational experiences. However, differential distribution and composition of other forms of capital—which research participants accumulated variously throughout their lives—resulting in the disparate utilisation of accrued resources. By offering the empirical case of the construction of relative positions in the larger middle-class group, the paper shows a more nuanced understanding of social class, breaking away from the traditional 'clear-cut boundaries' and 'absolute breaks' to define this social group. The paper argues that this is important as members in the emerging middle-classes occupy fragmented positioning in the 'field' and possess differential volume and composition of multi-dimensional capital (Bourdieu 1985). The paper, therefore, problematises, and disrupts, the binary reification of social groups to explain the processes of social reproduction via education in contemporary India.

Explaining SES gaps in field of study choice

Carina Toussaint, Alexander Patzina

(Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Research still shows that given the same performance in school students with a low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to enrol at a university and choose different fields of study compared to high SES students. As these vertical and horizontal differences in the educational decision process have important implications for social inequality at later life course stages, a profound body of so-ciological research investigates social inequalities in these decisions. However, thus far research on horizontal differences in higher education does not provide a comprehensive test of theoretical mechanisms and investigates social inequality in rather broad subject categories. To close this re-search gap we derive mechanisms from Bourdieu's and Boudon's work on inequality in educational opportunities and jointly test their explanatory power. Moreover, we advance current research in employing a fine graded dependent variable (i.e., we distinguish between 23 fields of study) and conditional logit models. These models allow person characteristics to vary across choice options and account for the unequal distribution in field of study choices by social strata. Therefore, conditional logit models facilitate a flexible test of mechanisms. Using data from the National Educational Panel Study, our preliminary results show that the most relevant mechanism to explain the SES gap in horizontal decisions is a poorer final school grade of students with a low SES. The self-rated suc-cess probability or career orientations explain only a small part. Next steps will include tests of the importance of status attainment, approval by parents and peers, and parental financial support.

Sociology of Education 2 – Special Event

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PAPER SESSION 1

THE MATERIAL BASIS FOR ELITE EDUCATION: CAPITAL, CHARITY AND THE STATE

How are elite schools financed? Schooling and capital accumulation in the UK

Sol Gamsu, Rebecca Boden, Jane Kenway

(Education Study Group, Tampere University, Melbourne University)

Capital accumulation and conversion is central to Bourdieusian theorizing of the role of education. Whilst research has examined capital accumulation of elite universities in the UK and the US (Spencer 2005; Piketty, 2014) there has been little exploration of how economic capital is accumulated and converted into cultural advantage within elite schools. Using detailed financial data from the Charities Commission, I examine the finances of 204 English private schools that are part of the Head Masters' Conference. Using a Principal Components Analysis and an analysis of a selection of accounts. These analyses show only a relatively small number of private schools are extremely wealthy with substantial endowment and investment incomes. These schools are largely boys schools with boarding, located in the South of England. Most of the schools are day schools which are more heavily reliant on fee income. Case studies explore individual examples of school finance to reveal the more precarious incomes of certain schools alongside the extremely wealthy super-elite of schools where capital accumulation and conversion is long-term and deeply entrenched. By uncovering the financial underpinnings of elite education, we can see how institutional wealth strategies is essential for the reproduction of class advantage and elite educational culture.

Fee-paying independent schools and charitable status

Matilda Clough

(University of Liverpool)

Legally, fee-paying independent schools can have charitable status; indeed, over half of fee-paying independent schools currently hold this status.

But the relationship between independent schools and their charitable status is controversial. Typically, independent schools are criticised because of their prohibitively high fees, which make the high standard of teaching and resources they provide accessible only to those who can afford it, indirectly promulgating social inequality. Although arguably these schools can attempt to mitigate this inequality through initiatives such as scholarships and bursaries, these institutions can still be seen as 'fundamentally unfair' by upholding social exclusion (Green and Kynaston, 2019); this being the case, the benefits charitable independent schools receive (particularly in the form of tax relief) are heavily criticised.

Despite this being the most commonly-cited complaint against the charitable status of independent schools, it is important to remember there is a 'cost' to being charitable for these institutions. Although these benefits may constitute reason enough for institutions to want to remain charitable, there are also additional requirements to which independent schools must adhere in order to receive these benefits. This includes extra oversight from the Charity Commission, including additional safeguarding provisions. Furthermore, charitable independent schools must provide a 'token' amount of public benefit, i.e., independent schools must provide some public benefit to families who would not necessarily be able to afford private education without it. Independent schools' provision of public benefit is generally in the form of scholarships, bursaries and partnerships with state schools.

Therefore, the additional requirements of charitable status must be considered alongside the question of why independent schools want to be charities. Are tax and reputational benefits truly enough to mitigate this cost?

This paper will explore the relationship between charitable status and independent schools, with a particular focus on why independent schools choose this status. This paper will weigh up the benefits compared with the 'cost' of being a charity. If being a charitable organisation increases the demands upon an institution, why do some independent schools still choose to be charitable?

Cooking the class books: accounting for private education in England

Malcolm James

(Cardiff Metropolitan)

In 2020 there were an estimated 2500 private (fee-paying) schools in the UK attended by about 630,000 school students – about 6.5% of all school students. In 2018 average day and boarding school fees were £14,000 and £34,000 p.a. respectively, effectively excluding all but the wealthiest families. The schools confer significant and lifelong advantages on their students, who dominate the upper echelons of society.

About 1300 of these schools, including almost all the most prestigious ones, have charitable status. This confers significant reputational and financial benefits, but charity law requires that charities operate for the public benefit. This paper addresses the question of how the schools are able, through the operation of the law and accounting regimes, to exclude so many on the basis of wealth, sequestering significant educational resources and social advantages to so few, whilst adequately demonstrating that they meet their legal obligations to provide a public benefit.

We do so through three turns. First, we argue empirically that schools' pricing strategies demonstrate a commercial, rather than a charitable orientation. This private education has become a positional good that involves Veblen-pricing. Here an increase in price causes an increase in demand because expensive goods are associated with desirable social status and restricting access enhances positional benefits. This generates significant financial surpluses which, in the second turn, are lawfully absorbed by the schools into the creation of ever more luxurious facilities designed to appeal to the target elite market. Third, because the level of fees effectively excludes all but the wealthiest, schools are under a legal injunction to demonstrate public benefit which includes the provision of fee assistance for those who are unable to afford the full fees. We demonstrate empirically how, through the operation of accounting practices, schools are able to claim that their capacity for granting scholarships is severely restricted.

We explicate how, through the operation of ambiguous charity law and regimes of accounting control, schools sustain regimes of extreme educational privilege, and, ironically, that charitable status affords them the opportunity to escape critique. To do so, we employ a sociolegal and critical accounting approach and, in particular, use reported cases, schools' own financial reporting information, and sector statistics in our empirical analysis. That is, in a reflexive methodological shift, we attempt to use the master's tools to dismantle the master's house. In exploring how educational resources are sequestered on the basis of income and wealth, we reveal how educational resourcing policies relating to private education perpetuate social injustice and involve economically inefficient resource allocation.

The charitable status of elite schools: the origins of a national scandal

Roy Lowe

(Independent Scholar)

The origins of the charitable status of elite schools in England is a neglected topic. This article reconstructs the debate on the funding of schools which led to the establishment of the Charity Commission in 1853 and argues that it was the obdurate refusal of the Anglican Church to surrender its control of secondary education which first delayed reform and then forced the compromise which resulted in the major public schools remaining outside the direct control of the new Commission. In conclusion, it argues that decisions which were taken in the mid-nineteenth century continue to resonate today, allowing elite schools catering for some of the richest families in the land to continue to operate as registered charities and benefit from significant financial support from the State. The article carries the implicit suggestion that this is but one of several controversial contemporary issues which might benefit from more detailed historical contextualisation.

Theory

The end of the future and beyond? Between social theory and utopian fiction in the crisis of modern time consciousness

Joe Davidson

(Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge)

While utopianism in general has been examined by prominent sociologists (including Karl Mannheim, Zygmunt Bauman, Ruth Levitas and Erik Olin Wright), the value of the literary utopia, the detailed textual description of non-existent social orders on the model of Thomas More's *Utopia* (1516), has often been overlooked in sociology. This is a shame, not least because the literary utopia has long been entwined with the future, imagining the temporal movement from actually existing society to a more liberated world. In this paper, I examine the value of the literary utopian form for thinking about the temporal category of the future. In particular, it is suggested that recent utopian fiction offers a fecund resource for responding to the crisis of the future identified by social theorists such as Helga Nowotny, Hartmut Rosa and others. For these scholars, the category of the future has collapsed, where it once named a time of novelty and alterity, horizons of expectation are now either confined to the continuation of the dominant contours of the present (hence, capitalist realism) or reduced to the anticipation of unprecedented disasters (hence, climate catastrophe). To respond to this bind, I turn to two utopian texts, Sarah Hall's *The Carhullan Army* (2007) and Carl Neville's *Eminent Domain* (2020), that mediate between the great futural desires generally associated with utopianism and the more recent crisis of the future

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articulated in social theory, with the aim of discerning how the impulse towards a better future can be restated in an unpropitious cultural context.

On Not Building a New Jerusalem: Perspectives on Risky, Critical and Queer Futures

Anja Finger

(No current affiliation)

In this theoretical paper, Beck's diagnosis of risk society, critical futurology and queer studies are engaged in conversation about post/pandemic futures. Beck wrote his book *Risk Society* before the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 and remarked afterwards that it now read like a description of reality rather than the planned envisaging of a future which was to be avoided. What had been a potential future had turned into actual and acute present. In October 2020, Prime Minister Boris Johnson declared in his speech to the virtual conference of the UK Conservative Party that '... in 1942 when just about everything had gone wrong, the government sketched out a vision of the post war new Jerusalem that they wanted to build. And that is what we are doing now – in the teeth of this pandemic.' It is debatable whether such citation of the past works in a risk society which, according to Beck's original conceptualisation, is no longer determined by the past, but by the future. In this context, rethinking of potential or alternative futures, such as those once outlined by Flechtheim, makes good sociological sense. At the same time, this discussion is going to draw on more contemporary theoretical resources, especially the notion of 'queer futurity' and the contribution it can make to rehabilitating utopian thinking, not giving up hope and creating different futures. Such utopian thinking does not have to restrict itself to the realm of cultural production but needs to acknowledge and analyse persistent and exacerbating social inequalities.

From intersectionality to the 'imaginary reconstitution of society': On the utopian content of intersectionality theory

Charles Masquelier

(University of Exeter)

In her work entitled *Utopia as Method* (2013) Ruth Levitas devised the conceptual foundations for employing utopias as a sociological method. Part of her argument consists in demonstrating the value of utopian thinking for the sociological endeavour, as well as in showing that sociology, particularly its critical form, contains 'silent' utopias. Drawing on Levitas' argument, Ernst Bloch's (1954, 1955 and 1959) characterisation of utopia as an impulse emanating from a longing and hope to fulfil what is currently missing, and Patricia Hill Collins' (2019) treatment of intersectionality as 'critical theory,' I set out to make explicit some of the key utopian components intersectionality theory contains. It will be shown that the latter is not limited to a critique of 'what is' but can, too, provide a basis for 'holistic thinking' (Levitas, 2013: 18) about 'what ought to be.' More specifically, it will be argued that a striking elective affinity exists between intersectionality theory and the libertarian socialist vision. But, while this vision could be regarded as intersectionality's 'preferred future,' it is 'necessarily provisional, reflexive and dialogic' (Levitas, 2013: 149). Rather than a blueprint, libertarian socialism will be presented as an image of a possible future playing a fundamental role in both cultivating the opportunity for change and guiding social transformation. This utopia is therefore best understood as a method or impulse for change and basis for transformative dialogue, thereby serving as an important reminder that beyond the cold darkness of intersectional oppression lies the warm glow of collective emancipation.

What future, whose future? Putting John Urry's 'what is the future' in conversation with Olive Schreiner's 'the far future'

Liz Stanley

(University of Edinburgh)

In the preface to *What is the future?* John Urry quotes JF Kennedy, that "those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future". His own take is somewhat different, recognising both that the present is saturated with a plethora of futures being shaped and reshaped by different groups and interests and constantly in process, and relatedly that past, present and future are indissolubly interlocked. At the same time, he offers some strictures about social science approaches that extrapolate from the present to predict likely futures, pointing to the object-lesson of Marx on revolution and other predictive failures. But is this all there is to say about the extrapolation approach, and is it necessarily quite as static as implied? The feminist social theorist Olive Schreiner was entirely future-oriented in how she approached the analysis of present and past events, conceptualising the processes of change around forwards and backwards movements of advance and decline. In doing so, she was astoundingly successful in her prognostications

about likely futures, with notable examples concerning the political future of South Africa and the continuing life of war economies 'after the war'.

This paper puts Urry and Schreiner in conversation with each other, literally so by using extracts from his *What is the Future?*, and her *Closer Union* and *The Dawn of Civilisation* and discussing these. What might they learn from each other? Where are the major lines of disagreement? Is an amalgamated theoretical and conceptual approach possible or desirable?

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND TRADE UNIONISM

Precarity is the Pandemic: Sheffield, and the Predictable Consequences of a Lack of Bargaining Power

Bob Jeffery, Peter Thomas, Ruth Beresford
(Sheffield Hallam University)

Sheffield and its City Region have the unenviable distinction of regularly being named the UK's 'low pay capital' (ONS, 2018). The city's labour markets are also characterised by various forms of precarity (zero-hour contracts, underemployment, agency work). Both are a legacy of the traumas of deindustrialisation, job destruction, labour market deregulation, austerity and regressive welfare reform (Beatty and Fothergill, 2016; Thomas et al, 2020; Etherington, 2020) that have characterised the last four decades. This period has also been marked by a proliferation of and increased stratification by employment types, ranging from employees and workers to (dependent) self-employment (Moore and Newsome, 2018). The loss of bargaining power amongst (low paid, precarious) workers implied by these developments opens them up to a range of labour market abuses or work-based harms (Scott, 2017), ranging from 'small thefts' of a worker's time (cf. Umney, 2018) to more egregious forms of bullying, victimisation and health and safety breaches (cf. <https://lowpaysheffield.com/>).

In this presentation we explore how the situation in Sheffield has been refracted by the Coronavirus pandemic, as revealed through 25 qualitative interviews with low paid and precariously employed workers. These workers have faced the full gamut of possible consequences associated with the pandemic, from being disincentivised to self-isolate through a lack of access to sick pay, to being furloughed at sub-minimum wage rates, to redundancy and summary dismissal, and of being brought back into work amidst inadequate provision of health and safety and in some instances on poorer terms and conditions.

The decline of collective IR and opportunities for citizenship

Jonathan Preminger, Assaf Bondy
(Cardiff Business School)

Trade unions are often conceived as potential vehicles for democracy. However, little research investigates the ways citizenship and democracy are affected by unionism's decline. IR scholars of citizenship issues focus mostly on workers' "practicing citizenship" despite adverse conditions and regardless of their formal status, but overlook opportunities for expanded citizenship created by changes to IR systems.

This paper asks, therefore, can factors undermining unionism also open opportunities for increasing citizenship and democracy?

We trace three developments in a formerly corporatist IR system, asserting they had significant impact regarding "effective citizenship" and resultant economic democracy: (1) in one case, a legal and human-rights discourse, thought to undermine union collectivism, increased access to collective IR frameworks for those previously excluded at a national level; (2) in another, the challenge of non-union organisations and juridification of the employment relationship led to the expansion of the union constituency at the sectoral level; and (3) in a third, social movement activism over workplace safety opened the path to central bargaining, apparently expanding workers' political inclusion in labour market regulation.

We suggest that economic inclusion can increase political inclusion, not just at the micro level of creating space for citizenship practices but also at a macro level of concrete influence on the regulation of work and the employment relationship. In other words, we join Hyman (2016) and others in reviving the idea of economic democracy and explore

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the potential within emergent collective IR frameworks for increasing political and social inclusion even when formal citizenship is denied.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, EXPLOITATION AND STANDARDS

Re-thinking global homocapitalism: LGBT rights, corporate power and hierarchy

Olimpia Burchiellaro
(University of Westminster)

Homocapitalism describes how seemingly benevolent displays of corporate 'LGBT solidarity' can reproduce hierarchies and obscure the ongoing homophobia, oppression, exclusion and inequality experienced by LGBT people worldwide. Moreover, the promise of futurity inherent in homocapitalism engenders aspirations for upward social mobility by hailing (some) LGBTs as model capitalist subjects, reducing the space for radical queer critique (Rao, 2020). Yet more research is needed to understand its full extent in the Global South and how local activists respond to this via engagements that are intentional and ultimately strategic. Moreover, whilst the growing field of 'Queer IR' (Rao, 2018; Weber, 2016) has engaged with the state, UN and foreign policy discourses, the role of transnational corporate actors in LGBT politics has yet to be fully explored. The paper analyses the kinds of futures opened-up by homocapitalism by examining the relationship between LGBT rights, corporate power and hierarchy in Global South contexts. In particular, it will ask whether corporate support for LGBT rights (re)produces hierarchies, exclusions and inequalities; how local activists negotiate these (global) commitments in pursuit of their own goals; and how homocapitalism manifests across different national, regional and local contexts. As corporate involvement in LGBT politics becomes increasingly global in its reach and ambition, the paper aims to generate new insights and theorisations into the relationship between (homo)capitalism and (LGBT) politics, and discuss the role of ethnography in understanding global processes at a national, regional and local level.

Plumbing the Depths: The changing socio-demographic profile of poverty and why this matters in the wake of COVID-19

Daniel Edmiston
(University of Leeds)

Official statistics tend to rely on a headcount approach to poverty measurement, distinguishing 'the poor' from the 'non-poor' on the basis of an anchored threshold. Invariably, this does little to engage with the gradations of material hardship affecting those living, to varying degrees, below the poverty line. In response, this paper interrogates an apparent flatlining in UK poverty in recent years to establish the changing profile of poverty, as well as those most affected by it. Drawing on the Family Resources survey, this paper reveals an increasing depth of poverty in the UK since 2010, with bifurcation observable in the living standards of different interval groups below the poverty line. In addition, this paper demonstrates substantial compositional changes in the socio-demographic profile of (deep) poverty. Since 2010, the likelihood of falling into deep poverty has increased for women, children, Black people, larger families and those in full-time work. Within the context of COVID-19, I argue there is a need to re-think how we currently conceptualise poverty by examining internal heterogeneity within the broader analytical and methodological category of 'the poor'. Doing so demonstrates how markers of social difference are articulated in the material social locations of people across the entirety of the income distribution, not just on either side of a given threshold. The evidence presented raises important questions about the prevailing modes of poverty measurement that tend to frame and delimit the social scientific analysis of poverty, as well as the policies deemed appropriate in tackling it.

Does taking up a fixed-term job reduce poverty risks? Evidence from German panel data

Stefanie Gundert, Michael Gebel
(Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Poverty as a social problem has been attracting considerable attention in recent years. From a life course perspective, poverty can be conceptualized as a dynamic, often transitory phenomenon. Transitions into poverty are frequently the result of critical life events. While unemployment is one of the most important risk factors, employment is commonly

regarded as a safeguard against poverty. This view is challenged by recent debates on in-work poverty where there is a growing perception that not all types of employment are equally effective in reducing poverty. In this respect, non-standard employment is seen as particularly problematic, as it can contribute to precarious living conditions. Previous research has shown that workers in fixed-term jobs are more often at risk of poverty than permanent workers.

Against this background, we examine how the poverty risk of unemployed individuals changes when taking up a job and whether the effects differ according to the type of employment contract (fixed-term or permanent). We take the case of Germany as one typical example of the industrialized countries that experienced both an increasing share of fixed-term contracts due to partial labour market deregulation and an increase in the at-risk-of-poverty rate. Our study adds to previous research by bringing together the literature on poverty dynamics and the literature on non-standard and precarious employment.

Drawing on large-scale panel data covering the years 2010 to 2018, we apply difference-in-differences analysis with propensity score matching to examine how the risk of poverty changes immediately upon re-employment and in the longer term.

It's a men's world: Gendered career trajectories in STEM fields across Europe

Adel Pasztor

(Newcastle University)

Scholars regularly highlight the existence of gender inequalities in scientific careers by referring to the so called 'leaky pipeline' in the BA to PhD transition. While a number of explanations have been proposed to account for the comparatively low proportion of women in STEM and especially the professoriate, some scholars now claim that these gender gaps have closed. In order to explore the gendered nature of scientific careers across Europe the paper relies on a major survey carried out among Marie Curie Fellows (N=5.479), who were awarded Europe's most competitive and prestigious fellowships. STEM researchers from over 30 nations are represented in the sample, offering us a unique view on their educational trajectories and experiences of career progression.

The 'quantitative part' of the paper provides a detailed exploration of STEM scientists' motivations for pursuing a PhD, their satisfaction with their studies and subsequent career progression, confirming the existence of gendered gaps in salary expectations, methods of job search and perceived chances of promotion, with women being much less optimistic and less confident about career progression. The statistical evidence is further corroborated by the thematic analysis of respondents' answers to the open-ended questions. Overall, 380 women described some form of gender discrimination at work. These have been grouped under 'ability questioning'; 'mansplaining'; 'intimidation'; 'withdrawal of support'; 'exclusion'; and 'humiliation'. Overall, women tended to play down the sexist behaviour of their colleagues using terms such as 'casual', 'everyday', 'low grade', 'minor', etc. while men voiced their discontent over practices of positive discrimination.

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

African student migrants in China: An exploration of how intra-group differences in pre-mobility habitus shape migration experiences

Benjamin Mulvey
(Education University of Hong Kong)

This presentation consists of a Bourdieusian analysis of educational mobility between Africa and China. Drawing on data from interviews with 40 African students in Chinese universities, I examine the extent and nature of habitus transformation for students from a variety of social backgrounds. Although the nature of habitus change as a result of migration has been touched upon to a limited extent in existing research, there has not been an attempt to offer a theoretical account of how different positions within the social field of the home country influence the process of habitus change in an overseas context, with regards to educational or other forms of migration. Moreover, the paper tests the applicability of Bourdieusian migration theory to this less typical migration flow within the Global South, which has been the subject of little empirical research. I argue that differences in social background in this particular case, as well as the specific social context in the host country, led to distinct trajectories during the sojourn and in terms of post-study plans. Overall, the nature of habitus mutability for students from across a range of social backgrounds was mediated by the nature of mobility, both spatial and social. We propose that a number of concepts from the Bourdieusian Sociology of Education literature, such as "self-conscious reflexivity", "self-exclusion" and "habitus tug" are useful for conceptualising the migration trajectories of less typical international students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Making and Losing Place in a British Asian Neighbourhood: experiences of place-making in an inner-city locality of Manchester

Dillon Newton
(Independent Scholar)

Although literature on place-making is well-developed, there remains little understanding about the experiences of longer-term residents who perceive neighbourhood sites as changed or 'lost' in localities that become physically transformed by place-making processes. This paper seeks to contribute to this gap. Drawing on doctoral research in an ethnically diverse locality of Manchester, this paper focusses on the experiences of South Asian groups who have established neighbourhood places and community spaces through migrant place-making processes, alongside the concerns of longer-term residents about 'losing' place. Using data generated by participant observation and mobile interviews, the rich and spatially-bound accounts of several residents with differing backgrounds are focussed upon. In doing so, this paper expands discussion on place-making, and contributes to growing understanding about how physical environments and the materialities of place can be key to the formation of relationships across perceived lines of difference.

The local experience of social integration

Anna Paraskevopoulou
(Anglia Ruskin University)

Immigration policies, introduced at national levels, are in actuality implemented at the local level, establishing access to services, well-being and inclusion initiatives, and social integration policies (Caponio and Borkert, 2010). The paper presents findings from recent research focusing on the social integration of migrants and refugees at a local level. Considering the different 'degrees of embeddedness' and 'depths of embeddedness' (Ryan and Mullholand, 2015), the paper explores how social relations are being forged in terms of practical and emotional adjustments.

Three key factors have shaped the process of social integration in recent years. First, the long-term cuts in social policy initiatives due to the economic downturn; second, the Brexit referendum; and third, the Covid-19 pandemic. Discourses on these topics have an impact on local integration policies, structures and the different agents involved with the process of integration (Ireland, 2017), and are examined here to better understand whether they disrupt, or enable, social integration. The paper is based on primary research interviews with various actors in the local community, including employers, migrants, local organisations and community leaders, and secondary research on media reports covering the three topics.

Environment and Society

Change Points: A transdisciplinary toolkit to reimagine demand and reconfigure intervention

Claire Hoolohan
(University of Manchester)

Governments, businesses and organisations are under increasing pressure to respond to the climate crisis and curb accelerating demands for resources like water, energy and food. Advances in the social sciences call for tools that confront the complexities of everyday action to effectively intervene in demand, yet behavioural change approaches continue to be criticised for narrowly understanding what shapes behaviour. Here we present 'Change Points', a toolkit that sensitively employs methodological developments in design research to operationalise insights from social practice theories and other interpretive perspectives on consumption (Hoolohan & Browne, 2020). Developed with UK policy partners, Change Points engages with the practices of policy making to facilitate engagement with the distributed factors that shape resource use (Watson et al., 2020). While practice theories have gained considerable interest from policy institutions, they have so far had limited impact upon policy, indicative of the inertia in incumbent planning practices (Hoolohan & Browne 2018). Illustrative examples demonstrate how Change Points disrupts planning practices; contributing to the reconfiguration of institutional imaginaries, actor arrangements and evidence gathering processes to provide space for different sensitivities and skills space to guide intervention planning. The assumption that informing research users of social practice theories' insights will be sufficient to change professional practices is flawed (Westling & Sharp, 2018) and Change Points responds to this challenge by offering resources to facilitate the 'doing' of social practice theory. We discuss limitations for infusing policy with practice theories, and reflect on the successes and challenges experienced throughout the Change Points projects.

Apocalypse or Utopia?: Telling the Future in UK Climate Protest

Francesca Kilpatrick
(University of Brighton)

The future of our climate and possible consequences are increasingly in our news, our politics, and our economics. But what should climate communicators and campaigners prioritise when designing their messages about what the future holds? Popular narratives used about climate change influence the types of policy, and therefore the types of future, that are created. For example, a focus upon combatting biodiversity loss and policy protecting the natural environment may not take sufficient account of effects of climate change upon human communities and the social inequalities that contribute to these impacts. A focus upon the universal threat climate change poses may sideline the voices of those with differentiated experience. To understand the effects of using different narratives, the communication and strategies of different UK climate campaigning groups were analysed using narrative analysis of interviews and campaign material, from groups including Friends of the Earth, Extinction Rebellion, and the school strikes/Fridays for Future. This paper outlines some of the preliminary findings from this research, including narratives of emergency and opportunity, despair and hope, apocalypse and utopian ideals of a bright green world. These results indicate that climate communicators use varied and sometimes contradictory messages about the present and the future, which may cause complex or inconsistent responses in audiences.

Families and Relationships

Can I have a quick word? Autism and the everyday lives of parents/carers

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Juliet Hall

(University of Plymouth)

Autism/autism spectrum conditions represent a range of complex developmental disabilities with unknown aetiology, which affect a person's social interaction, communication and presents as a spectrum of behaviours. The rate of diagnosis of autism is on the rise. This is considered to be due to expansion of the operational definition of autism and greater public awareness.

A diagnosis of autism in a child can lead to severe reactions for parents/carers and include feelings of loss and grief - for some comparable to a death in the family; fears concerning the long term impact of the diagnosis and 'being robbed of dreaming of the future'. Parents are often vilified for being part of the 'pro-cure' biomedical movement as opposed to positively identifying with the condition, and neurodiversity activists argue that these parents refuse to 'accept the child's actual reality and needs'.

This research shares the lived experience of parenting a child with autism using an auto/biographical approach. It highlights the impact of an autism diagnosis on the parental biography and how autism influences the everyday life of parents/carers and the wider family unit and the extent that neurodiversity and parent advocacy discourses are applied in the everyday experiences of parents/carers of autistic children.

Fatherly care horizons: the shifting visions of primary and equal carer fathers

Paul Hodkinson

(University of Surrey)

Drawing on qualitative research on primary and equal carer fathers (Brooks and Hodkinson 2020), this paper outlines the importance of 'fatherly care horizons' as part of the journeys of men who share care for young children at least equally with their partners. Adapted from use of horizons for action (Phil Hodkinson and Sparkes 1997) to make sense of young people's career trajectories, fatherly care horizons, the paper argues, can usefully highlight the role of fathers' sense of what might be feasible, appropriate or suited to them as a parent, and the ways such visions might enable, constrain and transform amidst developing practices and identities as carers and changing life circumstances. Care horizons, the paper suggests, are rooted in social position and gendered social positionings but, rather than being set in stone, are constantly developing in relation to ongoing interactions, institutions and circumstances. With this in mind, the paper goes on to show how, for many fathers in their study, the taking up of unusually involved care roles connected with a significant turning point in their horizons, often brought about by unusual circumstances. Thereafter, horizons often continued to develop as the experience, skills and responsibilities of caregiving became more embedded. Consistent with other studies of caregiving fathers, though (e.g. Doucet 2004; Soloman 2017), there were limits to such transformations, with mothers sometimes still regarded as default caregiver and the future of fathers' own role and orientation subject to uncertainties as children grow older and different crossroads are encountered.

A sense of what's possible: subjective orientations to the future amongst UK young adults living with parents

Emma Hyde

(University of Leeds)

Young people in the UK are increasingly living with parents for prolonged periods of their lives (Hill et al., 2020). Particularly following the 2007-2008 global financial crisis, securing residential independence encompasses greater unpredictability and impossibility (Green, 2017). Amidst welfare retrenchment, housing and independence trajectories have become highly familialised and inter-generational relationships ever more relevant (Irwin and Nilsen, 2018). This paper presents early findings from my doctoral research involving interviews with co-residing young adults (age 20-30s) and parents across varied socio-economic circumstances. Through a multi-generational lens, the research shines light on diverse family relationships and patterns of support often neglected in 'youth aspiration' narratives. Embracing life course concepts of 'linked lives' and 'human agency', this presentation will highlight the relationality of young people's trajectories as embedded in macro-contexts of constraint and varying degrees of choice experienced in interpersonal settings (Elder, 1994). I explore how young adults' subjective orientations to 'becoming independent' are inter-generationally constructed with implications for wellbeing and the reproduction of (dis)advantage. Drawing on theories of affective inequality ('embodied dispositions and emotions'), I analyse how these young people make sense of what is possible in their futures with reference to proximate resources and relations (Bottero, 2020, p.20). For many, COVID-19 presents an exacerbation of pre-existing hardship (Patrick et al., 2020), and I explore its implications across my

sample. Illuminating diverse and unequal familial relations both pre- and 'post'-pandemic, I argue for the need to better methodologically engage with the relational others centrally implicated in young people's orientations to the future.

Frontiers

More than two streams? Methodological experiments of (critical) reflexivity and co-creation

Marjukka Laiho

(University of Eastern Finland)

This presentation brings together two methodological streams of social scientific research: (critical) reflexivity, and co-creation. My understanding of reflexivity has roots in Bourdieu's reflexive sociology, and wings in critical reflexivity (e.g. Morley 2015; Gilbert & Sliep 2009). The latter draws from in critical theory; thus, it incorporates emancipatory goals as it challenges current truth claims and power relations. Even though critical reflexivity is rooted in social work, I find the concept applicable in many sociological fields.

The context of participatory research methodology creates a fruitful niche to discuss the intersections of reflexivity and co-creation, i.e. bottom-up collaboration. Though manifold and even scattered as an academic practice, co-creation can be seen to have many benefits (see e.g. Bovill 2020; Ryan & Tilbury 2013). For example, co-creation can create experiences of inclusion and trust for the informant or student, thus enabling more in-depth data collection and learning results. It is also a way to empower and emancipate - at least the informant or student.

In my doctoral project and academic teaching, I have facilitated varying combinations of co-creation and (critical) reflexivity – with varying results and learning outcomes, too. These methodologies have challenged both the informants/students, and the researcher/teacher. This paper asks: 1) What are the strengths and opportunities of combining co-creation and (critical) reflexivity? and 2) What are the weaknesses and threats in combining co-creation and (critical) reflexivity? Based on conceptual and qualitative content analysis I discuss these questions theoretically, and empirically – challenging some practice(s) of academic research.

How do we measure current retirement migration trends?

Marion Repetti, Marion Repetti, Toni Calasanti, Chris Phillipson

(School of Social Work, University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, HES-SO Valais-Wallis)

While experts consider transnational retirement migrants from Northern countries who relocate permanently to Southern countries to be a growing phenomenon, only a few studies provide a broader view of both its quantitative and qualitative composition. In fact, the majority of studies on this topic are qualitative, perhaps partly due to the difficulties that scholars face in finding valid and precise statistics on this trend. As a consequence, while such local and qualitative studies provide insights about socioeconomic and other demographic characteristics of transnational retirement migrants, we find only limited information about the actual number of such migrants and their composition on a larger scale. In this presentation, we examine retirement migration to better understand why broader quantitative data are difficult to find, and identify the challenges that collecting such information poses, both nationally and for cross-country comparative purposes. To do so, we compare government data reports produced in the UK, Switzerland and the U.S. We find that nation states do not necessarily count retirement migrants, but report data that can be used to estimate such trends, such as state pensions being paid to recipients who reside in new, different countries. And when they do count retirement migrants, national governments use different categories; as a result, the data that they provide are only partially comparable. These variations reflect differences in political imperatives and preoccupations between the three countries.

When two worlds collide: The role of affect in 'essential' worker responses to shifting evaluative norms

Natalia Slutskaia, Annilee Game, Tim Newton, Rachel Morgan

(University of Sussex)

Extensive dirty work literature focuses on the narrative devices adopted by workers in response to stigmatisation. In this article, we draw on this literature but seek to contribute a more holistic understanding by focusing on the interplay of affect and temporality in workers' adoption of such responses. Drawing on Povinelli (2011), our ethnographic study of street cleaners and refuse collectors moves beyond the static and a-temporal assumptions of previous research by

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inviting attention to the centrality of 'social tense'. We illustrate how affect shapes 'essential' workers' use of discursive resources in the face of social shifts that render normative values, formerly relied upon for legitimation and esteem, close to obsolete. The sense of two normative social worlds colliding (a 'trembling of recognition') leads these workers to form adherences to past narrative strategies, and hinders the possibility of different choices or engagement with available resources. The implications of our findings for key worker recognition are discussed.

Reviewing the evidence on youth participatory action research (YPAR): what works, for whom, and how?

Maureen McBride, Sarah Ward
(University of Glasgow)

Children's Neighbourhoods Scotland (CNS) is a combined research and delivery initiative which aims to improve outcomes for children and young people in high-poverty neighbourhoods. Driven by the values of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), we utilize participatory methods to determine what is important in the lives of young people, and their priorities for change. After developing a youth wellbeing framework for action, we wanted to explore the enablers and barriers to supporting young people to take action on their priorities and to influence policy change. To do this, we undertook a theory-based review of YPAR research approaches to policy change, with a focus on those with the potential for broader transformative change. The study aimed to understand and evaluate the detailed processes of transformative change in YPAR. Our realistic review approach to the literature included evidence from quantitative and qualitative studies applied in diverse contexts. The evidence suggested four themes of relevance to the CNS delivery context: 'brokering' relationships between young people and stakeholders is key to success, both in raising awareness of the value of YPAR as a methodology and in laying the ground to challenge traditional power relations between youth and policy decision makers; youth should be central to all stages of research process; use of appropriate digital media helps to engage youth participants throughout the process and to disseminate results; and support for youth leadership skills development should be built into the process.

Lifecourse

Using fiction to reimagine futures and intergenerational solidarity

Melanie Lovatt, Valerie Wright
(University of Stirling)

We are living in a time of social and environmental upheaval. Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities, and increased anxieties and uncertainties about the future. Age-based inequalities during the pandemic have been laid bare by the care home crisis and there are fears of a 'lost generation' of younger people whose studies and employment prospects have been damaged. Such inequalities risk intensifying intergenerational conflict narratives that, in the wake of the 2016 EU Referendum, the 2019 UK General Election and the climate emergency, portray 'older people' as 'stealing the futures' of 'younger people'. In this paper we present initial findings from a series of intergenerational reading groups that were designed to reimagine a future in which everyone's lives and futures are valued, regardless of age. Four groups met once a month for five months and discussed novels of various genres that depicted themes of age, intergenerational relationships, and time. Participants used these fictional narratives to reflect on what social conditions, relationships and policies might be required to realise a world in which intergenerational solidarity could flourish. Drawing on Levitas' concept of 'utopia as method' (Levitas 2013) we consider the ability of fiction to not only critique current hegemonic, exclusionary narratives of time and age, but to unlock emancipatory narratives of the future and future societies.

The Future, Reproductive Autonomy, Choice and Care: Narratives on life and future from women who are not mothers.

Sheila Quaid
(University of Sunderland)

This paper presents interim findings of an ongoing project which explores diversity and commonalities in lives of 'child free' women. How we are all positioned in relation to social reproduction is crucial to imagining the future. This project is exploring the effects of pro-natalist ideologies on the lives of 'child free' women. Initial analysis is producing insights into, how we define 'care' who does care work in society and imagining who will do this in the future. Lives and choices are shaped by gendered assumptions and reproductive autonomy remains contested. Women who choose to be child
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free or those who yearn for it but cannot be mothers are positioned in culture and society as 'other' femininity. Motherhood for lesbians was seen as dangerous and transgressive but also the choice for single heterosexual women to remain 'child free' creates "Otherhood" and for women in relationships with men produces ambiguities, assumptions and judgement. Black and disabled feminists draw attention to particularities of experience; therefore, the project involves mixed methods and intersectional sampling of 'child free' women. In workforce agendas there has been a focus on childcare and flexible working as a key progressive move towards equality for women. These measures, however do not speak to women who are not mothers and tensions arise in many workplaces. This research potentially contributes to this closing a gap of understanding and could support those seeking meaningful equality strategies that are inclusive of all women and men. At the same time raises more global questions .

"You can't rebel in the same ways!" Exploring ageing women 'being' and 'doing' punk beyond youth.

Laura Way

(University of Lincoln)

Despite a growing body of scholarship concerning ageing subculturalists (see, for example, Bennett and Hodkinson 2012), punk continues to be largely conveyed through academic research as a youth orientated subculture. Where focus on ageing punks does emerge (e.g. in Bennett 2006, 2013) the voices of ageing punk women continue to remain largely invisible and where present, analysis of how ageing intersects with gender is non-existent. Equally, empirical work concerned with punk and gender fails to extrapolate the intersections between gender and ageing, in part because of samples consisting of participants predominantly in their teenage years or in their twenties. Drawing upon qualitative interviews, this paper considers how the older punk women I spoke with negotiated punk identification as ageing women. It firstly briefly outlines how the participants I spoke with shared a common understanding of what punk was and that this set of 'punk values', as I refer to them, were found to be malleable when put into practice; this helped the women negotiate retained punk identification as they aged. By utilising a life-course approach, three punk pathways emerged from the data and revealed the ways some of the women re-made 'being' and 'doing' punk into adulthood in comparison with how they 'did' punk in their youth. In unpacking these pathways, the intersecting impacts gender and ageing can have on punk women will be highlighted.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

Developing a Socioecological framework of understanding to deconstruct the complex personal growth narratives of health and social care students, entering healthcare practice early during the Covid-19 pandemic

Nicholas Norman Adams, Alice Butler-Warke, Nicola Torrance, Aileen Grant, Catriona Kennedy, Angela Kydd, Scott Cunningham, Flora Douglas

(Robert Gordon University)

During the COVID-19 pandemic and resultant lockdown, UK health and social care students were offered the opportunity to become 'early entrants': nursing and midwifery students were asked to enter extended paid placements, while some student pharmacists, and students from allied health professions and social work opted to begin professional work pre-graduation. Early recruitment for all disciplines comprised efforts to combat expectations of the NHS becoming overwhelmed. Students entered a rapidly changing healthcare system facing significant uncertainty and flux, with continually shifting policies. While early-entrants contributed to the fight against Covid-19, they straddled expectations with their role as pre-graduation health and social care students.

This paper highlights findings from our study exploring the experiences of health and social care students, who were offered the opportunity to enter practice early. Drawing on survey data and interviews with participants, we reimagine a socioecological theoretical framing to make sense of the complex stories and experiences of 'early entrants' and highlight that while manifestations are felt at the individual level, there are linkages to wider organisational, community, and public policy factors. We pay particular attention to connections between perceived 'moral duties', informal and formal communication, and impacts upon early entrants' wellbeing.

We argue that as we move beyond COVID-19 and into a post-COVID world, we have all become acutely aware of external pressures and limitations. We must learn from our own experiences and from research so that we consider the role of the individual as embedded within a complex system with varying pressures and expectations.

Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 11:45 – 13:00

PAPER SESSION 2

Cultural responses to Covid-19 - A case of retrograde biosociality?

Iain Crinson

(St Georges, University of London)

The construct 'biosociality', as it has been deployed in the post-genomic era, is not an assertion of the complementary of the spheres of biological and the society as it was in earlier conceptions, but a conflation of the biological and the cultural. The conception has been utilised as shorthand for both dystopian and utopian futures. Its particular application being dependent upon where commentators stand vis-à-vis the dissolving the traditional dualist boundaries between the natural and the social, and the possibilities for the generation of new forms of bio-identity no longer restricted by the constraints of class, gender and 'race'.

This paper will draw on documentary analysis to present a reading of the public response to the UK government's Covid-19 public health strategy as 'retrograde biosociality'. This analysis will be focused on the extent to which cultural responses have been shaped by a perceived failure of modern biotechnology, and the re-assertion of traditional social divisions given the reliance on the long-established public health strategy of quarantine and social distancing.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

The futures of child veganism: reproduction, parenting and food in times of uncertainty

Edmee Ballif

(University of Cambridge)

Contemporary "delegated biopolitics" (Memmi 2004) place actual or potential parents, and especially mothers, at the forefront of the production of healthy citizens (Lee et al. 2014). This trend underlies studies in reproduction as well as parenting culture studies, calling for more dialogue between these fields (Faircloth & Gürtin 2018). Child feeding in particular reveal social anxieties, norms and moral expectations regarding the health and welfare of the new generations (Lupton 1996, Murphy 2003). Childhood eating is routinely framed in terms of risks (of obesity, diabetes or poor intellectual development) within public health discourses (Lupton 1995). The understudied case of child veganism, this paper will argue, can bring new insights into current reproductive politics, parenting culture and risk discourses: controversies around the benefits and risks of child veganism reveal competing representations of possible futures. This paper will draw from an ongoing analysis of discourses on child veganism in Switzerland. Sources include public health and medical guidelines as well as interview with vegan parents. The analysis will show how child veganism is both contested as a risk to the nations' biofuture and celebrated as the promise of a better social, environmental and ethical future; and how these discourses incorporate the current environmental and health crises in their representations. The relevance of these results current discussions on reproduction, parenting culture, food and public health will be discussed.

'Stories of distress versus fulfilment': A narrative inquiry of midwives' experiences supporting women's alternative birthing choices in the National Health Service

Claire Feeley

(University of Central Lancashire)

Background

Evidence suggests that the attitudes of employed midwives to women's out of guideline physiological birth choices varies widely. For midwives aligned with women's choices, small-scale evidence suggests they experience institutional conflicts and challenges.

Aim

To explore the experiences of UK midwives employed by the NHS, who self-defined as supportive of women's alternative physiological birthing choices.

Methods

A narrative inquiry was used to collect professional stories of practice via self-written narratives and interviews. 45 employed midwives from across the UK with a wide range of ages, years' experience, working in different practice settings and models of care were recruited.

Findings

Two overarching storylines are presented in this paper. 'Stories of distress' highlights an extreme spectrum of challenging experiences related to midwives unsupportive working environments: 'feeling torn', 'battle', 'protection' and 'reproach, recrimination or vilification'. Conversely, 'Stories of fulfilment' offers a positive counter-narrative whereby the midwives' experiences were characterised by supportive working environments: 'normalised practice', 'togetherness' and 'the sublime'.

Conclusion

Midwives experiences of care was mostly mediated by their socio-cultural working contexts. Distressing accounts related to unsupportive workplace environments ranging from small persistent challenges to extreme situations of referrals to the regulatory body. This raises concerns of the sustainability of midwives continuing to support women's choices without support for themselves. Positive accounts related to supportive working environments that enabled midwives to deliver woman-centred care largely unencumbered. This highlights what is feasible and achievable within maternity organisation's whereby lessons can be learnt and applied elsewhere.

Has Covid-19 changed where people want to give birth?

Mari Greenfield

(King's College, London)

Hospitals are seen as a place where babies can be born safely. They are a place that a couple enter in labour, and become a family. Has Covid-19, and restrictions imposed because of the pandemic have disrupted this narrative?

In the early days of the pandemic, many hospital admissions were delayed, both to free up resources for the treatment of Covid-19 patients, and to minimise hospital transmission of the virus. Maternity care is not care that can be delayed. Restrictions on the conditions for NHS support during birth were imposed both nationally and by individual NHS Trusts. Some homebirth services were withdrawn, some Birth Centres were closed, and some elective caesarean births were cancelled. Most Trusts restricted the numbers of birth partners, and specified that birth partners were only allowed to offer support during specific parts of labour, birth, and the early postnatal period. Some restrictions meant that women faced giving birth alone.

This presentation is based on a large online mixed methods survey, administered in the first days of the lockdown in the UK. Responses were collected from over 1,700 new and expectant parents. The results describe complex decisions about place of birth, with the risks of both hospital acquired Covid-19, and of birthing without a birth partner present appearing as significant factors in expectant parents choice of birth place. A significant minority considered freebirth, and others explored the option of a homebirth as they weighed up the relative risks of available birth locations.

Considering pregnancy as cancer: implications for the sociology of reproduction

Emily Ross

(University of Sheffield)

Gestational Trophoblastic Disease (GTD) is a rare cancer that can develop following conception. The condition leads to the development of pre-cancerous tissue or a tumour in place of a viable foetus. In many cases women experience recognised signs and symptoms of pregnancy, including a positive pregnancy test, and anticipations for future parenthood.

In this presentation I argue that subjecting GTD to sociological analysis allows us to re-think, re-make and re-imagine biomedical and wider societal framings of pregnancy. Because it mirrors embodied and hormonal experiences of gestation, the condition disrupts conceptual boundaries between cancer and pregnancy as corporeal phenomena. By provoking a 'pregnancy' in the absence of a foetal entity, GTD also forces us to reflect on what it means to be pregnant, foregrounding the emotional, fleshy and chemical constituents of pregnant bodies. Following feminist scholars who have attended to the material constituents of pregnancy, such analyses offer new ways to imagine foetal personhood and maternal-foetal relationships. These analyses have broader implications for reproductive rights.

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PAPER SESSION 2

I will show that the case of GTD can enhance studies of reproduction within medical sociology, by highlighting how societal framings of pregnancy and pregnancy loss, but also cancer, shape patient experiences and GTD care and support. These framings have powerful consequences if, like some science studies scholars, we consider the science and management of GTD as simultaneously producing the entities (e.g. 'mother', 'foetus', 'tumour') it aims to care for.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1 – Special Event

Beyond Stop and Search

Scarlet Harris, Remi Joseph-Salisbury, Lisa White, Patrick Williams (Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity), with Rebekah Delsol (Open Society Foundation) as discussant

Official monitoring of policing practice attests to a stubborn disproportionality whereby minoritized groups and communities are more likely to be subject to policing than their white counterparts. Recent figures confirm this trend where black, Asian, mixed and other minority ethnic groups are on average ten times more likely to be stopped and searched, with this figure increasing up to 20 times in some parts of England and Wales (Shiner et al 2018). Whilst campaign and activist groups have seized upon such figures as evidence of racial profiling driven by a presumption of criminality, such assertions reflect a narrow and constraining view of the police and the policing function.

In this session we move away from standard presentation formats, as we adopt a more conversational approach between the four researchers. We consider the predominance of stop and search as a frame for understanding police interactions, whilst also considering what gets left out and erased when we do so. Throughout the discussion we draw upon insights from our ongoing research projects, one on deaths after police contact, and another on 'ethnic minority' experiences of being policed during Covid. Rebekah Delsol will join the panel as a discussant.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Talking 'with' and 'about' the far right: how the populist hype means we do both

*Katy Brown
(University of Bath)*

The use of populism to describe far-right parties and politics has become widespread in political, media and academic discourses, eclipsing other descriptors with serious implications. This research explores the use of populism to describe the far right within academia, highlighting the legitimising effect this can have if not carefully nuanced.

The paper develops the notions of talking 'with' and 'about' the far right: talking 'with' refers to the appropriation or espousal of similar ideas to the far right by mainstream actors, whereas talking 'about' denotes the way in which mainstream actors describe the far right. While many scholars would acknowledge their role in talking 'about', there is limited engagement with how academia may talk 'with', contributing to the normalisation of far-right discourse. It is critical that we explore the role of the populist hype in this process. Through its incessant, and often inaccurate, use and consequent muddying of its meaning, 'populism' has created a discursive link between the far right and 'the people', lending democratic legitimacy to the ideas promoted by these parties and movements. This association has led far-right actors such as Nigel Farage and Marine Le Pen to embrace the term and in turn, mainstream politicians have justified shifting policy and discourse under the auspices of being guided by 'legitimate concerns'.

For this reason, we must centralise the ethics of talking 'about' in our understanding of mainstreaming, particularly its relationship to talking 'with', in order to develop a consciousness of the role academia can play in this process.

'In' and 'out': the role of the official campaigns in mainstreaming the far right

*Katy Brown
(University of Bath)*

In the British referendum on EU membership (Brexit), both official campaigns, whether 'in' or 'out', attempted to outwardly distance themselves from Nigel Farage and UKIP. Unsurprisingly, Britain Stronger In published numerous BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future 70th Anniversary

videos ridiculing Farage, while on the other side, despite advocating the same position in the referendum, the Vote Leave CEO argued that 'it was essential that Vote Leave was a non-UKIP based campaign'. Equally, Michael Gove, a prominent figure in Vote Leave, claimed that he 'shuddered' upon seeing UKIP's now-infamous 'Breaking Point' poster. Despite such distinctions, the shared themes and discourses purported by the official campaigns and UKIP undermine these distancing tactics.

This paper explores the mainstreaming of the far right through analysis of the official campaign groups' discourse in comparison with that expressed by UKIP through Leave.EU. It uses a combined methodological approach, drawing on Discourse Theory, Critical Discourse Studies and Corpus Linguistics to explore both shared and diverging themes, discursive strategies and textual features within the corpora. Despite Vote Leave's claim of difference from UKIP, a number of parallels in both content and style emerge. Furthermore, Britain Stronger In depart from similar themes and logics (i.e. immigration in terms of economic utility, promoting the 'patriotic case for remaining', etc), signifying that opposition in terms of the referendum does not translate into successful counter-discourse on key themes. Such crossover therefore has wider significance, demonstrating the critical role of mainstream actors in the normalisation of far-right discourse and ideas.

Spaces of Harassment: A Multilevel Analysis of the Role of Community Ethnic Composition, Segregation and Social Disorganisation Among Ethnic Minorities in Britain

William Shankley, James Laurence
(University of Manchester)

This paper examines the community-level drivers of ethnic minorities' experiences of harassment in the UK; in particular, the role of community ethnic structure (ethnic composition, ethnic segregation and ethnic-change), socio-economic disadvantage, and residential stability. Drawing on an ethnic minority-booster sample of a large-scale UK panel dataset, we address several potential shortcomings with prior analyses to make novel contributions, including: taking a multilevel approach, using self-reported harassment data and not police statistics, testing across multiple geographic-scales, exploring dynamics among minority sub-groups, and measuring actual and anticipated harassment. Key findings suggest minorities in areas with a higher share of Whites report a higher likelihood of harassment, but also that residential segregation sharpens group-divisions, increasing likelihoods of harassment. We also find strong evidence that socio-economic disadvantages and residential-instability foster harassment. These findings have important implications for the theorizing of harassment and support the inclusion of community-level measures in national policy to reduce harassment.

Rights, Violence and Crime

Neutralising and Normalising Sexual Violence in Adolescence: Exploring the experiences of adolescent girls

Kirsty McGregor
(University of Brighton)

Sexual violence is widely considered to be a significant public health issue. Arguably, adolescence (10-to-25 years old) is normalised as hyper-gendered and hyper-sexualised, eliciting an environment whereby young people experience 'lad culture' and the sexual double-standard more acutely because they cannot identify it as such. This is reflected in increased reports of sexual violence for this age group. Research suggests that victims of sexual violence often call upon rape myths and gender stereotypes to neutralise and normalise their experiences.

This paper explores the narratives of seventeen young women who experienced sexual violence in their intimate relationships during adolescence. Employing an intersectional feminist epistemology, I analysed the intersecting power relations and un/conscious attempts to neutralise and/or normalise their experiences of sexual violence. Participants used techniques of neutralisation to deny that a real crime had occurred by refuting the perpetrators' criminal intent; denying serious injury occurred; denying their victimhood; and/or suggesting they provoked the sexual violence (Weiss, 2009). Subsequently, this paper demonstrates that adolescents learn and employ gender and rape myths to normalise their experiences of sexual violence in similar ways to adults. This demonstrates that any attempt to prevent the normalisation of sexual violence must occur before adolescents embark on intimate relationships. Furthermore, it suggests that to only consider gender in our analyses is to obscure the lived realities of victims of sexual violence. Consequently, we must also consider other structural inequalities within the contexts of their lives, e.g. their age, socio-economic background and race.

Venacularising the sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents in Ghana

Peace Tetteh

(Department of Sociology, University of Ghana)

Ghana is the first country in sub-Saharan Africa to ratify the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC). It has subsequently, in tandem with the tenets of this Convention, promulgated several legislations to protect the rights of children. There seems however, to be a huge chasm between these legislations and the actual realisation especially of children's sexual and reproductive health rights, given the daily reports of child abuse of many forms. Many adolescents in Ghana lack access to reproductive health information, services and protection. This reality has been explained to be because the tenets of UNCRC and the ways that international agencies and local NGOs and government agencies have sought to implement them tend to be Western in orientation. Thus, adolescents' right to participate in drafting and implementing policies that dwell on their health and wellbeing including reproductive health, which resonates with the culture, traditions and culture of many African countries are often ignored. This paper explores the ways by which adolescents can have access to comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) content that is culturally acceptable and responsive to the needs and rights of children. Vernacularising the content and processes of CSE are critical to ensuring that no child is left behind. This paper thus, presents a sociological discourse that rethinks and re-imagines CSE and children's rights into the future.

Public Inquiries and the Societalization of Child Abuse Crises

Katie Wright

(La Trobe University)

Since the 1990s there has been a growing concern internationally about the institutional abuse of children. In response to victim/survivor activism, high profile media scandals, and increasing knowledge of the prevalence and effects of child abuse, many countries have established public inquiries. Drawing on an Australian Research Council-funded cultural historical sociology of childhood and child maltreatment, this paper employs Alexander's conceptualisation of societalization to examine how a series of social crises related to institutional child abuse have been responded to through the public inquiry mechanism in many countries in the Global North. The paper begins by considering factors that led to increasing societal concern about childhood rights, vulnerability, and abuse. Among the manifold dimensions that gave rise to changing social attitudes, the paper considers how psychological research and theories of human development, alongside a growing child rights discourse, reshaped how childhood experience, and the effects of ill-treatment, came to be understood. The paper then examines the ways in which victims and survivors of institutional child abuse mobilised and engaged with traditional and new media to raise public awareness and demand action and justice from governments and key organisations, notably churches. Building on Alexander's theorisation of societalization, the paper argues that the establishment of major public inquiries – e.g. in the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada, and Australia – has been critical to both state responses of crisis management following revelations of widespread institutional child abuse, and to strategies of remaking childhood futures.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1

Risk and preparedness: different technological responses for addressing the uncertainty of pandemics.

Alexis Bedolla

(University of Bristol)

The question I want to address for this presentation is about the practical responses that can be deployed to confront epidemic scenarios which are profoundly riddled with uncertainty. In particular, this presentation will analyse the differences between technological innovations in the field of public health that are aimed either at providing better and faster predictions for avoiding pandemic catastrophes, or at providing a constant 'real-time' monitoring of infectious diseases spread. I will argue that such technological mechanisms, despite both being developed for epidemic control, actually respond to different forms for engaging with an uncertain but potentially catastrophic future.

For developing this argument, firstly, I will make a conceptual distinction between risk and preparedness as different 'rationalities' for governing the future. Subsequently, I will review important technological innovations to exemplify how seemingly similar technologies for epidemic control actually respond to these different rationalities. On the one hand, I will analyse the case of pandemic modeling through epidemiological and statistical data as instances of risk technologies; on the other, I will review the case of 'epidemic apps' as instances of technologies based on preparedness. In a third and final section, I will discuss one important implication that the COVID-19 pandemic may bring about. I will argue that the surge of infection-monitoring apps (and other technologies of preparedness) entail an important paradox: while they try to secure people's health through constant monitoring of individual's interactions and movements, they also create new and future dangers for personal information intrusion through individual monitoring devices.

A Sociology of Literature Perspective on the Viral Role of Science During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Fabian Hempel

(University of Bremen, Germany)

Throughout the pandemic, a tension can be observed between science and other social institutions that impacts the societal approach to the viral threat. Among others, there appears to be, at least occasionally, a considerable neglect of scientific expertise, for instance in political and economic decision making. Nevertheless, scientific knowledge remains decisive in adapting to and mitigating the epidemic consequences. Thus, in terms of Michel Serres' concept of the parasite, it could be argued that COVID-19 both interrupts and consolidates the cultural imperative of the autonomy and social responsibility of science in modern societies.

This contribution seeks to reflect on the viral role of science during the global pandemic by combining a sociology of science perspective that is informed by theories of social action and differentiation with a particular sociology of literature approach. It explores the societal responses to the elevated position of science in society by utilizing pertinent literary fiction as products of societal self-observation, especially Albert Camus' "The Plague," Philipp Roth's "Nemesis," and Lawrence Wright's "The End of October." First, a brief thematic analysis of these narratives serves as an epistemic prism to look upon science's (dys)function as a primary producer of insight on the pandemic. Subsequently, the emphasis lies on the multi-layered, constructive, uncertain, and, in some cases, obstructive reactions – ranging from substantial counter-expertise over diffuse and concrete skepticism to intentional ignorance – that are invoked by various social forces which question the utility and oppose the implications of the viral expertise.

Digital Ethnic Inequalities Matter: A snapshot of British South Asians Encountering Misinformation Online During Covid-19 lockdown

Herminder Kaur, Brigita Valantinaviciute, Myrna Papadouka, Rima Saini

(Middlesex University)

New records were set during the nationwide lockdown with the average adult spending four hours daily online. Our reliance on and increasing use of digital media highlights the advantages of being digital under lockdown conditions, but also gives the illusion digital engagement has been high and consistent across British society. We find there is relative silence over digital inequalities experienced by Black, Asian and other minority ethnic (BAME) populations who have been disproportionately affected by the current pandemic. To gain initial insight on how the largest non-White ethnic population in the UK comprising of South Asians (Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Sri-Lankan people) use the internet, we surveyed over a hundred South Asians in England and conducted nine interviews during the months of the first lockdown. We found: (1) increased encounters of misinformation online, often shared by family and friends on social networking sites which pertained to the South Asian culture as cures for Covid-19; (2) the struggles South Asian children report to verify misinformation their parents encounter relating to Covid-19 as well as the support they offer to help them benefit from being digital. We argue with local lockdowns, it is imperative to ensure ethnic minorities who are hard hit by the pandemic are not further left disadvantaged by a lack of support needed to benefit from going online or misinformation they encounter. With scarce data on BAME groups we know little about the digital divides they experience and discuss how this is possible to research in lockdown conditions.

The viral society: covid-19 and digital computational media

Tomoko Tamari

(Goldsmiths, University of London)

Tuesday, 13 April 2021, 11:45 – 13:00

PAPER SESSION 2

The paper explores the implication of the Covid-19 pandemic for social life through the use of digital computational media. The 'virus' not only invades organic human bodies, but also has consequences for digital computer environments. Fear and uncertainty generated by the virus forces people to access online sources more frequently to obtain information. The increasing numbers of people accessing digital media provides not only the government, but also commercial companies, with greater opportunities for data-mining and establishing more sophisticated algorithmic systems. This suggests that dependence on digital technology becomes a more visible part of everyday life. This raises the question of what happens to human social life, when it becomes more dependent on digital computational media with algorithmic reasoning. To address this question, the paper draws on Hayles's notion of 'cognitive assemblage' which explains complex interactions between human and nonhuman cognizers, and Stiegler's notion of 'pharmakon' which reflects the paradoxical double meanings: cure and poison, which operates in all digital technical devices. The pharmakon is clear in digital computerization, the latest aspect of the externalization of human knowledge, in which the reliance on algorithmic calculations and code result in what Stiegler refers to as 'symbolic misery'. Consequently, the paper focuses on the risk of human alienation arising from the extension of contemporary digital computational media, and the difficulties of establishing an ethics and politics of digital technology in order to raise questions of digital media literacy in the emerging viral society.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 2

Using social science fiction to explore the impact of Artificial Intelligence on teaching and research in Higher Education

Andrew Cox

(University of Sheffield)

There are many genre of fiction that shape social imaginaries of the future (Urry, 2016). For example, science fiction has played a major role in how we imagine future technologies and their social impact (Dourish and Bell, 2014). Analysis of such fictions becomes a potential sociological method (e.g. de Freitas and Truman, 2020). One step further is for research to be presented in fictional form (Leavy, 2013). For example, "design fictions" are being used to challenge the glossy marketing fictions created by big tech companies in their attempt to nudge the future (Blythe et al., 2016). Thus, various genres of social science fiction are emerging as an important way of engaging with sociological issues (Graham et al., 2019).

Artificial intelligence (AI) is likely to transform teaching and research in Higher Education over the next twenty years, a change accelerated by the pandemic. However, most of the literature focuses on technologies and is written by computer scientists with little regard to the ethical and social implications. An emerging literature has begun to uncover issues around commercialisation, datafication and environmental impacts (e.g. Williamson and Eynon, 2020). Fiction is an appropriate vehicle through which to surface such societal implications (Selwyn et al., 2020). This study uses researcher written fictions to explore the potential impact of AI on Higher Education from a social perspective. Based on the author's own reflections on the writing process and input from five subject experts a ten-point set of criteria for quality in social science fiction is proposed.

The Never-Born Future: against the technocapitalist collapse of possibility

Kieran Cutting, Dean Pomeroy

(Open Lab, Newcastle University)

Walt Disney's dream of the Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow (EPCOT) was a city in which everything simply worked: a fetishized Americana where public transit seamlessly transported its workers to and from their jobs, and corporations continuously showcased the best of American 'free enterprise'. Though Disney's EPCOT never came to fruition, we now find its descendants everywhere - projects by technocapitalists (such as Musk, Zuckerberg and Alphabet Inc.) to make this tightly planned, smoothly operating metropolis a reality. At their core, these visions of the future are built on a logic of constant innovation, where a limited populace has quantifiable needs and desires and where infrastructure operates perfectly without human intervention. These projects render the governance of people, space and infrastructure subject to the logics of technocapitalism, seeing them as 'problems' to solved through the application of sufficient ingenuity.

In this presentation we interrogate EPCOT and its spiritual successors' visions of the future. We argue that these visions construct societies of control (Deleuze, 1992), where individuals appear free but their desires are endlessly deferred to

an ambiguous impossible future. These visions not only collapse possibilities on their own terms, but by their very nature reproduce memetically, destroying alternative visions of the future as they self-replicate. As we find ourselves living inside of these increasingly reactionary visions, we attempt to locate an egress: how can we imagine new possibilities, potentials and visions of the future not founded upon the whims of technocapitalists?

Software, Sovereignty and the Postneoliberal Politics of Exit

Harrison Smith
(University of Sheffield)

This paper examines the impact of neoreactionary (NRx) thinking on contemporary debates manifest in 'architectures of exit'. It focuses specifically on understanding how NRx thought is seeking to reinvent digital networks by 'redcentralizing' the internet. We specifically focus on Urbit, as an NRx digital architecture that captures how postneoliberal politics imagines notions of freedom and sovereignty through a micro-fracturing of nation-states into 'gov-corps'. We trace the development of NRx philosophy – and situate this within contemporary political and technological change to theorize the significance of exit manifest within the notion of 'dynamic geographies'. While technological programmes such as Urbit may never ultimately succeed, we argue that these, and other speculative investments such as 'seasteading', reflect broader postneoliberal NRx imaginaries that were, perhaps, prefigured a quarter of a century ago in *The Sovereign Individual*. The paper will provide a theoretical overview of key NRx philosophy, particularly in relation to using digital networks and platforms to reinvent sovereignty in the 21st century.

Problem-Solving for Problem-Solving: Data Analytics to Identify Families for Service Intervention

Rosalind Edwards, Val Gillies, Sarah Gorin
(University of Southampton)

Problem-solving as the governing logic of our age assumes the existence of self-evident social problems that invite particular sorts of solutions and exclude others (Bacchi 2020). Increasingly these involve technological solutions and the datafication of citizens. In this paper we are concerned with the way that the logic of problem-solving doubles itself in the UK family policy and early intervention field. Families with certain characteristics are identified as problematic, and local authorities need to intervene to fix that social problem. Local authorities thus need to identify these families for problem-solving intervention. Data analytics companies will solve that problem for them through linking together sets of administrative and other data and subjecting them to predictive algorithms in order to identify families for intervention.

In the paper, we analyse relevant government reports and commercial data analytic companies' websites. On the one side we note integrally linked sets of discourses of transmitted deprivation and anti-social behaviour in families and the accompanying costly public sector burden as characteristics that produce families as social problems. On the other, we unpack discursive themes around delivering powerful knowledge, timeliness and economic efficiency in data analytic companies' problem-solving claims for their data linkage and predictive analytics systems. These two sides of discursive rationales undergird a double-faceted 'problem-solving for problem-solving' logic in the families and early intervention field, that directs attention away from the constitution of the in-built self-evident problematisation and its technological solutionism, as well as from broader contextual social frameworks and structural causes of difficulties.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

A Feminist Intervention in Elite Studies

Laura Clancy, Katie Higgins
(Lancaster University and Sheffield University)

We seek to make a feminist intervention in the field of elite studies. In a global context of intensifying concentrations of wealth and income amongst "the 1%" (Piketty, 2013), there is a growing body of research on elites (Atkinson et al, 2016; Dorling, 2014; Schimpfoss, 2018; Knowles, 2017; Sayer, 2014; Friedman and Laurison, 2019; Khan, 2010; Ho, 2009). In this presentation, we will review the field and explore the contributions that a feminist intervention could make, asking questions such as: what are the racial geographies of affluence? What is the role of gender in wealth accumulation and

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elite social reproduction? What are the colonial and imperial continuities in elite formations? Drawing on our experiences of researching underexplored factions of elites in Britain today (wealth elites in the North of England, and the aristocracy and British monarchy), we aim to complicate how the social sciences approach elites, and work towards a more detailed and intersectional engagement with power and its (re)production.

From the 'neoliberal project of the self' to collective improvement: Shifting the conceptualisation of social mobility

Louise Folkes

(University of Gloucestershire)

Discussions around social mobility have increasingly gained traction in both political and academic circles in the last two decades. There is an emphasis within the political discourse on certain 'types' of people who need to 'improve' and become socially mobile, namely the maligned working-class. The current, established conceptualisation of social mobility reduces 'success' down to individual level of educational achievement, occupational position and income. For many in working-class communities, this discourse is inaccessible and/or undesirable.

This paper questions the common underpinnings of political and academic understandings of social mobility- that it is an individualised experience with narrow parameters of success. Currently, there is not only a lack of recognition of the value inherent in alternative narratives typically constructed in working-class communities, but a stigmatisation of those who stay close to home. The dominant social mobility discourse is compartmentalised, overshadowing people's attachments to their home, community and family that shape their trajectories. Drawing upon a doctoral research study and reflecting on community responses to Covid-19, this paper argues that social mobility can be conceptualised as a collective endeavour, improving entire communities that seek ontological security instead of social class movement and dislocation. A 'relational selfhood' model is presented as an alternative to the 'neoliberal project of the self' model propagated in hegemonic understandings of social mobility. Collective and wider understandings of social mobility are important not only to ensure the improvement of living conditions in communities, but to recognise the value inherent in alternative narratives.

"Maybe life can become easier because of my good grades" Children's conflicting repertoires on aspirations and life chances

Imane Kostet

(University of Antwerp)

Flanders' child poverty rates have revealed a strong ethnic gap. While 6% of Flemish children of EU-descent are at risk of poverty, the poverty-risk rate among Flemish children of non-EU-descent is as high as 36% (Kind & Gezin, 2018). Moreover, research has also found an enduring ethnic gap in Flemish children's educational outcomes. Among the OECD-countries, the achievement gap between native and non-native children is almost nowhere as strong as in Flanders, which makes it structurally difficult for disadvantaged minority children to climb the social ladder (OECD, 2017). Yet, despite the continuing inequality and achievement gap between privileged and disadvantaged children, little is known about the ways in which children assess their own life chances and how they make sense of the relationship between structural constraints and future success. In this paper presentation, we draw on interviews with pupils aged 11 to 13, to analyse children's aspirations, expectations of the future, and reasonings about social inequality in the context of an early tracking education system. We highlight the conflicting yet creative ways in which children make sense of inequality in relation to life chances. We show that, although our child-respondents prefer structural explanations for inequality, they strategically draw on repertoires of individual social mobility to express their faith in personal agency and meritocracy. In doing so, these children use narratives of upward mobility that have arisen in very different socio-economic and political contexts to make sense of inequality in their own locality.

Sex, gender and sexuality: understandings and re-imaginings in the talk of young people

Karen Cuthbert, Sharon Elley, Joe Hall

(University of Sheffield)

Drawing on empirical data from the current ESRC funded project Living Gender in Diverse Times, this paper will explore some of the key discursive threads in young people's talk around gender, sex and sexuality. Reflecting on data from twenty focus groups and fifty interviews conducted with young people (aged 16-24) from across the UK (recruited from

a range of schools, further education colleges, universities and youth groups), the paper will consider how concepts and categories of sex, gender, and sexuality were imagined and deployed by young people. In particular, the paper will explore how ontological boundaries and distinctions between these were set and reaffirmed, and also resisted and breached, and examine the ways in which young people navigated broader discursive currents available to them relating to the conceptualisation of gender and sexual categories. The paper will also trace young people's imagined trajectories of progress with regards to gender and sexuality. Whilst citizenship rights around sexualities were largely presented as a fait accompli by the young people in our research, 'gender diversity' was envisaged as something more tenuous, with ambiguities and 'sticking points'. The paper will discuss issues of temporality and generation, as we pull out the ways in which 'progress' is imagined through past present and future times.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 2

Imagining new futures for the vulnerable detained: Disempowerment, governmentality and dispositifs of control in the police station

Donna Peacock, Faye Cosgrove
(University of Sunderland)

Analysis of recent Criminal Justice policy reveals a polarised victim-offender dichotomy based upon penal populism. This approach has deified the victim, and has simultaneously demonised and vilified the offender, and therefore as a result has failed to recognise victimisation and vulnerability within the offender population, or to prioritise the support of vulnerable offenders.

Intensive qualitative research with police officers working in police custody environments and with people working and volunteering in support of offenders has revealed that where support is available for vulnerable offenders it is underfunded and is inconsistent.

In this paper we deconstruct the various discursive, institutional, regulatory, legislative and administrative elements that make up the custody environment. We argue that these form an apparatus of disempowerment that contributes to the denizenship of 'vulnerable' people who undergo detention in police custody. Further, we argue that our findings reveal that the support available to vulnerable people is not ultimately to their benefit, but rather conceals more malevolent aims of corroding citizenship and disempowering individuals.

The future can be different, but only through the dismantling and re-organisation of the dispositifs which order the system. We begin by identifying these, and considering in turn how each may be dismantled and recreated in order to empower the vulnerable to fully partake in the proceedings that they are subject to.

What's the news about 'disability discrimination'? A comparison between Sweden and the US

Marie Sepulchre
(Uppsala University)

At the turn of the 21st century, many countries strengthened the rights of disabled people by adopting domestic laws and ratifying international treaties. Despite these commitments, disabled people do not have equal opportunities to participate in society and their living conditions have worsened because of austerity measures. Research has documented the consequences of discrimination on the lives of disabled people. However, there is little knowledge about how the notion of 'disability discrimination' itself is understood in different contexts. This knowledge is key if we want to remake the future and stop disadvantaging people based on disability.

Drawing on comparative cultural sociology, sociolegal studies and disability studies, this paper explores newspaper coverage of disability discrimination in Sweden and the US, which have contrasting histories of disability rights: while the US pioneered the development of disability civil rights, this is a new phenomenon in Sweden, where disability rights have mostly been understood in terms of social rights.

A quantitative and qualitative content analysis was performed on a selection of newspapers articles published between 2006-2020 in Sweden and the US (ca. 1400 articles). The analysis shows important differences with respect to the definition of 'disability' and the cases of 'disability discrimination' that were covered. Further, it notes a trend going from general discussions about disability discrimination to reports of specific lawsuits in Sweden, and a trend going in the

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opposite direction in American newspapers. Finally, the paper compares how newspapers in both countries covered disability discrimination in the context of the covid-19 outbreak.

Exploring the 'risk' and 'vulnerability' of disabled children within education.

Sharon Smith
(University of Birmingham)

The idea of some children being 'at-risk' is now an accepted part of schooling in the UK. The risk discourse shifted in the 1990s, to incorporate not only those at risk of causing or being at harm, to an increased focus on anticipating risks of future problems, such as negative outcomes or underachievement. The need for a risk-free education means some pupils have become caught within a discourse that marks them out as being 'at-risk', leading to 'the adoption of risk averse policies and practices' (Seale, 2015:2). Potential risks needs addressing before there is a problem, providing justification for interventions predicated on future outcomes.

As there is 'no such thing as individual risk', risk-factors can only be calculated in relation to the whole (Ewald, 1991:203). Therefore, there are always winners and losers in risk definitions (Beck, 1992:23). Amongst the 'losers' in education are those labelled as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), as they are at greatest risk of underachievement in the future and are frequently seen as at most risk of harm.

This paper explores the nature of risk and uncertain futures of disabled children, and the impact this has on their inclusion in education. It also discusses the impact that Covid-19 has had, further marking out these pupils as a distinctly vulnerable population who need protection and risk-averse approaches to education. The combination of being 'at-risk' and vulnerable therefore provides further justification for individual intervention and separate forms of education, under the guise of protection.

Sociology of Education – Special Event

Academic careers: past, present, future

Graham Crow, Kate Woodthorpe, John Holmwood
(Universities of Edinburgh, Bath, Brighton, Glasgow Caledonian, and Nottingham)

'Academia, what sort of a career choice is that?' is a familiar question which this session is devoted to discussing. The current flux of academic careers rules out any single, standardised answers, and the six panel members' contributions (each limited to ten minutes) will explore the topic from different angles before the session is opened up for broader discussion. The contributions from panel members will start by considering the idea of a career and whether inherited notions of careers have become outdated and in need of a re-think. This will be followed by consideration of advice that is offered on career planning and on mentoring; of the position of people seeking to build careers having come to academia as mature students; of the issue of geographical mobility in careers; and of the challenges and opportunities of later careers and retirement. The sixth contribution will reflect on the process of collecting and publishing sociologists' accounts of their careers.

The idea of a career – a concept in need of a re-think? (John Holmwood, University of Nottingham)

Strategies for career planning – advice that a mentor can provide, and what they can't (Kate Woodthorpe, University of Bath)

Late starters? – coming to academia as a mature student (Maggie Laidlaw, Glasgow Caledonian University)

Citizens of nowhere? – geographical mobility and academic careers (Katucha Bento, University of Edinburgh)

Later careers and retirement – whether, when and how to stop (Graham Crow, University of Edinburgh)

Sociologists' personal histories and the dangers of nostalgia (Mark Doidge, University of Brighton)

Theory – Special Event

Symposium: Becomings: bodies, matter and the production of social futures

Nick Fox, Fay Dennis, Pam Alldred, Sheena Vachhani, Pam Alldred
(BSA New Materialisms study group)

This symposium takes the opportunity to explore this year's conference theme Re-making the Future from the perspective of new materialist and posthuman theory.

For new materialism, the world is continuously emerging via an unending succession of interactive and productive events/assemblages. This incessant cascade of events (comprising the material effects of both nature and culture) produces the world and human history. This materialist 'turn' offers a re-immersion in the materiality of life and struggle. It has been welcomed by some feminists, queer theorists, critical race scholars and social activists, as a means to theorise the active engagement between human and non-human, culture and nature, and to model power and resistance within a messy, heterogeneous and emergent social world (Braidotti, 2011: 137; Grosz, 1994, Saldanha, 2006).

New materialists regard the material world and its contents not as fixed, stable entities, but as relational and uneven, emerging in unpredictable ways around actions and events (Potts, 2004: 19). Bodies do not possess fixed attributes, but rather manifest emergent and contingent capacities, deriving from their interactions from moment to moment with other matter (DeLanda, 2006: 10-11). These include capacities that produce dis/advantage and material inequalities.

Social futures, from perspective, are ontologically unknowable. We must ask not what bodies, social collectivities and non-human matter are, but what they can do in a specific context, and what they can become. The papers in this symposium explore aspects of these becomings, both to understand the present, and to assess how sociology may engage with an unfolding social future.

Relational encounters and vital materiality in studies of organization

Emma Bell, Sheena J. Vachhani
(Open University Business School, University of Bristol)

This paper uses new materialist theory to explore the role of affect in embodied practices of craft making. It suggests that craft work relies on affective organizational relations and intensities that flow between bodies, objects and places of making. This perspective enables a more affective, materially inclusive understanding of organizational practice, as encounters between human and nonhuman entities and forces. We draw on empirical data from a qualitative study of four UK organizations that make bicycles, shoes and hand decorated pottery. We track the embodied techniques that enable vital encounters with matter and the affective traces and spatial, aesthetic atmospheres that emerge from these encounters. We suggest that a concern with the vitality of objects is central to the meaning that is attributed to craft work practices and the ethical sensibilities that arise from these encounters. We conclude by proposing an affective ethics of mattering that constructs agency in ways that are not confined to humans and acknowledges the importance of orientations towards matter in generating possibilities for ethical generosity towards others.

Putting bodies into play: research-creation with new material/isms

Fay Dennis
(Goldsmiths, University of London)

Taking up new materialisms as both theory and method, this paper explores how researching with new materialisms is always a 'doing', a creative process, by which to say, a speculative, future-oriented (or rather, re-orienting) one. Drawing on projects that engage feminist new materialist tools and techniques to study 'the body', and specifically, the drug-using and recovering body, I will look at how new materialisms not only help us to understand bodies-in-process (as becoming) but intervene in these processes.

By getting involved in research as creation, we can become more experimental and playful with what we want our research to do as an ethical and political concern that contributes to more equitable, 'healthy' futures. As an illustration, I consider how theatre and arts-based methods may intervene in social realities that delimit or even discipline drug-using bodies as sick (addicted) or/and bad (criminal). How do art and new materialist theory enliven and enticken bodies in new ways? Rather than simply following human and nonhuman bodies (or asking participants to describe them), they are put into play. Furthermore, by inviting publics to pay attention to these bodies, they too become engaged in this intra-action.

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Matter, affect and the continuous production of dis/advantage and social inequalities

Nick J Fox, Pam Alldred

(University of Huddersfield, Nottingham Trent University)

New materialist and posthuman scholars have re-materialised our understanding of gender and race stratifications (Colebrook, 2013; Saldanha, 2006), but until now no attention has been paid to social class from this perspective. In this paper we explore the many material flows that produce and reproduce 'classed' social divisions. A materialist perspective provides the means to undertake a relational and affective analysis of the on-going and continuous production and reproduction of sociomaterial dis/advantage. We examine how both human and non-human affectivities produce and reproduce context-specific capacities and incapacities. These capacities and incapacities establish 'a thousand tiny dis/advantages', which accumulate to produce substantive inequalities and social divisions. Unlike notions of social, cultural and other capitals in recent class theories, these capacities are not essential attributes of individuals, but are relational and contextual. Some material forces have the same effects on multiple entities, producing similar capacities. In this way, individuals are aggregated into social groups, at the same time generating social divisions and social inequality. However, many other affective interactions between human and non-human matter challenge these aggregations and open up capacities. We consider the implications for theory, research and policy of this analysis of matter and social inequalities.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

INEQUALITIES

This paper will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women employed in the garment sector in Bangladesh. Women make up a majority of employees in garment factories in Bangladesh and before the Pandemic there were global concerns about the po

Pamela Abbott, M Azizul Islam, Shamima Haque

(University of Aberdeen)

This paper will discuss the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women employed in the garment sector in Bangladesh. Women make up a majority of employees in garment factories in Bangladesh and before the Pandemic, there were global concerns about the poor working conditions and exploitation of workers in the sector. As a result of COVID-19 the workers, most of whom are women, the situation has become even more precarious with Western retailers cancelling orders, breaking contractual obligations, and a drying up of new orders. This paper will discuss the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 measures on women workers and former workers who have either been forced to work in unsafe conditions or have been laid off without pay or any access to social security benefits. To do this it will draw on mixed methods research, a survey of garment factory workers and former workers and qualitative interviews with a purposive sample of workers and former workers and trade union representatives and NGOs working in the sector.

Minor Refugees in the Global Textile Industry

Basem Mahmud

(University of Granada)

What role do minor refugees play in the textile industry? How does their status affect their everyday lives and plans? This contribution aims to reflect on these questions based on a case study of the textile industry in Istanbul. It is qualitative research conducted in Istanbul with minor Syrian refugees working in this industry. So far, in-depth and semi-structured interviews have been conducted and analyzed with 13 minor refugees working in the textile industry in Istanbul and five interviews with one parent. The results indicate that the minors suffer from continuous scolding, in many cases accompanied by physical violence, without the capacity for self-defense. They also do not have clearly-defined work, and in most cases, they are not allowed to learn a specific skills. The work they carry out is known as Ortaci (tr: runner/errand boy). Most of these minors are aware that their relatives depend on their incomes and therefore try to manage their relatives' sense of guilt (for having let them work in under these conditions) by never complaining. All of this has severe consequences for their physical and psychological development, and of course, their future work.

Certifying Work: The Global Rise of Voluntary Sustainability Standards and its Impact on Employment

BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future

70th Anniversary

Jill Timms
(Coventry University)

The second International Convention on Sustainable Trade and Standards was held in 2019, an initiative of the relatively new United Nations Forum on Sustainability Standards (UNFSS). This organisation exists to ensure the products we buy 'don't hurt the environment and the people that make them'. Its remit specifically includes social protections and workers' rights, as part of a broad understanding of sustainable business practice based on a corporate-led voluntaristic model of regulation. This paper questions the impact that certifying work can have on job design, worker experiences and employment relations. It also considers the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the use of private certification to manage sustainable supply chains in a period of crisis, where usual assurance methods, such as on-site audits, are problematic. Empirical research into certification labelling practices in a range of industries will be drawn on to demonstrate the complexity, challenges and potential for private social standards to communicate information about labour to consumers and to promote sustainable and responsible employment in global networks of production and supply. It is argued that the development of the UNFSS contributes to and legitimises the growing global industry of private social standards, placing responsibility for 'not hurting' our environment and workers, squarely at the feet of companies rather than the state. This matters as a significant move for the dynamic power relations of a global economy facing climate emergency, and tells an interesting story about the contemporary role of labour movements.

Platform delivery workers' self-exploitation: the case study of Glovo

Tiago Vieira
(Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Having the company Glovo as case study, the present article discusses the circumstances under which self-exploitation unfolds among platform delivery workers. Its managerial discourses, algorithmic management of the work process, and workers' strategies to successfully make a living wage of their job are critically analysed. In this framework, precarity stands as the motive, while post-disciplinary control mechanisms stand as the contextual opportunity for the emergency of self-exploitative behaviour to emerge. Through a qualitative approach, relying on interviews to different stakeholders (N=20), findings of this research highlight the advent of work-related: economic investment, time dedication, physical exhaustion, uninformed reasoning, and affective commitment, as manifestations of self-exploitation. This paper suggests that the displacement of the locus of exploitation from an outer entity (the employer) to the workers' inner self constitutes another form of precarization of workers, who find themselves with no alternative but to comply with their employer's guidelines.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

DIGITAL AND PLATFORM WORK

Are You Hungry? The Role of the Food Delivery in China's Rising Economy

Wenqi Huang
(Marymount Manhattan College)

As one of the leading contributors to China's recent economic success, the massive food delivery industry has reached out to almost half of the Chinese population and has become a major aspect of mainstream Chinese lifestyle. Chinese food delivery industry and its Uber-like ontology provide some references for other societies as similar trends develop elsewhere during the pandemic. This paper aims to explore the industry's ideologies on management, labor power, and consumption from a sociological aspect; as well unfold the relationships between the stakeholders and their experiences from their own perspectives through surveys and interviews. Furthermore, this study strives to touch base on the appearance and disappearance of humanity in this specific ecological system.

Knowledge workers' experiences of digital microwork: preliminary findings

Bianca-Ioanidia Mirea
(Leeds University Business School, UK)

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This study aims to explore how platform ('gig') workers make sense of their engagement with microwork, a form of work fragmented into a series of small tasks outsourced via online platforms. Most studies on platform-mediated work have overwhelmingly focused on manual labour in the ride-hailing (Uber) and delivery sectors (Deliveroo). There has been little research on the experiences of platform workers undertaking creative knowledge work. To address this gap, this study sets out to explore the motivations and aspirations of platform workers to engage with microwork in the subtitling industry. Furthermore, this study also sheds light on why workers report positive experiences of microwork despite working in conditions which researchers deem to be precarious, conducive to deskilling or even exploitative.

This exploratory case study is based on 9 semi-structured interviews with Italian platform workers performing translation tasks on a microwork platform. The findings uncover that despite poor working conditions, most workers tend to see the benefits of platform work as outweighing the pitfalls associated with microwork. Although aware of the structural conditions under which they operate, most interviewees attempted to overcome them by drawing on their desired identities (i.e. professional translators) and instrumentalising their current work to gain human capital. Specifically, they tended to use the platform as a means for skills acquisition and a stepping stone towards their desired careers. The study suggests that both desired identities and lack of better alternative employment produce a sense of indebtedness towards the platform, accounting for their overall positive perception of microwork.

From platform work to circumventing platforms: accessing informal work online in Indonesia

Joanna Octavia

(Warwick Institute for Employment Research)

How do informal workers use online spaces to access work? Studies on digital platforms such as Uber demonstrated how the internet has opened up access to income opportunities, but an exploration of how workers themselves use the internet to access work without an intermediary is currently missing. Social networks offer accommodation and entry into the informal sector on trust-based arrangements (Losby et al., 2002). Similarly, platforms act as intermediaries between service providers and customers, facilitating economic activities through the use of technology and institutionalising trust through the use of feedback, ranking, and rating systems (Huws et al., 2016; Gandini, 2019).

By drawing on a case study of online motorcycle taxi drivers in Indonesia, this paper looks at the role of the internet in the workers' efforts to access additional work as demand for platform work dwindled during the COVID-19 pandemic. This research uses a grounded theory methodology and is based on a digital ethnography on Twitter and semi-structured interviews with drivers.

Preliminary findings indicate that drivers were able to access work outside of platforms by advertising for their services on the internet. The need for referrals in the forms of likes and retweets, along with the drivers' affiliation to the platforms, demonstrates that having networks allows workers to signal that they are to be trusted. However, the prevalence of regular customers reinforces the importance of social ties within informal work practices, suggesting that trust between strangers in platform economy may have been overstated.

On the Political Economy of Digitality in Public Employment Services

Aisling Tuite, Ray Griffin

(Waterford Institute of Technology)

The deployment of algorithmic-welfare, a hybrid of computer code paired with massive datasets and increased use of legal contracts has reshaped the basic delivery model of public employment services (PES). Hidden within this is a recomposition of a spirit and ethos of the post-war welfare and consequently a hidden recomposition of the political economy in many Western states. The adoption of 'digital-welfare' is polarising traditional welfare systems through hard classification resulting in loss of individual sovereignty over judgement (Beck, 1992).

This paper reports on seven ambitious on-going transformations in welfare administration, drawing on data from their policy briefings. We trace the 'client' journey; a key mode of sensemaking in PES for the management of service delivery. From this, we explore the transformation of digitality in how PES administer the intimate act of social welfare- recasting their social mission and economic purpose.

What emerges is a sense that the political economy of digital-algorithmic welfare represents a rupture of the old order of Esping-Andersen's (1990) three worlds of welfare. Framed as a response to crisis, reform of welfare through instruments of macro-economics (bailouts, debt-markets, international trade-agreements) and business practices (digitisation, benchmarking, shared technologies) pushes welfare systems towards isomorphism. We draw on Boltanski

and Thévenot's (1991) orders of worth and tests of legitimacy where digital welfare systems are the 'foreign object' that recomposes orders of worth.

While digital-futures for PES may be inevitable, the ambition in questioning these systems is not to eliminate them but to rebalance their claims to justification of worth.

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Re-making the future of local communities through research co-production

Aleksandra Grzymala-Kazłowska, Lisa Goodson
(University of Birmingham and University of Warsaw)

The context of global pandemic Covid-19 and unprecedented challenges it causes, yells for radical re-imagination of society to tackle prevalent racial injustices, widening inequalities, precarity and austerity, distrust in institutions and hostility towards migrants and refugees. More crucial than ever is to give voice to those unheard, understand various perspectives, look for just and sustainable remedies and think about the future differently and creatively. This presentation will discuss the challenges and opportunities of using community research and co-production to re-imagine and re-make localities drawing on the concept of marginality. Unlike the dominant discourse on marginality, focusing on structural inequalities, this paper examines the potential of marginality to lead to the change. It refers to Hook's (1990:341) understanding of marginality as a site of resistance that 'offers the possibility of radical perspectives from which to see and create, to imagine alternatives, new worlds', Giroux's (1997) emphasis on the importance of counter-hegemonic discourses which articulate the multiplicity of perspectives and experiences that may not reflect and reinforce dominant structures but bring opportunity for innovation and transformation, and Wilson's (2018) concept of transcendent marginality which illuminates the emancipatory potential of marginality. The presentation will be based on the experience of work with over 80 local residents from one of the most superdiverse yet deprived areas of Birmingham - the Great Icknield area trained as community researchers and involved in multiple small commissioned projects within the large EU project "Unlocking Social and Economic Innovation Together" (USE-IT!).

Impacts of Covid-19 restrictions on community resilience in a Kenyan informal settlement

Natascha Mueller-Hirth, Stephen Vertigans
(Robert Gordon University Aberdeen)

The Covid-19 pandemic has inequitable impacts on populations both within and between countries. Global South countries such as Kenya were initially considered to be particularly vulnerable, with informal settlements believed to be at the highest risk due to overcrowding, restricted sanitation, limited fresh water access and inadequate or no healthcare facilities. While numbers of positive cases and deaths have been low in such locations, Covid-19 measures and restrictions can intensify the challenges faced by people in informal settlements, as they lose sources of income without welfare or financial safety nets, while simultaneously facing food shortages and higher prices. At the same time, the creative resilience and adaptability of people in informal settlements when facing challenges has often been neglected, as has the significance of community knowledges and networks in negotiating previous health crises, such as Ebola.

Focusing on Korogocho, an informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, this paper draws on a) qualitative fieldwork undertaken immediately before national Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, and b) ongoing data collection through fortnightly interviews with 22 community members, conducted by local group Kombi Green. The paper explores residents' experiences of Covid-19 restrictions. It examines the impacts of restrictions on community resources, spaces, relationships, networks and inequalities, in order to understand the extent to which levels of resilience are weakened and/or strengthened during periods of insecurity and uncertainty.

Alienated social reproduction: the role of residential alienation in (future) local social relations

Leon Rosa Reichle

(Centre of Urban Research on Austerity, De Montfort University)

This paper theoretically and empirically explores the concept of residential alienation regarding its significance for the future of social reproduction under austere ordoliberalism. Based on a qualitative and ethnographic case study within the “transformation society” of East Germany it dialogues the concepts of alienation and social reproduction from a spatio-temporally sensitive perspective.

Research findings from between July 2019 and August 2020 represent the daily lives of residents in a spatially stigmatized, socially fragmented and historically continuously restructuring neighbourhood in Leipzig, East Germany. Narrative interviews and ethnographic inquiry bring to the front their (impeded) place attachment, sense of agency, complex identities and relations to one another.

Aided by critical theorists, feminist and urban scholarship, the paper seeks to address the impact of ordo- and neoliberal restructuring of residents' spaces of reproduction (home, neighbourhood, public, social spaces) on their practical relation to the world. In what sense do they feel involved, responsible and capable of contributing to social change within their immediate surroundings? On the micro scale, how do different residents (re)produce social relations of power, solidarity, care, exclusion, hierarchy, individualization or indifference? How can these processes be understood with the concept of alienated social reproduction? Lastly, what does this imply for the future making of residents' social relations?

Especially in times marked by polarized civil society responses to a health- and economic crisis, with local solidarity initiatives grappling with limited reach, it is crucial to understand residents' stratified sense of power(lessness) to reproduce, care for or change their surrounding social relations.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 1

Diasporic Leisure during COVID-19 and the Theory of Moral Agency

Kalyan Bhandari

(University of the West of Scotland)

Despite barriers and constraints, the way people participate in leisure activities varies according to cultural groups and over time. COVID-19 has imposed one of the greatest restrictions on peoples' ability to take part in leisure activities and the emerging studies have suggested a change in peoples' leisure preferences due to COVID-19. However, these studies have largely ignored the leisurely choice and practices of diasporic groups. This is unhelpful as scholars have noted that owing to various socio-cultural reasons, the nature of diasporic leisure can be different. For example, there is an argument that the Nepali conception of leisure is subject to a social sanction, which people negotiate through their religious values and obligations. Interestingly, many members of Nepali diasporic groups were actively taking part in social leisure activities despite government-imposed restrictions. This paper applies the theory of moral agency to explain the social leisure activities of Nepali diaspora during the time of the COVID-19 restrictions. The study is based on data collected through the observation of the Nepali communities' participation in leisure in the United Kingdom. The findings suggest that there is a shift in the application of moral agency amongst Nepali diasporic groups and that they rely on moral disengagement in justifying their leisure whilst considering themselves highest in their moral integrity in other diasporic pursuits.

'If God is a DJ': heritage rave, the ageing clubber and the bodywork of the DJ

Helen Holmes, Nick Crossley, Graeme Park

(University of Manchester)

In this paper we draw on a pilot project exploring the revival of rave music in the UK and its heritage as part of the creative and cultural economies. Drawing upon interviews with music professionals and members of the public who were clubbing in the 1990s and still are now, we illuminate the importance of the body in the heritage rave scene. The paper focuses on the ageing body, both that of the clubber and the DJ, and how this impacts upon the lived, collective experience of clubbing. With regards the DJ, we discuss how the craft of DJ'ing has changed since the 1990s, requiring a very different, much more focused and often more sober body. This is in part due to the professionalisation of DJ'ing, rave music and the creative economy per se, but is also due to age. With the clubber the experience is about physical and mental recollection; reliving times, music and dances of old. We argue that part of the craft of DJ'ing is to perform

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a non-contact form of bodywork – using music and mixing as a means of eliciting a specific and importantly, collective, bodily response. We reflect upon how COVID is re-making rave's revival - having a huge negative impact upon the music and events sector as a whole, whilst also forcing the creation of new forms of collective, yet often disembodied, rave experiences through online platforms and streamed events.

'It made me realise how privileged I am': an engagement with 'inclusive' heritage, re-production of 'cosmopolitan' identity and enactment of the 'others' in a youth theatre

Anton Popov
(Aston University)

The article draws on ethnographic research conducted in a Coventry-based (UK) youth theatre. The Theatre stages its projects as 'impactful social actions' enabling young performers to engage in an affective and culturally mediated way with issues of discrimination, migration, homelessness and destitution. The analysis demonstrates that the Theatre's approach is congruent with the current programme of the UK 2021 City of Culture that constructs Coventry's heritage in terms of 'cultural diversity' and 'social inclusion'. Drawing on the anthropological critique of politics of 'social inclusion', the research explores how the enactment of the 'others' as a 'cosmopolitan' performative practice is co-opted into re-production of the liberal middle-class identity with its perceived universalism. Arguably, class distinctions are embedded in the Theatre's performative tools limiting its cosmopolitan impact.

Pubs, Social Change and the Sociological Imagination

Thomas Thurnell-Read
(Loughborough University)

Whilst the public house has a long history and is widely accepted as being woven into the cultural fabric of British society, recent and complex social upheavals mean that the position of the 'traditional' pub is increasingly precarious. Extensive pub closures are widely reported and although some pubs continue to thrive both economically and socially, many have done so by shifting away from a 'wet led' focus on mass-produced alcohol brands towards casual and 'gastro' dining or have embraced a focus on quality, provenance and innovation espoused by the craft beer movement. Most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the pub sector, with operational challenges and both temporary and permanent closures brining debates about the economic survival and lasting social value of pubs to the fore. Taking Wright Mills' (1959) concept of the sociological imagination, which makes the locus of sociological inquiry the interplay of personal troubles ('biography') and public issues ('history'), the paper seeks to examine the changing fortunes of the pub as a place of leisure, sociability and belonging by drawing on extensive qualitative research, including focus groups, interviews with consumers and industry experts, and ethnographic fieldwork. In doing so, it allows past memories and recollections of pubs and pub going to be woven through an analysis of the changing social, cultural, economic and political context which has radically reshaped British society and led to a reimagining of the role of the pub within it.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 2

The Image of the 'Cité': institutional filmic representations of racialised peri-urban spaces in France

Dina Benderra
(University of Cambridge)

Focusing on two case studies, Céline Sciamma's 2014 'Bande de Filles' and Ladj Ly's 2019 'Les Misérables', this paper explores the representation of banlieue spaces in institutional French cinema. The peri-urban 'banlieue' and its working-class immigrant housing 'cités' are a contested discursive space for marginality. The 'banlieue' film genre is characterised by its peri-urban location, its social critique, and its mostly self-same audience, originating outside of the institutional film industry. These two case studies however were produced by the French film institution, the CNC, the first instance of highly aestheticised 'banlieue' films since Matthieu Kassovitz's non-institutional 'La Haine' (1995).

Within these new aesthetics, both filmmakers contribute to an institutionalised discourse on power dynamics, in Sciamma's film, patriarchal domination and in Ly's case, police brutality. This social critique, delocalised in its audience target (now bourgeois, white and urban) pushes me to question: What does the representation of these banlieue spaces,

themselves the product of a post-colonial urban policy, tell us about the discursive mission of the French film institution as ideological state apparatus?

I argue that not only does aestheticisation transform the banlieue into a commercial product, but the sociopolitical discourses of these films, falsely legitimised by the social identity of their authors, betrays the social struggle of their subjects, displacing the blame away from institutions of power. Considering the tension between republican 'colour-blind' universalism and the reality of multiculturalism, these films give us insight into what kind of discursive representations are acceptable in French polity.

Contested events? Community voices, media templates and the reporting of the Grenfell Tower block tragedy

Julian Matthews

(University of Leicester)

This paper discusses the media reporting of the Grenfell Tower block tragedy in 2017. Its specific interest is to explore the focus that reporting adopts when covering this localised disaster event. To analyse the media response, the paper examines the dominant themes, accessed voices and the representations of victims and blame observed within TV coverage (i.e. BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5) broadcast in an aftermath period (June 2017). Much of the journalists' reporting, it finds, is dominated by an effort to reconstruct the local 'disaster event' and provide therein space for official reaction that commemorates victims and bestows praise on the emergency services and the actions of community volunteers (similar to the 'reporting templates' used following other tragedies – see Matthews 2016). Still, the presence of local community reaction in reporting is observed to interrupt this melding of media and elite discourse. Further, within this new discursive opening comes local community voices that criticise a lack of government and local council support for those affected and rehearse complaints about tower block safety and related living conditions. The paper shows, therefore, how the presence of local community actions when coinciding with the absence of elite commentary are important for this redirecting of the media spotlight in addition to a wrestling back, from elites, of some discursive control over the - mediated - tragedy.

Environment and Society 1

Climate Change, Migration and Precarious Work: The Case of Farmers from The Rural Central Region of Ghana

Mary Essiaw, Isaac Yeboah, Andrew Conduah

(University of Professional Studies, Accra)

Migration-climate change nexus is at the centre of climate adaptation due to concerns about movement of migrants from less resourced to more resourced settings. Extant literature shows that seasonal internal migration, especially, north-south migration, has been an important movement pattern in West Africa since early colonial times (Anarfi, Kwankye, Ababio, & Tiemoko, 2003). Seasonal migration from Northern Ghana to the south has been a coping and adaptation strategy adopted by farmers, especially, in the dry season to compensate for lack of employment opportunities and raise food security through remittances, among others. Evidence from the literature shows that most research work has focused on the migration process and factors forcing these farmers to migrate. Few studies have focused on the nature of jobs these migrants engage in. This work will focus on that. Recent changes in climate, however, shows that seasonal migration happens during the wet season largely due to flooding. Farmers lose their livestock, crops and homes due to incessant flooding, resulting in increased numbers of economic migrants to the south. The study will adopt a mixed method approach and focus on five selected communities in the Northern Ghana and two regions in southern Ghana, destinations of most of these migrants. The data from study will be analysed by Nvivo and SPSS. It is believed that findings from the study will contribute to the gap about the precarious nature of the work seasonal migrants from Northern Ghana engage in so policies could be adopted to protect them.

Climate destabilisation and strategic low-carbon urban planning in sub-Saharan Africa : urban resilience or chaos?

Xavier Lemaire

(University College London)

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Cities in sub-Saharan African countries are feeling the impact of climate destabilisation with an increase of climate refugees, and have to deal with more intense flash floods, land degradation and erosion, droughts and heatwaves affecting in particular the poorest living in informal settlements.

Strategies on how to adapt and move to more resilient cities are being designed and in some countries start to be implemented. But the question is how this transition can be done while municipalities in sub-Saharan Africa have already been facing difficulties to cope with demographic growth, budget scarcity and poor governance. Most local authorities in sub-Saharan Africa have constantly failed to address the fundamental basic needs of communities, even before the current acute environmental crisis.

This paper analyses what are the main persistent ideological bias in terms of (lack of) urban planning choices which seem to prevent sustainability transition, what are emerging alternative strategic options promoting resilience and inclusivity while moving toward low-carbon cities and how the discourse on post-COVID cities is relevant in the context of urban Africa.

But I want to talk about my recycling....

Thomas Roberts
(University of Surrey)

For more than ten years I have been carrying out qualitative research into public perceptions of a wide range of environmental issues, ranging from marine conservation initiatives to carbon capture and storage proposals. While none of this research has specifically focused on waste disposal, recycling or personal transport, the qualitative nature of the methods used has meant that these topics have regularly featured in the interviews / focus groups. It appears, when many people think about 'environmental issues', it is these which are often at the forefront of their minds. While on the one hand it may seem strange that a research participant wants to discuss their recycling or local traffic problems in an interview about a proposed carbon capture and storage development, on the other hand these issues are far more tangible to the average citizen than complex and largely invisible schemes and issues, environmental social scientists are consulting people about. In this paper I explore whether we can learn more about people's environmental values and what drives them by focusing on the issues which are most relevant to them. I have utilised references interviewees made to personal transport and waste disposal during interviews undertaken for unrelated research. The paper concludes that by giving participants the opportunity to discuss environmental issues which are important to them, in addition to the issues which are of interest to the researcher, participants are more likely to engage constructively with both the research and ultimately the issue of concern.

Environment and Society 2 – Special Event

The role of environmental factors and other migration drivers from the perspective of Moroccan and Congolese migrants in Belgium

Loubna Ou-Salah
(University of Antwerp)

There is a broad consensus that environmental change influences migration decisions. However, research on how migrants perceive the impact of these changes on their migration trajectories as well as how this varies across regions/countries of origin is lacking. Based on 53 in-depth interviews, we compare how these different migrant groups in Belgium, coming from Morocco and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), perceive environmental change and discuss retrospectively its role in their own migration decisions. This qualitative, comparative approach further clarifies and disentangles the relationship between natural environmental factors and other drivers of migration and how this varies across two distinct sending regions/countries. Results highlight how environmentally induced migration depends on specific migrant group characteristics. We find that the fragmented nature of migrants' journeys and, consequently, the gradual development of migration decision-making processes significantly complicate how migrants face and experience environmental changes. Our analyses indicate that existing migrant networks and prevailing cultures of migration prefer different adaptation strategies, and thus facilitate or impede environmental migration. Moreover, being aware of environmental changes does not automatically lead to the development of migration aspirations or international migration. Most participants of this study mentioned to have migrated, both internally and internationally, for economic, educational and political factors, not even reflecting on environmental factors, and following legal frameworks that organize migration and the prevailing positive cultures of migration in these regions. This

finding suggests that the individual migratory decision-making process, and the related complexity, should get more attention in future research on environmental migration.

Families and Relationships

Readdressing the approaches to Gender Based violence in the face of COVID-19

Anthonia Ishabiyi
(University of KwaZulu-Natal)

Studies show that previous epidemics such as Ebola, Zika and Chloera led to an increased rate of domestic violence. Although the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving collective trauma, not everyone is affected equally. Media reports from various agencies state that women have been adversely affected by the outbreak especially those in low- and middle-income countries. there has been an increased rate of domestic violence This as a result of poor socio-economic status, isolation and overcrowding. This may affect the psychological and mental state of the victims and ultimately leading to femicide and homicide.

Perpetrators are commonly an intimate partner who instil fear and control their partners. Prior to COVID-19, the health systems in low-and middle-income countries have been doing little to provide adequate care and support to victims and survivors of GBV due to insufficient infrastructure, poor psychological counselling services, and inadequate clinical care. More so, the unequal criminal justice system and culture of stigmatization have added to the reasons victims are discouraged from speaking out and seeking support and care.

The inequalities in society are becoming evident and this shows that urgent steps need to be taken in order to rethink societal issues. In this regard, it is crucial that appropriate measures such as NGOs, government service centres are sufficient and efficient in supporting victims of domestic violence. Rural dwellers must be given utmost attention because they are mostly marginalized due to lack of basic amenities. Active engagement is a good way of educating and raising awareness of GBV.

A new sexual wellbeing paradigm grounded in Capability Approach concepts of human flourishing and social justice

Karen Lorimer, Giulia Greco, Paula Lorgelly
(Glasgow Caledonian University)

Despite approaches to wellbeing measurement embracing multidimensionality and complexity, sexual wellbeing remains narrowly assessed. We seek to make an important contribution to theorizing a new paradigm for sexual wellbeing by rooting it in Amartya Sen's Capability Approach. The capability approach is a multidimensional framework for evaluating wellbeing in terms of people's real freedoms and opportunities, within personal, social and environmental circumstances. Our central argument in this paper is for an expanded evaluative space in which a person's freedom to achieve sexual wellbeing, within a social, cultural and economic environment, is the focus. The paper will start by critically unpacking the concept of sexual wellbeing by describing key attributes and domains commonly used across international evidence before presenting a robust theoretical case for moving beyond a focus on individual-cognitive accounts. For example, might we try to imagine the opportunities for good sexual wellbeing for those who reside in poverty, are subject to gender based violence, who have little access to reproductive healthcare or are stigmatized for their sexual orientation? We should not risk treating structural constraints as psychological conditions. We then suggest what kind of data we should be capturing, or at the very least attempting to capture. In offering new critical insights to drive forward empirical and methodological development, our thinking has important implications to national and international evaluations of sexual wellbeing.

Unpacking the Relationship between Poverty, Child Abuse and Neglect, and Child Protection Involvement: A Critical Framework

Yuval Saar Heiman, Anna Gupta
(Royal Holloway University of London)

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Background: Significantly, a growing body of evidence suggests that the current authoritarian neoliberal approach to child protection has not proven efficient. Whereas there has been a considerable increase in the number of families investigated for suspected abuse, the vast majority of investigations has not uncovered actual abuse or resulted in assistance being offered to families. Moreover, studies that revealed the prominent inequalities in the child protection system point to a significant bias against parents living in poverty and the over-representation of poor families in the system. Although a multitude of studies point to the strong correlation between poverty and child abuse and neglect, research that attempts to investigate these links within a critical poverty knowledge framework and from a social inequality perspective is scant.

Method: The study is based on 30 qualitative interviews with practitioners and families who took part in two child protection programs in Israel.

Findings: Based on critical poverty theories, the analysis of the interviews revealed the existence of the child protection–poverty matrix, which relates to both the multidimensionality of poverty and the ways in which all the dimensions of poverty influence parents, children, and their relationships with one another in their daily lives.

Conclusion: The matrix portrays the manifestation of the current neoliberal child protection policy in the lives of families and outlines how this social context might lead to child maltreatment and child protection involvement. Finally, the implications of these findings for policy and practice will be presented.

Chinese Lesbian and Gay Adults' Self-reported Experiences of Negative Treatment and Violence from Family of Origin: Evidence from a Larger-scale Study in China

Eliz Miu Yin Wong, Yiu Tung Suen, Randolph Chun Ho Chan
(LSE)

Most previous research on interpersonal violence from intimate others reported by lesbians and gay men either focused on violence from family of origin experienced during adolescence, or intimate partner violence from partner(s) experienced in adulthood. Lesbian and gay adults' self-reported experiences of violence from family of origin in adulthood has been lesser understood. This, partly, rests on the assumption that the significance of family of origin diminishes in lesbian and gay adults' lives – but such an assumption does not necessarily hold across cultures. In China, while it has been understood that lesbians and gay men face mounting pressure to marry and have children, there is little empirical evidence on their experiences of violence from family of origin. This paper analyzes self-reported experiences of negative treatment and violence from family of origin from a larger-scale study of 11,048 lesbian and gay adults in China. The majority (70.4%) of lesbians and gay men felt pressure to get married and have children, and experienced different forms of negative treatment and violence from their family members based on their sexual orientation (54.2%). A gender difference was also observed. Gay men were more likely to report having felt family pressure, while lesbians were more likely to report having experienced negative treatment and violence from their family members. This paper first contributes to the emerging literature on the lived experiences of lesbians and gay men in China. Second, it fills a research gap on lesbian and gay adults' experiences of violence from family of origin.

Frontiers – Special Event

'The Promise of Politics': Research and knowledge making as a Theatre of Justice and Remembrance

Caroline Breeden, Jo Dillabough, Simina Dragos, Lakshmi Bose
(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

Arendt and Mbembe (2017) argue that state making practices are incapable of imparting sovereign or juridical truths about modern citizens, despite their violent attempts to do so through creating spaces of exception and human genocide. Through state and elite knowledge-making practices, the bureaucrat-citizen is honoured over the 'radically undesirable' non-citizen, further exiled through conflict, torture, erasure and genocide. Such modern spaces of exception, both past and present, force us to ask what more the promise of politics might offer if we move beyond the modern state as a limited vehicle for agonistic politics. Drawing upon Bhambra's (2014) *Connected Sociologies*, Political Theory and decolonial approaches across five contexts (South Africa, Romania, Germany, Turkey, UK), we illustrate how modern narratives of state legitimacy and imperial legacies instigate the death of the human condition and critical thought. By taking a radical historiographical approach to sociological research, marginalised political actors in spaces of exception become makers of counterpublic narratives and political imaginaries that resist nationalist or authoritarian politics,

particularly within the academy. In this symposium we reconsider how the dual phenomenon of exile and 'natality' energises novel theoretical orientations, research approaches and political imaginaries. Each presentation addresses the potential of research to confront the ontological harm of elite knowledge making practices. We do so through a range of topics: transnational activism, youth asylum seeking, historicized accounts of elite knowledge making, and reflections on the challenges for sociological research - in the hope of realising the promise of politics in the academy and beyond.

Stateless Youth and Political Imaginaries of the Future

Caroline Breeden

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

How might we reimagine politics in order to better understand young people as actors seeking to challenge rising populist practices of the transnational political imaginary, and reimagine their worlds anew? Drawing upon ESRC funded research conducted with asylum seeking youth who were smuggled into the UK in 2018, I explore the role that both the experience of statelessness and space-time compression plays in shaping youthful political imaginaries of the future. I also explore - through substantive interview data with youth workers about privatisation and bureaucracy of UK 'resettlement' services - how the commodification of human smuggling and migration undermines asylum seekers' capacity to respond to the political injustices they experience as a consequence of their statelessness. How might the feelings of longstanding entrapment and forced human movement undermine their epistemic privilege of knowing in the present? Drawing on Arendt's (1958) concept of natality, I explore how estrangement and exile and the promise of youth politics can provide new sites for reimagining youth futures and youth political action. Youth participation, activism and networks to incite change and enter the political sphere are being widely researched and theorised. However, these attempts to enter the institutionalised political framework do not reflect the capacity of 'beginning something anew' (Arendt 1958). I therefore explore how, in the context of exile, dehumanisation and deterritorialization, changing trajectories among young people can become spaces for political mobilisation in local and transnational spheres.

Intellectual Bodies, Borders and Bureaucrats: Hannah Arendt and the Knowledge Making Politics of State Theory

Jo-Anne Dillabough

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

Drawing upon personal letters, documentary film and academic sources from the Hannah Arendt Archives (Bard College) and the Arendt Project (Berlin Universität), I identify political figures and modalities of knowledge and power shaping Hannah Arendt's conceptualisation of authoritarian state theory. I focus on her conceptual understanding of authoritarian bureaucracies, state sanctioned death camps and the banality of evil as a constellation of concepts for energising her radical sensibilities about the 'Promise of Politics'. I begin my argument from three interrelated premises: (1) that connected sociologies of knowledge making (see Bhambra, 2011), alongside an archival historiography of Arendt's intellectual worlds, provides a way toward better comprehending 'civic life or death' (Ozdemir, 2020, Bose, 2020; Dragos, 2020) in the academy; (2) such struggles can be traced historically to modern forms of instrumental rationalities and colonial logics of reason emerging from the violent foundational legacies and racial biopolitics governing the modern state (Mbembe, 2017); and (3) instead of 'drowning in proceduralisms' (see Honig, 2017) central to the modern academy that we instead agonise over new political idioms, research imaginaries and 'public things'. Fighting over public things in the academy - Honig (2017) asserts - provides the material groundswell for mourning the losses associated with violent modernities and the retrieval of what can never be foreclosed - the radical promise of politics in research. In this way, both the archive and memory can embrace the making of a 'radical historical consciousness' (Felman, 2001) that seeks to challenge ontological harm and epistemic violence in sociological research (Bacevic, 2019).

The Promise of Politics in Archival Research on Genocide

Simina Dragos

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

If "[t]he future is bound to the chains of the past" (Mignolo, 2011, p.31), we must look to the past in crafting political change for the future. Normative knowledge about the past is often filtered through archives. Yet archives can also be subversive when they become sites of political interrogations and interventions (see Tesar, 2015), particularly in the case of genocides whose victims never saw justice, reparation or recognition. Drawing on genealogical research about the representations and knowledge legitimizing the Roma Holocaust in Romania, I propose a hermeneutical approach in which history, as a set of discourses (Gardner, 2010), and archives, as repositories of discourses, become arenas for

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political negotiation of meaning. I explore four political promises of archival research. Firstly, the archive provides a space for challenging procedural forms of justice, and for searching recognition and reparation for the victims. Secondly, oral testimonies re-centre victims as political actors who carry the promise of politics in memory. Thirdly, genealogies can facilitate analyses of the continuities and ruptures in modern nation-state building, thereby creating space for political questioning and thinking new political imaginaries. Fourthly, archival research promises a re-negotiation of the 'cultural archive' (Wekker, 2016), opening the struggle over future collective imaginaries. To explore these, I use archival state documents, academic representations and oral history interviews. Ultimately, the promise of archival research is a promise of 'counter-history' (Nora, 1989) – one that can move us toward justice, challenging the representational systems which upheld genocide as a state-building project.

The Promise of Public Sociology in the Authoritarian Turn: Negotiating Risk and Complicity in the Face of Impossible Politics

Lakshmi Bose

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

The confluence of transnational authoritarianism and the increasing bureaucratisation of academia indicates the need to examine shifting cultures of risk and security as they shape the political potential of the public sociologist (Burwoy, 2004). Increasing criminal charges against academics and postgraduate students point to the securitisation of research processes (Peter and Strazzari, 2017) seen particularly through new mandates in risk assessments, travel authorisations, and research visas. This reshaping of academic freedom both transforms its public principles and undermines politically driven research by narrowing the scope for knowledge politics as a consequence of risk-averse policies, thus illuminating far-reaching effects of authoritarianism on academia. These intertwined forces place the researcher in a novel position that demands constant negotiation between risk, complicity, acquiescence and resistance as s/he faces impossible political choices (Honig, 2013) between the loss of principles of freedom and potential arrest or death. Considering this dramatic scene, I explore how the potential of public sociology is shaped through its perpetual ties to emergency politics (Honig, 2017). Using Camus' *The Myth of Sisyphus* as philosophical grounding, I argue for a reconsideration of a public sociology that seeks to privilege the recasting of sovereignty in new and unknown forms. What new possibilities might the public sociologist lead us to if s/he were to dismantle, rather than defend, the notion of the 'public' as central to the form and content of politics? How might this change the image of the risk averse researcher in spaces of heightened geopolitical conflict?

Lifecourse –Special Event

Death and its aftermath in the 2020s: why a Sociological Lens is needed more than ever

Kate Woodthorpe, Kathryn Almack, Erica Borgstrom, Glenys Caswell, Jane Mccarthy, Antu Sorainen

(University of Bath)

Since the 1960s public understandings of death and its aftermath have been dominated by assumptions about individualisation, and academic disciplines allied to practitioners/professionals, all of which have been rooted in Anglophone and Western European perspectives and epistemologies.

Despite growing calls for a public-health approach to death, in this panel we argue that while laudable such an approach is insufficient, remaining wedded as it does to the implications of death on and for individuals and their inner worlds, and ideas of 'healthy' and 'unhealthy' outcomes. Beyond such medicalised approaches oriented towards interventions, sociological perspectives have a vital and distinctive contribution to make.

At the start of the 2020s, and as death and bereavement is under the particular public gaze occasioned by the pandemic, we propose and discuss in this panel whether and why a paradigm shift in understanding death and its impact is urgently required. Such a shift will necessitate a more sociological understanding of death as a social process and experience that is created and experienced in everyday family and relational contexts, as well as wider social structures pointing to issues of social justice. As we will show, this enables us to understand the ways in which meaning(s) and practices associated with death are created, shared and contested; how the impact of death is navigated between and within families and relationships; how obligations and expectations evolve over time in relational contexts of people both alive and dead; and how a sociological contribution has the potential to attend to issues of power, resources, and marginalisation.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

Weighing relationships: A meta-ethnography of household perspectives on UK school-based child weight surveillance programmes

Meredith Hawking, Carol Dezateux, Deborah Swinglehurst
(Queen Mary University of London)

The current pandemic has foregrounded discourses linking obesity and long-term illness, at the intersections of social, economic, and demographic inequalities. COVID-19 has amplified pre-existing inequalities and reshaped public dialogues around parental and state responsibility, food insecurity, and children's health and well-being in the context of the lived experiences of their diverse households. Against this backdrop, we explore household experiences of, and perspectives on, school-based child-weight surveillance programmes including the English National Child Weight Measurement Programme.

This paper draws on findings from a meta-ethnography of household member perspectives on weighing and measuring school children (Prospero protocol CRD42020196637). We searched for and retrieved 17,270 papers in seven databases (January 2004 to June 2020). Following review, twenty papers were identified as eligible for inclusion, data extraction, and quality assessment. We created a 'lines-of-argument' synthesis incorporating contributions to analyses from a panel of qualitative researchers to ensure interpretive depth.

Focusing on themes of reassurance, othering, and familiarity between like-minded others and those with marginalised bodies, we discuss how child-weight surveillance programmes and their communication strategies actively shape and (re)produce social relationships between family members, friends and wider acquaintances. We critically engage with ideas under-pinning ethnic-adjustment of weight status, and the conceptual framing of these adjustments from ethical, societal and health perspectives. Finally, we ask how lockdown-enforced food insecurity, physical inactivity, and remote schooling during the COVID-19 pandemic has potentially reconfigured meanings and experiences of weight status for the children who participate in these programmes, and for their parents.

Imagined futures in teenagers and their relative investments in e-cigarettes and smoking

Kahryn Hughes, Jason Hughes, Grace Sykes, Michelle O'reilly, John Goodwin, Khalid Karim
(University of Leicester)

Considerable debate regarding the longitudinal relationship between smoking and vaping concerns how e-cigarette use might lead to increasing rates of future smoking, particularly among younger vapers. This 'gateway' paradigm of the sequential relationship between the use of such substances/devices underscores much e-cigarette and smoking policy, research, and public health interventions.

This paper presents findings from the longitudinal CRUK study 'Adolescent Vaping Careers'. Using both retrospective and prospective methods, the study explores young people's understandings, uses and experiences of e-cigarettes. An early and unanticipated finding is that a prerequisite for young people's beginning either smoking or vaping was an imagined 'future self' which neither smoked nor vaped. This imagined future self was crucial to the young peoples' present-situated 'investments' in either vaping or smoking, the sequential development of their use of different substances, and their reframing of past practices and senses of self.

We examine the role of imagined futures through an engagement with young people's accounts of their past and current practices and future plans. Exploring such developments longitudinally, we identify how imagined futures are critical to defining logics of connection between the sequential use of substances and forms of participation. Such findings profoundly challenge core facets of the gateway hypothesis and accordingly have considerable importance for contemporary e-cigarette and smoking policy, as well as providing insight into how young people understand the 'building' of futures for themselves.

The use of phronesis in social prescribing during Covid-19

Anna Terje, Sarah-Anne Munoz
(University of the Highlands and Islands)

In UK policy, there is an increased focus on preventing "non-clinical" use of primary care for those with non-medical need such as loneliness and social isolation. Social prescribing has been positioned as a preventative measure that can

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address these needs and empower individuals to self-manage. This has, arguably, stretched the resources of the third sector, as more clients are referred into their services. In the context of Covid-19, social prescribing services and the third sector have had to rethink their service delivery.

Policy research has made use of the three fundamental knowledge types identified by Aristotle; empirical knowledge, technical or craft knowledge, and practical wisdom or phronesis, to understand policy decision-making. Phronesis, arguably the most complex of the three, is used when weighing up alternatives and making judgements based on what is most beneficial and just in any given situation. Flyvbjerg (2001), Ward (2017) and Bynner and Terje (2020) argue for the importance of phronesis when tackling complex issues relating to inequalities. Conroy et al (2018) also studied the use of phronesis among GPs and consultants in medical decision-making.

This paper explores how community navigators (working for the mPower Interreg VA social prescribing project in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Ireland) use phronesis to meet needs of beneficiaries during Covid-19, where social activities they normally refer beneficiaries to may not be available. It demonstrates the complex skill set of those working on the ground in continuing to support those most vulnerable, and the long-term lessons that can be learnt from this.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

Reproductive Agency, Assisted Reproductive Technologies & Obstetric Violence. An ethnographic study: the UK & Spain

Ana Bravo-Moreno
(University College of London)

This paper draws on ethnographic research conducted in the UK and Spain. It analyses the experiences of 60 women who chose to become mothers with the assistance of reproductive technologies (ART). All the women intended to have a natural birth in hospital and they reported that hospitals categorised their pregnancies as high-risk on the basis of their age (35-47 years) and the use of ART. Furthermore, for half the participants the genetic material was from a woman and a man in their early twenties.

In the paper, I explore how these women feel empowered by their decision to become mothers and their attempts to manage their reproductive treatment and how they wished to give birth. However the paper demonstrates that the treatment they received from the obstetric teams stripped them of control over their own labour and puerperium. It asks: How do these women deal with their reproductive treatment? How does hospital culture impact on women's birthing bodies and psyche? What are the struggles they undergo to defend their wish to have a "natural" birth?

The findings critically engage with key contemporary debates such as: assisted reproductive technologies, giving birth at what is considered an "advanced age", which intensify judgements socially, and in the field of reproductive health. It will increase our understanding of access to ART, ageism, sexism and obstetric violence which are intimately intertwined with other debates, such as those to do with women's education and earning power, reproductive agency, reproductive politics and public health policy.

Emergence of reproductive citizenship: the rise of infertility consciousness and activism in Britain

Yuliya Hilevych
(University of Lincoln & University of Cambridge)

'Just as people have the right to choose in having an abortion, couples like us must have a chance to have children'. This was a reaction by Peter Houghton, the founding member of the National Organisation for the Childless (NAC), to the 1977 'host mother' case. This case opened a controversial discussion about surrogate motherhood in Britain after a childless couple made a private arrangement with a prostitute. NAC emerged as a grassroots community-based support group in Birmingham, which in 1976 became a national network supporting childless people. In 1991, it was reformed as ISSUE, and it subsequently merged with CHILD to form Infertility Network UK (2003); later renamed as Fertility Network UK (2016).

In this paper, I focus on the emergence and early work of NAC between the mid-1970s and the 1990s. I analyse published and radio materials by and about NAC, and interviews with its former members and affiliates. By taking a perspective of new social movements, I illustrate that NAC emerged as part of health activism centred on identity politics. My argument is that NAC positioned itself as a crucial player in lobbying for the rights of infertile couples with a view to BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
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overcome childlessness, especially following the invention of IVF (1978) and privatisation of fertility care. As such, NAC facilitated the emergence of a specific mode of reproductive citizenship, which equates infertility with childlessness as almost synonyms. In this talk, I problematise this mode of reproductive citizenship and forms of inclusion and exclusion it entails.

Uncertain and expanding futures: parental experiences of antenatal and newborn screening

Ashley White, Abigail Mcniven, Lisa Hinton, Felicity Boardman, Louise Locock
(University of Oxford)

The United Kingdom has traditionally adopted a more conservative approach to antenatal and newborn screening compared to other countries; however, the rapid development of genomic technologies has brought antenatal and newborn screening policies under renewed interest. Debates around screening have tended to favour quantitative economic and clinical meta-analyses, with the potential of qualitative research to capture the complexity and nuance of personal experience largely overlooked. We conducted a series of online focus groups with parents in the UK about their experiences with antenatal and newborn screening. Participants were recruited using social media, electronic listservs, and word of mouth. The focus groups explored people's experiences with screening, perceived benefits and harms of the current approach to screening, and suggestions for future improvements. A constructivist approach to grounded theory was used to analyse the text transcripts. Participants' responses revealed that the purpose, nature, and language of genetic screening is often unclear to parents, leaving them ill-prepared for what screens might reveal about their pregnancies and/or children. Whilst the promise of expanding genomic technologies to potentially save lives is an appealing narrative of future medical success, our paper highlights the already complex reality of participation by parents and parents-to-be which would likely be exacerbated by an expansion of screening programmes. In particular, our exploration of the topic challenges assumptions about parents' abilities to give meaningful and informed consent to engage in new and expanding medico-technological processes which can un-make and re-make the future for themselves, their children and wider families in uncertain ways.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

The Networked Refugee: the role of agency and social networks in the journeys across the Mediterranean.

Alessio D'angelo
(University of Nottingham)

The experience of migrants crossing the Mediterranean has been represented as that of passive components of large-scale human flows driven by conflicts, migration policies and smuggling. Informed by an ESRC-funded research project, this paper proposes a reflection on the advantages of using a social network lens to better understand these experiences at a micro and meso level, bringing to the fore the personal and relational dimensions. By examining the narratives of people who reached the coasts of Sicily (Italy) via the Libyan route, the article highlights the key role of local and transnational ties at every single juncture of these very long, often serendipitous journeys. The concept of 'journey' is used to frame this analysis, but also to debunk some of the deterministic, static and Euro-centred assumptions which have characterised mainstream narratives and some scholarly debates. Thus, the refugee journey emerges as a fluid process characterised by the continuous deconstruction and reconstruction of social networks. From a methodological point of view, the paper also exemplifies the importance of recognising qualitative interviews –and network data collection in particular – as 'social encounters' and thus, on the one hand, of considering the perspective (and perceptions) of participants, and on the other of placing the necessary emphasis on contextual and relational aspects as well as on power imbalances. Taking into consideration these methodological and sociological issues in future research can contribute to alternative insights for policy-makers and practitioners and help reframing and rethinking the responses to international migration across the Mediterranean and beyond.

'Liminal Spaces: The Indian Returnee in Search of Self'

Mini Chandran Kurian
(University of Edinburgh)

While there exists a significant body of scholarship on migration broadly conceived, return migration has received little attention; within this context, the growing phenomenon of return migration to the global south, and in particular, to India,

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remains nascent territory. Addressing this lacuna, this paper foregrounds the liminal spaces occupied by transnational returnees to India, their notions of home and belonging, and their conflicted subjectivities. Poised between remembering and forgetting, straddling real and imagined worlds, they find themselves experiencing simultaneous belonging. In this paper, I draw on the findings of qualitative fieldwork conducted with 16 highly-skilled Indian returnees living in gated communities in Bangalore, who represent an elite class of professional migrants. Situated within fluid social spaces that are constantly re-forming because of their embeddedness in multiple societies, these returnees inhabit liminal spaces of identity and disparate habitats of meaning.

Shifting the lens from multi-spatiality to multi-relationality, this study examines the returnees' quest for identity, and their reflexive selves, and questions simplistic dichotomies of 'home' and 'belonging'. Findings from this study indicate that future migration research must pay attention to an emerging group of professional migrants across the globe, who increasingly adopt circular migration as a self-realization project, and see mobility not in terms of deficit but as an asset. Overall, the paper emphasises the need to recognise affective and spatial in-betweenness, and highlights the richness and fluidity of living, being, and moving 'in-between'. It also points to the fragility of conceptual binaries that mark studies of migration and mobility.

Collective imaginations and future orientations on the move: A multi-sited ethnography of refugee journeys

Lena Nare, Elina Paju
(University of Helsinki)

What motivates migrants and refugees to move across borders? We argue that answers emphasizing only individual decision-making are not sufficient as they do not account for the roles that collective imagination and conceptions of the future play in migratory mobilities. Drawing on sociological and philosophical theorisation concerning the future, this paper investigates how a dual conceptualisation of the future as embedded and empty is a collective social force moving people across borders. The conceptualization of the future we rely on is divided into the embedded and embodied future on the one hand and the empty and decontextualized future on the other (Adam & Groves 2007). The notion of an embodied future rests on the assumption that the future is embedded in the present and past, in the embodied experience, and can only be reached through them. The empty and decontextualized future is typical for industrial-capitalist societies and holds that the future has no connection to the present and the past. It can therefore be manipulated and controlled without reference to them. Drawing on our multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork among Afghan refugees in Athens, Istanbul, Iran and Helsinki in 2017-2019, we examine how these two concepts of the future emerge in the collective imaginings during the refugee journeys.

Emergent solidarities and alternative futures on the move

Rachel Rosen
(University College London)

Accounts of children and young people who have migrated to the UK on their own have aptly demonstrated that their futures are held hostage by a restrictive migration regime. Prolonged periods of uncertain waithood for refugee status, combined with anti-migrant sentiments in the hostile environment, can foreclose the possibility of even having a future. Imaginaries of the future are constrained or erased, with all focus on the moment of 'acceptance' via recognition of asylum claims. At very least, such status is viewed as central to a stable sense of self and future. In this paper, I do not dispute the violence of restrictive migration regimes on the futures of these young people, nor the profound disruptions to imaginaries of the future caused by contradictory messages of immigration control and the rights of children at the brink of social adulthood. Instead, in thinking with research data from Children Caring on the Move (CCoM), I seek to complicate such understandings. The small spaces of hope and connection forged between young people on the move provide glimpses of the ways in which geopolitical boundaries can be exposed for their fabrication and violence. Attending to young migrants' care for and about others in the context of waithood, and emergent projects of common cause forged to challenge the conditions under which such care occurs, not only exposes the rough surfaces of racialized capitalism's seeming stronghold but suggests what might be involved in forging enduring solidarities to challenge injustices in order to build alternative futures together.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

The politics of intersectional practice: Race and 'generic intersectionality'

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Ashlee Christoffersen
(University of Edinburgh)

My PhD research explored how equality third sector organisations conceptualise and operationalise the politically transformative frame of 'intersectionality'. It responded to gaps in research on intersectionality's operationalisation in practice in the UK, and uniquely explored how policy makers and practitioners themselves understand intersectionality. This paper is based on fieldwork conducted with three networks of equality organisations (racial justice, feminist, disability rights, LGBTI rights, refugee organisations, etc.) in cities in England and Scotland, through case studies employing mixed qualitative methods.

I develop a typology of five competing concepts of intersectionality circulating in UK third sector equality organising, each with different implications for intersectionally marginalised groups and intersectional justice. In this paper, I focus on one, 'generic intersectionality', wherein there is little focus on any equality strand in particular, and similar work is delivered to benefit 'all'. I argue that this concept emerged in contexts of: i. 'cohesion'; ii. a multi-strand equality policy framework including a Scottish duty to 'mainstream' equality; and iii. austerity. I show through empirical examples the detrimental effects of generic intersectionality for racial and intersectional justice. First, it is used as a rationale for a relinquishment of a focus on race/racism; in this discourse, racial justice organisations are constructed as uniquely incapable of doing intersectionality. Second, within a generic intersectionality discourse there is a preference for 'neutral', 'unspecific' representatives, constructed as the only ones capable of knowing about and doing intersectionality. Intersectionally marginalised people (and organisations of them) are thus constituted as non-credible knowers and doers of intersectionality.

Islamophobia, anti-racism and the British left: Muslim activists as 'racialised outsiders'

Scarlet Harris
(University of Glasgow)

Against a backdrop of racialised nationalism and widespread securitisation of Muslim communities, how are those on the political left responding to the issue of Islamophobia? Based on qualitative interviews carried out in 2017-2018, this paper considers this question with reference to the role played by Muslim activists involved in anti-racist work. It draws together empirical accounts from anti-racist activists based in Glasgow and Manchester, and a series of theoretical contributions from scholars in the field of 'race' and racism studies (Virdee 2014; Alexander 2017; Valluvan 2019), to advance two key arguments. Firstly, that in its articulation via cultural (rather than biological) difference, Islamophobia presents a particular challenge for anti-racists and the left. Secondly, the centrality of the figure of 'the Muslim' to broader nationalist imaginaries, and Muslim activists' specific experiences of marginalisation on the left, suggest that Muslim activists might usefully be understood as an example of 'racialised outsiders' (Virdee 2014). The capacity of this particular set of activists to 'stretch' understandings of - and responses to - contemporary Islamophobia is also explored within this framework. The paper concludes with a reflection on the question of solidarity: what might these dynamics mean for building effective and durable anti-racist coalitions in the current moment?

Labour, Antisemitism and Anti-Racism

Brendan Mcgeever, Ben Gidley, David Feldman
(Birkbeck, University of London)

The Labour Party's bitter and still-unfinished antisemitism controversy provides an opportunity to reflect sociologically on the place of antisemitism within the field of racism studies. In this paper we draw on empirical data to conceptualise antisemitism as a reservoir: a deep reservoir of stereotypes and narratives, replenished over time, from which people draw with ease, intentionally or otherwise. Understood in this way, we are able to shift the focus away from individual antisemites ('bad apples') to instead come to terms with the significance of antisemitism as a form of racialisation within political culture.

But this raises new questions: what is distinctive about antisemitism as a form of racism? And perhaps more urgently, what are the implications for anti-racist politics? Labour's antisemitism controversy, we argue, reveals a deepening divide among the forces that resist racism. Half a century ago, opposition to antisemitism and other racisms were closely aligned, intellectually and politically. Today these connections are slender, and for many, there has been a parting of ways. This paper explores the possibilities of a multi-directional anti-racism. The obstacles that stand in the way are as conceptual as they are political, and these difficulties are not Labour's own; they reflect important features in the way racism is understood today. Within Labour and beyond, definitions of antisemitism, anti-Black racism and Islamophobia

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abound, yet all too rarely are they joined up. This paper charts this complicated history and offers resources for thinking antisemitism and racism together, both for sociology and for politics more generally.

Mapping Everyday Racism in Cambridge towards an Antiracist Path for the University

Ella Mcpherson, Mónica Moreno Figueroa, Hande Güzel
(University of Cambridge)

This presentation will share the findings of the End Everyday Racism project at the University of Cambridge's Department of Sociology. These findings are based on 117 reports by members of the University community who either experienced or witnessed everyday racism from October 2018 through mid-June 2020. Reports were submitted via an anonymous reporting platform built for this project, which invites participants to provide quantitative and qualitative data about these racist incidents; innovatively, the platform asks reporters to reflect on the emotional and embodied aspects of their experience. Covid-19 can be said to have an impact, as reports by those who identify as Asian have doubled during the pandemic. However, the problem of everyday racism cannot be reduced to the pandemic. We found that one-fourth of reporters felt their job or study was potentially at risk as a result of the incident, while one-third felt that these were potentially more difficult. Respondents documented feelings directed towards them during the incident, including hostility, contempt and rejection, as well as their own feelings, which included anger, indignation, incredulity, humiliation, embarrassment and confusion. A vast majority experienced physical nervousness and bodily tension and, crucially, sixty percent of respondents reported a feeling of not belonging in Cambridge as a consequence of the racist incident. We conclude by outlining the methodology of solidarity that initiatives like this can take in addressing institutional racism, as well as by outlining several antiracist steps that universities can take towards a future in which we can end everyday racism.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

Technology and Governance Solutions in China during the COVID-19 Crisis: A First “Anniversary” Assessment

Ausma Bernotaite, Marcella Siqueira Cassiano
(Griffith University; University of Alberta)

The COVID19 pandemic has started new conversations about the future role of surveillance technologies in health crisis management. The literature on this topic reports that situations of crisis are critical for organisations; they either breakdown or reinvent themselves. Successful organisations use situations of crisis to restructure themselves and improve their performance. Applicable to all crises, this reasoning is also true to the COVID-19 pandemic and organisations in China. This article aims to understand how the Chinese state bureaucracy has been using the pandemic to recreate, legitimise, and strengthen its governance apparatus, particularly surveillance technologies. China's COVID-19 response strategy led surveillance to become more normalised, invisible, and embedded in people's mundane activities. Technologies, especially those that collect data and monitor populations, have a destructive potential when politicised. Thus, drawing on documentary information, we analyse how the State Council has advanced digital surveillance technology-based governance to regulate geographic mobility, body conditions, and personal information. We tackle our objective with the following research questions: (1) How did China manage the crisis from the psychological, social-political, and technological structural perspectives? (2) What type of governance did China's COVID-19 response produce from the perspective of surveillance technologies? What are its continuities and discontinuities? (3) What are its outcomes, including both success and failure, from the perspective of state-building or state-strengthening? We demonstrate that the State Council has used the pandemic and risk discourse to forge voluntary compliance with all-encompassing surveillance and foster an environment where surveillance is seen as an expected, inherently safe, and unquestionable.

Programming-as-Social-Science: Breach! Disrupt! Intervene!

Phillip Brooker
(University of Liverpool)

As social life has spread across the internet (a phenomenon amplified though not kickstarted by the COVID-19 social lockdown) various groups of social researchers have explored the potential for methodological tools and conceptual

lenses through which digital objects and interactions might be rendered for analysis. However, as yet, few social researchers have directly engaged with the technologies through which these forms of digital life are generated; namely, computer programming languages. This talk, therefore, seeks to announce Programming-as-Social-Science (PaSS) as an emerging research practice, whereby social researchers might use and leverage knowledge and skill with computer programming as their work. Though there are obvious relevancies of such skills in the grabbing and analysis of different types of (digital) data, the proposed remit of PaSS goes beyond this into other areas including supporting our own research communities through methodological innovation, finding new ways to involve people in the teaching and practice of sociology, opening up new sociological in-roads (e.g. EPSRC funding competitions), and placing sociologically-influenced design ideas in the world (e.g. not just critiquing biased algorithms, but rebuilding them). As such, PaSS is as much about understanding the (digital) world as it is engaging and participating in it. This talk will also reflect on several consanguineous issues, including: the practicalities of integrating PaSS into academic life, the ethnomethodological foundations of these ideas (e.g. breaching experiments, PaSS as hybrid study), the role of design in sociological research (Lupton, 2018), and PaSS as a sociological maker-space (cf. Beer (2014) on "Punk Sociology").

User Agency in Everyday Digital Self-Tracking: Exploring Experiences of Ordinary People in China.

Xiufeng Jia

(University of Sheffield)

While there has been a great deal of academic focus on digital self-tracking in everyday life in the West (North America, Europe, and Australia), where researchers typically focus on one type tracking, such as cycling (Lupton et al., 2018; Pink et al., 2017) or calorie counting (Didžiokaitė et al., 2018). There is an absence of digital self-tracking studies that pertains to China. In this presentation I will discuss my doctoral research which explores different types of everyday self-tracking activities that people engage with in China.

Drawing on interviews and text analysis on Chinese social media platform "Sina Weibo", this paper examines the challenges that ordinary people experience with digital self-tracking technologies and their data. It also illustrates individual rights how people identify which are valuable data for their health conditions and lives. The paper answers the questions: 1) What problems do the devices/apps and the data itself present that is recognised by Chinese users? 2) How do ordinary people deal with the aforementioned issues? I argue that Chinese users form their own unique ways of using apps and devices in order to resist algorithms and issues of social privacy and social surveillance. I also suggest that they control their data input and experience benefits and joy of using devices/apps at the same time. The paper attempts to rethink about agency of ordinary individuals living digital lives in such a different culture and social environment in China, which to some extent are different than in the West.

Charting markets: The material semiotics of an epistemic device in global financial markets

Dylan Cassar

(University of Edinburgh)

This paper adopts an Actor Network-Theory approach and focuses on a material-semiotic device sitting at the heart of bond markets. Known as the yield curve, a chart of interest rates, it is taken as representation of market thought, action, and expectations (Zaloom, 2009). Drawing on 32 interviews and a corpus of documents, the paper firstly shows how this chart does not simply make the market visible but rather shapes it as it becomes a core part of traders' epistemic practices. The yield curve performs semiotically as it signifies and replaces the market, perhaps best appreciated when traders cease to speak about 'the market' and speak instead in terms of shifts and twists to the curve. In line with an ANT-approach, the paper asserts that the materiality of it cannot be overlooked. Indeed, the curve is an integral part of evaluation practices, from analysis to pricing practices. Beyond these performative functions of market (re-)construction, it is itself moulded as it becomes embedded in local communities of practice, thus taking several ontologies - as a sense-making heuristic device for the bond investor, as an economic indicator for the economist, as a mathematical object for the derivatives quant and hedge fund trader, and as a policy lever for the central banker. Finally, the conclusion argues that despite these local ontological variations, the yield curve holds a level of universality allowing communication across communities and enabling a sense of 'distributed cognition' (Hutchins, 1995) as actors become affixed to the perpetual movements of the curve.

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Social Access: How Digital Media Hinder and Facilitate Social Inclusion of Young People with Disabilities

Herminder Kaur
(Middlesex University)

Digital media is hoped to facilitate social inclusion of people with disabilities (PWDs). Empirical research is scarce but has found that PWDs mainly connect with others with disabilities and online relations and gaming may become escapist. I propose the concept of social access to highlight how social inclusion is shaped by (i) affordances of digital media, (ii) mixedness of relations, and (iii) online and offline interaction. Drawing on an ethnography in a special school for young people with physical disabilities this paper presents on two observations. First the foregrounding of idealised bodies in social media aggravated social exclusion online and offline with intra-disability and intersectional differences. Second, the co-presence afforded by digital media enabled young PWDs to resort or escape to digital interactions in a socially unrewarding or hostile offline environments. In conclusion digital media can hinder or facilitate social inclusion online and offline and intra-disability and intersectional differences are relevant when thinking about how we can remake the future for people with disabilities to increase their inclusion in offline and digital spaces.

Japanese Heart Transplant Recipients (JHTRs) and experiences of 'stigma' in an inclusive society

Ikuko Tomomatsu
(TOMO Lab LLC)

Aim

Japanese heart transplant recipients (JHTRs) tend to experience stigma, in particular 'felt stigma', throughout the process of returning to work, school and social activities. The stigma is caused by the lack of understanding of heart-organ transplant, negative attitude towards the surgery among a certain Japanese, and Japanese culture where people tend not to directly express their feeling to JHTRs. Considering that the realisation of an inclusive society is widely discussed in Japan, JHTRs' experiences of stigma could have been minimised, and they could have managed them in different ways. This study explores the way in which their experiences of stigma has changed and how JHTRs have managed their experiences in Japanese society which is aiming to establish an inclusive society.

Method

Ten JHTRs who received the surgery before 2010 were recruited for this study. They were interviewed using semi-structured face-to-face interview techniques. All interviews were recorded and transcribed into a simple text. Interview data was thematically analysed.

Tentative Result and discussion

JHTRs' experiences of stigma have not minimised as expected, however they have felt different types of stigma compared to previously. As more than ten years have passed after receiving the surgery, JHTRs have acquired and even created social settings and opportunities to disclose their experiences. Those social settings and opportunities have brought JHTRs to share their everyday life experiences which include their health condition, changes of medication, photos of their hospitalisation and so on. I argue that they have been stigmatized in different ways in those social settings.

Exploring the role of 'trauma' as an illness identity on Twitter and Tumblr: A mixed methods approach

Chloe Wakeham
(Swansea University)

Over the centuries, the language surrounding trauma has shifted in meaning from being used as a descriptor for a physical wound, to later incorporate the contemporary definition which includes psychological wounds. By today's definition, trauma has been described as a product of modern culture which may explain the expansion of the word trauma, which is sometimes used to describe everyday life experiences. On Twitter and Tumblr, people are encouraged to engage with trauma related hashtags, to help them identify other members of the online community, who share similar issues with them. An illness identity may be an alternative way for a person to describe themselves, which may provide some cultural meaning, which will be explored throughout the study. While this might provide validation around such issues, there is a possibility that such communities may feed the growing pathologisation and medicalisation of everyday life. This study aims to 1) make sense of the cultural meanings and uses and language surrounding the word trauma 2)

trace the historical origins and pathways into online discourse. This is a mixed methods study, which incorporates aspects of Ethnographic Content Analysis and Netnography, which enables historical tracking (i.e. tracking discourse), identifying themes and meanings behind social media posts. Ncapture for Nvivo and screenshots were used in order to download, transcribe and analyse relevant content from Twitter and Tumblr. Open-ended interviews will take place over Zoom or Skype over the next coming months.

Sociology of Education

‘Of course I want peace for every child but...’: the moral dilemmas and challenges of protecting children from violence

Nomisha Kurian
(University of Cambridge)

This presentation is based on my article in the Journal of Peace Education - <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17400201.2020.1728237>

Tackling violence against children and ensuring safe environments for learners to grow and flourish have been identified as priorities within education (WHO, 2020). Yet, there is little sociological research on the moral dilemmas and challenges non-Western teachers might face in this pursuit. To address this gap, this talk utilises primary data from an Indian school. Interviews with eight teachers and four students are analysed, drawing on theories of peacebuilding and violence prevention. Firstly, the talk discusses a teacher's response to a student witnessing domestic violence. Thereby, it explores the contentious terrain of home-school boundaries and societal stigmas. Secondly, the talk discusses a teacher's attempt to help a physically abused child labourer. This data flags the challenges educators face while trying to tackle systemic inequalities and the danger of schools reproducing exclusionary structures. Thirdly, the talk discusses the intergenerational politics of children endorsing corporal punishment. It seeks to demonstrate how socio-economic pressures and historical legacies might lead to children legitimating violence against their own bodies. By exploring the fractures and gaps within school violence prevention efforts in an understudied non-Western context, the presentation aims to offer insights into the structures and norms perpetuating violence against children and the need for criticality, context and reflexivity in efforts to build safer schools and societies.

Citation used in abstract:

World Health Organisation. (2020). The Global status report on preventing violence against children 2020. WHO: Switzerland.

How do educational plans interrelate with educational inequalities in early childhood? The meaning of advancing social-emotional competence in Kindergartens

Sylvia Nienhaus
(University of Osnabrueck)

Even before going to school education is central to children's lives (OECD, 2018). However, financial or socio-cultural issues tend to prevent equal education (Kruger & Peter, 2019). Here the legal framing of early education in German Kindergartens (2004) may be seen as a chance to compensate for educational inequalities (German educational report, 2020) promoting children's educational competencies. Considering long-term studies (Sylva et al., 2011) advancing social-emotional competence is one important way to succeed in school, e.g. in activities fostering children's collective and perseverant behavior (Nienhaus, 2019).

This in mind in my postdoc project I aim to show how the relatively new focus on education in German Kindergartens interrelates with educational inequalities in early childhood taking children's social-emotional competence as an example. To do so I plan to relate Lower Saxony's plan for Kindergarten education (2005) to practices and orientations in Kindergartens in three explorative studies based on qualitative multi-level analysis (Humrich & Kramer, 2018) – interviewing providers in rural and urban areas (1), parents and educators of preschool children in socio-culturally contrastive Kindergartens (2) and observing formalized meetings of the interviewed parents and educators on the mentioned children's social-emotional competence twice before the children's transition to primary school (3).

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In my presentation I like to discuss preliminary results from the interviews with Kindergarten providers (1) with regard to regional, linguistic and cultural differences towards the legal aim of fostering children's social-emotional competence. Considering my multi-level approach, I also look forward to discussing methodological chances and pitfalls relating different social levels.

How systemic functionalism and colonial legacies dominate the education and international development sector

Jessica Oddy

(University of East London)

COVID-19 has laid bare and exacerbated inequalities and division, non-more so than in education. At the height of the pandemic, more than 1.5 billion students were out of school (UNESCO,2020), and the shift to online underlined digital disparities. Yet prior to Covid, humanitarian emergencies had already disrupted the education of 75 million children globally. 77% of secondary school-age refugees were out of school with less than half of refugee children who started primary school making it to secondary school (UNHCR,2020).

In this presentation, I discuss contemporary education in emergencies (EiE) responses and how colonial narratives on 'educability', power inequities and racism continue to permeate the types and ways that education programmes that are funded and implemented. The EiE sector, through a range of multilateral funding mechanisms, the United Nations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), governments, and wider stakeholders attempts to provide education to children affected by crises, yet who gets access and to what remains disparate. The UK, for example, is the third-largest donor to global education, yet focuses predominantly on primary education.

Using emerging data from my PhD, I discuss findings from key informant interviews with EiE practitioners and programmatic data from three NGOs to explore how systemic functionalism and colonial legacies dominates EIE, in turn, playing a role in reproducing inequitable systems of knowledge and thought authored by actors in the West. I draw on my action research project with racialised displaced youth in Jordan to prompt us to rethink, reframe and centre critical approaches to global and development education.

Doing Good: Cultivating Children's Ethical Sensibilities in School Assemblies

Rachael Shillitoe

(University of Birmingham)

Drawing on data from a child-centred, ethnographic study of assemblies in English primary schools (both faith and community), this presentation examines 'the good' in everyday school life. Reflecting on how schools attempt to cultivate children's ethical subjectivities (using both religious and nonreligious frameworks) and how children respond to such strategies, this presentation explores how 'the good' is understood, mediated and performed in daily life. The ways in which the good is constructed and enacted in relation to childhood exemplifies the dreams, wishes and desires we have for our social worlds with children standing as the moral visions for the betterment of society. However, examining the good in relation to childhood is also revealing of the anxieties, hopes and aspirations adults have in terms of children's moral formation. When faced with periods of environmental insecurities, political upheaval, increasing populist rhetoric and growing inequality, children represent opportunities to project, plan and realize a different and better reality than the one we currently live in. In this presentation, I demonstrate how paying close attention to the school as a space in which 'the good' is explicitly performed and taught while also paying attention to how children internalize, contest and negotiate the values embodied in this vision, creates an opportunity to view different ideas of what the 'good life' is and the different resources and actions through which this good life is subsequently sought for and achieved.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

SOCIAL WORK AND CARE

Crisis Only Contact: Social Work Practice in the 'New Normal'.

Annabel Goddard

(Annabel Goddard, Loughbrough University)

Crisis Only Contact: New Normal Social Work.

Before Covid-19 Childrens Services were already chronically overwhelmed and face-to-face contact with children in care is well-documented as limited or rushed. Risk management processes embedded in neoliberal social work contexts serve to allocate scarce resources through processes of categorisation, triggering actions based on the classification of risk. Changes to statutory duties during the national lockdown led to concern from academics and professionals regarding changes to frequency of visits to children in care, and other amendments. Drawing from interviews with practitioners post-lockdown, it is presented that current operational norms are for face-to face-contact to be made only when absolutely necessary. Whilst undoubtedly there are local fluctuations in restrictions, for social workers online interaction is set to be routine in practice for the foreseeable future. Extending existing theories of risk-oriented social work the research paper highlights the potential long-term effects of 'crisis only' contact with children in the care. For children often already experiencing isolation from friends and family, social worker relationships can be highly significant. How, as we progress to the 'new normal', does social work emerge from a distanced form of practice and re-establish face-to-face contact as routine. If routine contact is not possible for a significant period, are crises likely to increase as a method of gaining interaction with social workers? It is integral to understand the impact restrictions implemented in a risk-oriented social work context have and consider the implications of reducing face to face contact to an emergency only event.

Dread and Confidence: Young Adults Navigating the Contingent Landscape in London

Krzysztof Jankowski
(The University of Glasgow)

An OCED study found that over half of new jobs created in member countries between 1995 and 2007 were outside permanent, full-time employment. Entering new roles with little experience, young people are disproportionately entering these precarious roles, having profound impacts on the way they live. In 2020, this circumstance has worsened considerably as the economy struggles to recover. In this presentation I use a landscape approach to analyse navigating such uncertainty around employment, housing, and adulthood for young people in London.

Julian Orr used 'landscape' to help describe how mobile photocopier repair technicians learned about the characteristics of each workplace they needed to visit. I apply the approach to the multitude of fleeting and unreliable work opportunities that exist in London, such as: gig-work, temporary employment agencies, and informal cash-in-hand work -altogether dubbed 'the contingent landscape'

Employing landscape situates fully-rounded subjects in the full context of the neo-liberal city, while avoiding reducing people down to being just 'precarious workers'. The initial analysis contributes to understandings of how class, ethnicity, and gender stratify people in the context of a highly contingent employment scheme. The discussion enlightens on how young people of different backgrounds 'remake their future' in a landscape of unreliable opportunities. It also investigates how these people develop a 'feel for the game' and come to adapt and accept the prevailing circumstances of precarity.

The paper draws on on-going ethnographic and interview data about experiences of non-permanent work in London. The fieldwork began in September 2020.

Crises Collide: Capitalism, Care and Covid-19

Daniella Jenkins, Juliet Allen, Marilyn Howard
(University of the Arts London)

The public health and economic crises created by Covid-19 have rendered pre-existing race and gender inequalities more visible. The authors consider these crises, and the responses of UK governments, through a social reproduction lens. We use the term 'social reproduction' to refer to the daily, intergenerational work of reproducing society, through the care, socialisation and education of human beings as people (Ferguson, 2020). The pandemic has highlighted capitalism's neglect of social reproduction; in the UK, a decade of austerity has eroded critical public health and care infrastructure, increasing vulnerability to the risks of Covid-19, while support for all forms of unpaid care work remains minimal. Women shoulder the burden on both fronts.

Black and minority ethnic women in particular, overrepresented in the key worker roles which have been indispensable to the battle against the virus, are more at risk of contracting and dying from Covid-19 than their white counterparts. In failing to value social reproduction and acknowledge its gendered and racialised nature, the UK government's response has been 'gender-insensitive' and has neglected (indeed, initially suppressing) startling data about the impact of Covid-

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19 on BAME communities. Reflecting on evidence compiled by the Women's Budget Group, this paper argues that the pandemic may mark a critical juncture for late stage neoliberal capitalism. We consider the opportunities presented by the Covid-19 crisis to debate and reconstruct a post-pandemic economy and society which can address the inequalities inherent to a capitalist system which relies on unpaid and low-paid social reproduction

How is precarious work normalised among young people? Evidence from the UK

Vera Trappmann, Charles Umney, Chris Mclachlan, Alexandra Seehaus, Laura Cartwright
(Leeds University Business School)

Much research has demonstrated the impact that precarious working arrangements have on individuals' lives (Alberti et al, 2018). This includes a focus on how the experience of insecurity at work impacts on wider biographies and subjectivities (Mrozowicki and Trappmann, 2020). Some research shows that young workers often accept precarious work owing to increasingly individualistic discourses (Trappmann et al, 2020), or as a price worth paying for the pursuit of a "passion" (Umney and Kretsos, 2015). However, a more systematic theorisation of the normalisation of precarious work is needed. What are the strategies that shape young people's acceptance of precarious work? We illustrate the different ways in which precarious work has become normalised amongst young people. The paper is based on 30 interviews with young people in precarious work (aged 18-35) in the UK. We identified 4 different strategies of normalisation 1) contextualisation within the life-course, where precarious work is perceived as a typical feature of young people's labour market entry. 2) acceptance through repeated exposure, where multiple experiences generate lowered expectations of security. 3) pessimism or fatalism, where participants see no way out of precarious work. 4) escaping alienation. Here, participants saw precarious work as a means of escaping from a compromised job which might be stable but at the expense of loss of autonomy, self-fulfilment and meaning. We also show the classed dimensions of these mechanisms, with participants' access to capital resources and forms of social support playing an important role in influencing how they respond to precarious work.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

CLASS, HIERARCHY AND WORK

Exploring The Class Ceiling in the UK Civil Service

Sam Friedman
(LSE)

The hidden barriers, or 'glass ceilings', preventing women and minority ethnic groups from getting to the top of elite occupations are well documented. Yet questions of social class - and specifically class origin - have been largely absent from these debates. This paper builds on recent research on 'class pay gaps' within Britain's higher professional and managerial occupations to examine the relationship between class origin and career progression within the UK Civil Service. Drawing on privileged access to the 2019 Civil Service People Survey (N = 300,988) which includes for the first time data on the class origins of all UK civil servants, I first show that a powerful 'class ceiling' exists within the civil service. Those from working-class backgrounds are not only under-represented within the civil service as a whole but tend to be segregated vertically into lower grades. I also explain how this ceiling effect is connected to patterns of horizontal segregation, whereby the upwardly mobile are more likely to be found in less-prestigious operational specialisms and are sharply under-represented in prestigious policy roles and spatially within Whitehall. I then switch focus to ask why this ceiling exists. Specifically, I draw on observation and 104 interviews across four departments - Cabinet Office, HMRC, Treasury and Transport. This demonstrates that progression effects are rooted in the misrecognition of classed self-presentation as 'talent', work cultures historically shaped by the privileged, the affordances of the 'Bank of Mum and Dad', and sponsored mobility premised on class-cultural homophily.

Welfare marketisation in action: Outsourcing the State of Exception.

Ray Griffin, Zach Roche, Tom Boland
(Waterford Institute of Technology)

Contemporary states have increasingly outsourced public employment services, displacing spaces of unemployment casework to new locations.

We draw on two comparable but different datasets composed of 82 visits to public employment offices, and 29 reports of private contractors employment service offices. The method is both ethnographic and administrative in nature- written notes of site visits undertaken by a range of academic researchers and public servants, over six years. Informed by this, the study captures a street-level observation of public service provision marketisation in action to complement traditional epistemés of policy evaluation from orthodox economics and sociology.

Clear contrasts emerge, between the fidelity of public spaces of welfare to the design register of state-wide social security compared to the ad-hoc, threadbare entrepreneurial spaces of contractors. This transformation is both superficial and mythic, which we identify as a change in register of welfare wherein the surface communicates (Lefebvre, 1974) and has affects (Massumi, 1995).

The change in register articulates modern biopolitics, the spatial precondition of citizenship changes to clientelism, people no longer have the 'right to have rights' (Arendt, 1951). Beyond expressing stigma or the punitive turn these spaces reclassify people, remaking the possibility of welfare as the vindication of political rights impossible. Comparing Arendt with Foucault's governmentality thesis and Agamben's bios/z?? distinction; we argue that welfare expresses not only bio-political governmentality but also precariatized and conditionalised rights, breaking the connection with democratic political action.

The Class Area Gap: Geographic and Social Mobility into Britain's Higher Professional and Managerial Occupations

Daniel McArthur, Hecht Katharina
(University of Oxford)

This paper shows how class origin shapes patterns of geographic mobility in Britain's higher professional and managerial classes. Many scholars have shown that rates of social mobility vary across areas, and have thus pointed to geography as shaping patterns of upward mobility. Fewer have considered the ways in which social origin shapes the propensity for geographic mobility, and the places people move to. We address these issues using 30 years of linked census data from the Office for National Statistics Longitudinal Study. Even among those working in higher professional and managerial occupations, social origins shape patterns of geographic mobility. In addition to living in more affluent areas during childhood, individuals from privileged backgrounds are more likely to move long distances than those who were upwardly socially mobile. When they are geographically mobile, the upwardly mobile move to more affluent areas than those they grew up in. However, they do not close the gap on their peers from more affluent backgrounds. We find evidence of an 'area gap', whereby those from advantaged backgrounds consistently live in more affluent areas than their upwardly mobile counterparts. Our findings show an unappreciated role for geography, and geographic mobility, in the reproduction of class inequalities.

Marketization: The intensification of price-based competition and its effects on societies

Charles Umney, Ian Greer
(University of Leeds)

We present a theory of marketization and its effects. By marketization, we mean the creation, extension, and intensification of price-based competition, whether through government initiatives or business decisions. While the empirical effects of marketisation are often immediately evident, various academic traditions understate its importance. For example, comparative institutional theory has tended to focus on delineating areas where marketization is presumed to be unlikely. Polanyians and believers in "Social Europe" have argued that marketization is always likely to be limited or pushed back by social countermovements. Classical Marxist theory has generally emphasised concentration and centralisation of capital rather than the intensification of market competition. But in fact marketization is more prevalent, persistent, and pernicious than these theories may lead us to expect.

We base our argument on five years of interviews in five European countries and with EU-level administrators, concentrated in healthcare, welfare-to-work services, and the arts. We show how dedicated European states have been in engineering market competition. They have laboriously created new institutions and procedures to instigate and govern competition, persisting in the face of escalating costs and bureaucratic complexity, not to mention damaging social outcomes.

We argue that marketization initiatives can be understood as a means of class discipline: they have subjected workers to the effects of competition while protecting capital from them. Class discipline is important to capitalist states, and this

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partially explains why marketisation remains on the agenda despite its evident problems. Moreover, marketization has created new procedures and mechanisms which are insulated from democratic accountability.

Paper Session 4

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Displacement pressure and sense of belonging: Working-class experiences of state-led gentrification in Sweden

Helena Holgersson
(University of Gothenburg)

For whom is the city built? This is the main question in a new Swedish research project on goal conflicts in municipal urban planning. The main focus is on how goals of increased attractiveness and goals of decreased segregation are set against each other in ongoing urban development projects in Gothenburg. This paper puts focus on Frölunda, an area built in the 60s as part of the social democratic “people’s home” project that aimed at providing the population with “healthy, spacious, well-planned and properly equipped housing of good quality for reasonable prices” (Proposition 1967). But the current state-led upgrading of the area involves rise of standard renovations, sell-outs of public housing estates and transformation of rental apartments into co-operative apartments, measures that all risks leading to increased housing costs.

In this paper, municipal urban development plans and quantitative data of in- and out-migration patterns in Frölunda are put in relation to interviews with residents who express concerns about rent increases, primarily older single people. How do they experience living in a working-class area redeveloped for a more affluent group of people? What would it mean to them if they would have to leave their homes? How does this affect their sense of belonging and their everyday local spatial practices? Theoretically, the paper joins ongoing conversations on the difficulties of mapping out the displacement effects of gradual upgrading project, and following Peter Marcuse (1985) I argue for the importance of including displacement pressure in such analyses.

Salford’s ‘slum’ clearance: Rethinking urban displacement through a biographical and temporal lens

Niamh Kavanagh
(University of Manchester)

Following recent calls for the temporalities of displacement to be better elucidated (Elliot-Cooper et al. 2019: 492), this paper examines the process of displacement with a particular biographical and temporal attunement. It draws on life history interviews that explore long-term experiences of displacement in Salford which occurred in the 1960s-90s. Situated in the north-west of England, Salford has undergone repeated waves of ‘slum’ clearance, demolition and urban development programmes over several decades. Such changes have radically transformed the city and resulted in many residents being displaced and rehoused in surrounding areas. Through biographical interview data, this paper unpacks displaced residents’ experiences at different temporal periods, being attentive to the way displacement becomes entangled with other dimensions of their lives over time. In doing so, the analysis reveals the processual nature of displacement, shedding light on both its impacts prior to the physical move itself, and its lingering effects many years later, which take on different forms in displaced people’s stories. A biographical and temporal attunement thus illuminates the heterogeneous nature of displacement, providing insight into the personal nuances and complexities that exist within displaced people’s life stories over time.

‘I do bite sometimes’: Negotiating territorial stigmatisation in a former colliery town

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James Pattison

(The University of Manchester)

Based on 15-months of ethnographic research, this paper explores the effects of territorial stigmatisation in Shirebrook, Derbyshire. In particular, focusing on the ways in which residents negotiate and respond to the affective dynamics invoked by residing in a stigmatised place. As part of regeneration policy to relieve the impact of the colliery's closure in 1993, Sports Direct built their headquarters and main distribution warehouse on the site of the former colliery. Sports Direct relies primarily on migrant workers to meet its labour demands, whose presence has been constructed as the root cause of social problems in the town by the press and local authority. This has contributed to and intensified an already long history of territorial stigmatisation in Shirebrook. Shirebrook residents respond to territorial stigma in various ways. Some use the place-making practice of shared humour as a form of stigma inversion (Wacquant et al 2014). This practice of laughing about Shirebrook amongst its residents illustrates the complexities of symbolic violence and the acceptance of Shirebrook's subordinated position whilst simultaneously resisting it. Other negotiation practices involved the fierce defence of the town from the scorn directed by outsiders, whilst some engaged in the lateral denigration of deflecting stigma towards less powerful others such as migrants and the unemployed. This paper contributes to the debates on territorial stigmatisation through its application to a relatively small former coalfield town, which provides the opportunity to extend the concept beyond the urban areas where it is usually applied.

Heritage, Hauntology and Future Paisley: Visions of the Future in Urban Regeneration Discourse(s)

Conor Wilson

(University of the West of Scotland)

Culture and heritage have come to occupy a certain ubiquity within discourse of urban regeneration, particularly in 'post-industrial' contexts. This creates the immediate paradox wherein discourses of the past have become implicated in visions of the future, echoing what Derrida termed 'Hauntology'. Hauntology, for Derrida (1993), describes the (im)possibility of being fully present, instead arguing the present (as a seemingly fixed temporal context) always exists in tandem with the past and the future. Mark Fisher (2014) used the term in a somewhat more specific manner, articulating the tendency to invoke notions of the future by retreating into the past. It is clear, therefore, how this might be applied to discourse(s) on heritage, culture and regeneration insofar as urban regeneration policy has, with increasing frequency, sought to invoke discourse(s) of the past.

The presentation explores recent regeneration policy in the Scottish town of Paisley, and in doing so explores discourse(s) of the past, present and future within the towns 'cultural regeneration' programme. This presentation, therefore, presents a discourse analysis of newspaper coverage between 2015 and 2020 to explore the key messages that have been communicated about Paisley and 'regeneration' and, in doing so, demonstrate how narratives of regeneration in Paisley pivot on discourse(s) of the past to (re)create a vision for the future. This presentation aims, therefore, to generate a series of practical and theoretical questions that might inform further research and debate across the intersecting areas of place, heritage and regeneration.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

"It's just banter": humour and fandom in English football

Mark Doidge

(University of Brighton)

The goalkeeper dives fully extended to the right and turns the ball around the post. A young woman shouts from the crowd, "Does your mother cut your hair". The keeper turns around, grins and prepares for the corner. In amateur and semi-professional football, the crowd is much closer to the pitch and the players are within earshot. Goalkeepers tend to come in for more abuse as they are close to the fans for longer. Abuse, insults and gentle mocking are standard fare in these grounds. Despite being a mainstay of football fan culture, banter has been relatively under-researched academically (Magrath 2016; Redhead 2015; Rivers and Ross 2019). Linguistically, banter is the use of putatively offensive language but is inferred as inoffensive or polite (Billig 2005; Culpeper 2011). In these liminal moments, the standard rules of politeness are inversed or ignored. This paper explores the concept of banter within the stadium. Based on ethnographic fieldwork with a semi-professional team in the South of England, this paper will explore the role (and limits) of banter in the construction of football fandom and explore why fans (and players) engage in these verbal battles.

Is integration the gold standard? Enactments of Integrated, Disability-Inclusive Sport Policy by Sporting Organizations in Canada

Andrew Hammond, Andrea Bundon, Caitlin Pentifallo Gadd, Timothy Konoval
(University of Essex)

This paper explores how integrative, disability-inclusive sport policies were translated, adjusted, and interpreted by sporting organizations in British Columbia, Canada. It draws on data from a large-scale, funded qualitative project that conducted thirty semi-structured interviews with managers representing 11 organizations. Techniques of discourse analysis informed the findings. Consistent with Stephen Ball et al.'s (2012) policy enactment theory, contextual dimensions, including budgets, professional cultures, geography, and external pressures from stakeholders and government, mediated how organizations operationalized integration. Findings highlight how organizational circumstances prompted sport managers to enact integration policies in novel ways at the regional level. For instance, able-bodied sporting organizations mediated the adoption of integration policies due to the perceived impact it would have on able-bodied programming. In contrast, disability sport organizations resisted integration out of concern that able-bodied organizations could not deliver the same quality of programming for athletes with disabilities. To thwart the perceived integration threat, disability sport organizations developed novel solutions, such as registering themselves as freestanding organizations and registering their members with able-bodied organizations. This paper prompts sociologists of sport to re-think about the integration of disability and abled-bodied sport as being the "gold standard" of inclusion to re-imagine inclusion outside of the "iron-cage" (Weber, 1958) of integrative disability sport policy. Policy recommendations for Canadian sport and abroad are also discussed.

The Cost of Bare Bones Bridge: Understanding Leisure and its Responses During the Pandemic

Kevin Judge
(University of Stirling)

Both competitive and cooperative, the card game of bridge is a unique form of partnership play that represents a source of self-development and an opportunity for social interaction. Like most areas and aspects of life affected by the coronavirus pandemic, bridge clubs were universally confronted with closures. For many, the leisure pursuit represents a lifeline for community engagement and involvement and is integral to constructing identity. The impact of these closures has meant that bridge communities have responded overwhelmingly through online play. This transition, from offline to online, needs further exploration as the composition of players and social settings are important factors for participation. Online surveys were used to explore the experiences of bridge clubs from England, Scotland and Wales, and club representatives were invited to share the challenges and concerns they faced. By adopting open-ended questions, this method has yielded rich qualitative data for analysis. The emerging themes demonstrate how bridge possesses long established links into physical community spaces and shared sites. These characteristics are common within each of the participating nations, as is the encouragement to stay connected through online play. However, relationships formed with physical spaces and sites, those linked with leisure and play, have potential consequences that suggest this transition, and a willingness to reconnect, will come with compromises that incur short-term and long-term concerns.

Environment and Society

Parenting, Resilience and Climate Futures

Lisa Howard
(University of Edinburgh)

This paper will draw on an ongoing PhD study of UK-based mothers and fathers for whom climate activism is an important aspect of their parenting. 20 interviews and diary studies have revealed notable discourses and everyday practices of building resilience. While resilience is a contested concept in the literature, social resilience is a normative aim in climate risk and adaptation policymaking in the UK. Developed from ecological systems theory, this governance framework relies on decentralised, self-organised risk management. In my study, climate activist mothers and fathers hold numerous understandings of resilience that centre on anticipatory, preparatory and proactive parenting practices to combat fear of near-future ecological and societal breakdown, and perceptions of threat to children's wellbeing. My analysis suggests a middle class, white environmental parenting culture that draws on various resources and social

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capital to build emotional strength and positive affectivity for ongoing campaigning efforts. Children are idealised as representations of a hopeful future, with raising a resilient child part of the climate activist project. Importantly, narratives of resilience reflect individualised understandings, without acknowledging the relational and socioeconomic factors in climate change vulnerability and adaptability. Drawing on futurity, risk and ecological responsabilisation theories, the paper will consider whether resilience building in parent climate activism represents a paradox: Resilience culture and practice as forms of activism are a resistance to the state's failure to safeguard the planet and children's future wellbeing, but are simultaneously an outcome of neoliberal processes of responsabilisation that compel a moralised, self-managed climate risk and adaptation.

The climate crisis: public perceptions, values and practice

Sarah Irwin

(University of Leeds)

Public values are a crucial component of an adequate social science of the climate crisis, its societal impacts and prospects for meaningful intervention. Different, influential, perspectives (from psychological, behavioural and environmental values research) tend to essentialise values and treat them as individual possessions, to be tweaked or tapped into by policy makers seeking to effect change. Theories of practice offer a profound critique, switching the analytic lens away from individuals and onto the carbon intensive social, institutional and cultural arrangements through which people enact their daily lives and which, in turn, they reproduce (eg. Shove 2010). Here, the sociological focus is on the temporal making, reproduction and demise of social practices. In this framing we must still ask how public values intersect with such dynamics: how are values situated and how do they relate to social practice and change? In exploring these questions, the paper describes results from a new survey into public values and the climate crisis, based in Leeds (N=1676). We focus on survey responses to vignettes posing everyday dilemmas and participants' reasoning here. The data situates public values in relation to examples of everyday practice (cf. Mason 2002) and contributes to understanding complexity in public views, particularly relating to individual, collective and structural responses to the climate crisis. We additionally reflect on the scope for informing deliberative engagement between members of the public and city level policy actors regarding principles for policy making, and for alternative framings of practice.

Towards Sustainable Property? On Sustainability Futures and the Ownership of Nature

Philipp Degens

*(Humanities Center for Advanced Studies "Futures of Sustainability: Modernization, Transformation, Control",
University of Hamburg, Germany)*

This contribution explores the relation between ownership and sustainability on a conceptual level by showing how institutionalisations of ownership of nature are tied to imaginations of sustainability futures. It specifically examines different imaginaries of sustainable property by asking how private property rights and their restrictions are conceptualised as instruments for sustainability.

First, I show, following Adloff and Neckel (2019), that different sustainability trajectories – modernisation, transformation, and control – rely on different processes, values and underlying conceptions of the future. Secondly, I compare conflicting notions of property that mainly rest in Western jurisprudence and political theory. This allows to identify two major traditions in property thought that build on atomist or relational conceptions of society and property, respectively. Property might be conceived as an owners' exclusive control over an object, or as a "bundle of rights" that comprises entitlements, restrictions, and obligations to various actors.

Thirdly, the contribution analyses the entanglements of these two contested concepts of sustainability and property. Mainly within the paradigm of modernisation as a trajectory of sustainability, the two fundamental traditions in property theory refer to different approaches to encode sustainability into property law: i) propertisation, i.e. the extension of private property forms, as in the case of carbon emission trading schemes; ii) the acknowledgment of social and environmental obligations inherent to property, illustrated by the social obligation norm in German Law. Finally, I briefly examine debates on "rights of nature" with regard to their implications for a more transformative sustainable property trajectory.

A Class-Based Concern-Behaviour Gap in Pro-Environmental Behaviour? Evidence from a Multigroup Structural Equation Model

Robbe Geerts, Frédéric Vandermoere, Stijn Oosterlynck
(University of Antwerp)

Among other solutions, we increasingly look towards individual behaviour in the struggle against environmental issues. However, research has pointed out a gap between people's environmental concern and pro-environmental behaviour. While many studies have connected social class to pro-environmental behaviour, less is known about the class-based nature of these behavioural inconsistencies. Against this background, Flemish survey data (n=1449) was analysed to examine whether the size of the concern-behaviour gap differs between income and educational groups (respectively low, medium and high income & primary educated or less, secondary or tertiary educated). Multigroup structural equation modelling was used to investigate the influence of environmental concern on pro-environmental behaviour in each group (for curtailment behaviour, shopping, transport, and waste sorting). Results firstly suggest that people direct their environmental concern towards pro-environmental transport and shopping, rather than curtailment and sorting waste. People seem to translate their concern in pro-environmental behaviours that are visible, which may therefore highlight their environmental awareness. Secondly, the concern-behaviour gap appears to differ between educational groups, while it did not significantly differ between income groups. Specifically, the gap is smallest among highly educated groups. Moreover, environmental concern does not appear significantly related to pro-environmental behaviour among the primary educated or less. This is consistent with research that identifies an eco-powerlessness among lower classes. People may need certain cultural resources to align their behaviour with their environmental concerns. In conclusion, results indicate that the cultural dimensions of social class may determine the size of the concern-behaviour gap, rather than its economic dimension.

Families and Relationships 1

Auto/Biographical experiences of university students from military families: the same but different?

Anne Chappell, Christopher Ince, Ellen McHugh
(Brunel University London)

There is a general growing interest in the community of university students and the ways in which they experience higher education. There is associated interest in the barriers faced by some children in accessing and participating in higher education, one group of whom are those from military families. Given the relatively limited current, recent and historic knowledge about this particular group, our research responds to the call from the Office for Students for universities to understand the 'very specific and complex barriers faced by children from military families in accessing and succeeding in higher education' (OfS, 2020: para 9).

We collected data from university students from military families using online questionnaires and interviews to explore their experiences prior to joining and during their time at university. In their accounts about education they shared stories about other aspects of their lives including moving schools, moving house, moving country and bereavement. They also talked about the associated educational, emotional and social experiences, some of which they felt were positive and some challenging. Experiences of transition, change, disruption and loss, recognised as 'ordinary trauma', are evident across the university student population as a reflection of society (Sinor, 2017). However, this research demonstrates that the causes are very particular in the case of this group of students which sets them apart from the broader community: the same but also different to their peers. This research raises some important considerations for universities in seeking to understand and provide future support for this group of students.

Friendship Temporalities: Critical Reflections on the Politics of Time and Intimacy

Kinneret Lahad
(Tel-Aviv University)

The paper is part of a new research project, the aim of which is to develop a conceptual framework for analyzing friendship temporalities. Viewing temporality as a key element in theorizing friendships leads to ever-deeper questions as: How temporal iterations shape friendship relations and conversely how do perceptions of friendship designate particular articulations and registers of time? How are friendship rhythms created and disrupted and how does time define the boundaries of friendship and the value of friendship itself? A case is made why friendship ties are a significant site to explore heteronormative temporalities as well as the temporal boundaries and suffusion between friendship and family relations. This paper will present an analysis of themes presented in a range of online texts and qualitative

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interviews with a focus on temporal inequalities, time investment, being out of sync, access to time and friendship futurities. The paper concludes by reflecting on how the conceptualisation of women's friendship can offer a novel contribution to the emerging scholarship of the politics of time and intimate relations.

Constructing students as family members: contestations in media and policy representations across Europe

Anu Lainio, Rachel Brooks
(University of Surrey)

This paper provides a comparative analysis of the ways in which students are constructed as family members within newspaper articles and the narratives of a range of policy influencers across five European countries: Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland and Spain. It articulates with two bodies of scholarship: one that discusses the north-south dichotomy in family ties across Europe, and another that argues that, over recent years, we have witnessed a process of 'southern Europeanisation' of policies across the continent – i.e. that as many governments adopt funding policies which assume significant contribution from families, young people become increasingly reliant on their parents to support their time in higher education. Based on the analysis, the paper outlines three constructions of students as family members: 1) students as integral family members, 2) students as independent actors, and 3) students in a position of ambivalence. It then goes on to explore some of the likely reasons for the national differences, considering both structural and cultural influences. It concludes by suggesting that while some trends towards 'southern Europeanisation' are evident, the north-south dichotomy in family relationships is played out in more complex ways with respect to higher education.

Living with Brexit: Families, Relationships and Everyday Life in 'Brexit Britain'

Katherine Davies, Adam Carter
(The University of Sheffield)

It is often asserted that Brexit has had a divisive and destructive impact on personal relationships, yet little sociological attention has been given to the lived experiences of families in 'Brexit Britain'. Drawing on an ESRC funded study that traces how families are making their way through these troubled times, this paper argues that it is necessary to explore the ways that Brexit is entangled with people's existing lives and relationships. Data generated through repeated 'ethnographic encounters' with a small number of families over time - including biographical interviews, 'Gogglebox'-style television elicitation, diary keeping and 'hanging out' - highlights the ways that Brexit is woven into the fabric of everyday family practices such as mundane interactions, tactile embodied intimacies, humorous exchanges, domestic chores and leisure time.

We demonstrate how Brexit is experienced within family relationships, emphasising the ways Brexit maps onto existing webs of relationships, sometimes enhancing feelings of connection, sometimes exacerbating perceived differences. Other times Brexit is experienced as a more fleeting presence, existing on the periphery of or bubbling beneath family life, coming to light in moments of heightened activity in Westminster or personally significant moments such as a family event. In directing our sociological gaze towards the continuity of everyday life in Brexit Britain rather than focusing on disruption, we offer a nuanced understanding of the emotional, relational and day-to-day realities of living with Brexit.

Families and Relationships 2

Re-thinking kinship: adult-children raised by LGBTQ parents negotiate relatedness and family futures

Eliza Garwood
(University of Southampton)

Current research suggests that aspiring LGBTQ parents go through a process of imagining how their children will understand their future kinship circles, particularly when these families involve both biological and non-biological parents. Much of the work in this field has looked at such plans during the moment of conception. However, the story of how this unravels once children arrive and grow up often goes untold. This presentation draws on 30 biographical interviews with adult-children raised by LGBTQ parents, to examine how these adults understand their family relationships as they age. In particular, I consider the possibilities and alternative futures LGBTQ-headed families offer children, as well as the ways that people raised in these families may resist the kinship structures their parents and

donors have laid out for them. We are currently at a point in time where children are conceived in a myriad of different ways, however this has also been accompanied by an increasing emphasis on genetics and biological relatedness, with the rise of DNA testing sites as a prime example. Through looking at the ongoing lives of people raised by LGBTQ parents within this context, we can examine how adult-children may re-think and re-make their future family relationships, and ultimately re-shape what might have been thought to be clear, delineated arrangements. These narratives suggest that children from LGBTQ-headed families are able to re-imagine genetic and non-genetic family networks, and may conceptualise kinship in innovative and creative ways.

Deferred Connection: making sense of 'missing' childhood in the narratives of egg and sperm donors

Leah Gilman

(University of Manchester)

In this presentation, I will examine how notions of 'missing childhood' come into play in the narratives of egg and sperm donors who understand themselves to be temporarily and provisionally unknown to the people conceived from their donation. Donors generally expect to be (largely or completely) absent during their donor offspring's childhood and teenage years but anticipate meeting them in early adulthood. For many, the timing of this contact was perceived to be key in shaping the possibilities for future connection between them.

Drawing on qualitative interviews with 52 donors, I show that absence during childhood is associated with different relational possibilities. In a small minority of cases, missing childhood can give rise to the stigmatised identity of the 'bad parent.' In most other cases, it is associated with a more positive understanding of themselves as a benign but non-parental presence and works against the future possibility of relating to one another as family.

My aim in sharing these examples of deferred connection is to provoke a discussion about the significance of timing in shaping the relational possibilities arising from interaction. How does the passing of time, and particularly the passing of (a culturally specific understanding of) childhood, shape the ways in which people imagine and experience connecting with others in the present and future?

'I don't think you would ever be ready financially': Men contemplating fatherhood in a time of economic precarity

Caroline Law

(De Montfort University)

The concept of a 'right time' to have children can shape individuals' reproductive trajectories, particularly within economically and socially privileged groups. Yet this concept has been critiqued and deconstructed by social science researchers and participants alike. This paper reports findings from qualitative interviews with men (n=25) who do not have children but want or expect to have them in the future, in which men discussed their views about the 'right time' to have children and their expectations and imaginaries for their own reproductive futures. While past research reports men to place great importance on achieving optimal financial, material and career circumstances before having children, findings from the present study were more varied with such optimisation being seen as ideal but not necessarily realistic, with men's anticipated trajectories often guided by pragmatism. The paper suggests this may reflect the timing of the study which took place in a (post-2008 recession) labour market and economic climate characterised by insecurity, precarity and instability; a climate which makes financial optimisation more elusive, leaving individuals with limited agency; and a climate which only looks set to continue in the wake of Covid-19. This presentation explores the findings in the context of theories of individualisation, connectedness and pragmatism, and of notions of 'intimate fatherhood' and the role of 'breadwinner'; as well the ways in which the current economic climate may have reduced the achievability of the 'right time' for fatherhood even amongst 'middle class' men - and therefore further de-stabilised it as a concept.

Telling reproductive stories: Social scripts, relationality and donor conception

Petra Nordqvist

(University of Manchester)

Storytelling is a fundamental part of human interaction; it is also deeply social and political in nature. In this paper, I explore reproductive storytelling as a phenomenon of sociological consequence. I do so in the context of donor conception, which used to be managed through secrecy but where children are now perceived 'to have the right' to know about their genetic origins. I draw on original qualitative data with families of donor conceived children, and bringing

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my data into conversation with social script theory and the concept of relationality, I investigate the disjuncture between the value now placed on openness and storytelling, and the absence of an existing social script by which to do so. I show the nuanced ways in which this absence plays out on relational playing-fields, within multidimensional, intergenerational relationships. I suggest that in order to understand sociologically the significance and process of reproductive storytelling, it is vital to keep both the role of social scripts, and embedded relationality, firmly in view.

Lifecourse

Ageing population and retirement: research using a mixed methods approach

Francisca Ortiz

(University of Manchester)

We live in a world where social relations are crossed with diverse inequalities, which manifest themselves over time and particularly with pensions. Chile makes a great case study, due to its status as a developing country and its high level of social inequality, being one of the unequal countries in the OECD. The year 1973 brought a military coup led by General Augusto Pinochet, and the subsequent dictatorship laid the foundations for the current neoliberal economic system. In 1980, during the dictatorship, the “Pensions Administrative Funds” pension system was launched, consisting of privately managed and individually owned retirement accounts, and became the world’s first state-endorsed privatised pension system. The system reinforced the country’s baseline inequality over the long-term, with differences in terms of life trajectory, characterised by inequalities relating to gender and social class. Accordingly, the main objective of this thesis is to understand the different paths taken by Chile’s senior citizens in their personal lives, to deal with their pensions and all the cost of living at the same time.

The proposed framework would be the mixture between some theories of social gerontology and relational sociology. The methodology consists of the construction of personal networks with a mixed method approach, specifically social network and qualitative comparative analysis. Finally, this presentation is going to be the first results of the research, making visible how support networks contribute in the way of struggle with the current pension of each person.

Looking at inner-city end-of-life care work using institutional ethnography in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Courtney Petruik

(University of Calgary)

The Canadian health system purports to be universally accessible to all Canadians; however, gaps in service remain for some groups. Persons experiencing homelessness have more difficulties accessing appropriate healthcare than their stably-housed counterparts. This inequity along with heightened risks of serious illness that exist for people who are living rough contribute to this group’s much lower life expectancy (Hwang et al., 2009). Most people in developed nations can expect to live well into their eighties, but persons experiencing homelessness do not enjoy the same longevity with a life expectancy of approximately 30 years less than the general population (Cipkar & Dosani, 2016). Many individuals facing unstable housing have life-limiting illnesses and require care that addresses their unique circumstances and end-of-life care needs and wishes. The current health system fails to meet these needs and has resulted in healthy equity advocates establishing grassroots organizations in Canadian metropolitan areas to address this gap in services. The Calgary Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP) is one of these organizations. CAMPP is a non-profit team that works with individuals who are unstably housed and experiencing a life-limiting illness. The current research uses an institutional ethnographic approach to examine the work of CAMPP in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This presentation will focus on the preliminary findings of the investigation including a detailed account of CAMPP’s unique work, the multi-sectoral, systemic relationships and accountability frameworks that shape the organization of this work, and a special commentary on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on this work.

Failing health and social care in the UK: austerity, neoliberal ideology and precarity

Bethany Simmonds

(The University of Portsmouth)

This paper presents national-level analysis, discussing the impact of globalisation and neoliberalism on health and social care policy in the UK, using Grenier et al’s (2020) theorisation of precarity as a framework for analysis. They argue that

a paradigm shift from welfare to active to precarious ageing has taken place. From the 1990s, neoliberalism and deregulation of employment protection and pension provision has led to an emphasis on extending working lives, participation in unpaid labour and the maintenance of independence. In contrast, since 2008, when the economic crisis hit, there has been an erosion of secure labour, increasing gaps emerging between generations and a weakening of rights to social protection in law. The analysis in this paper begins with a discussion of austerity policy and the ensuing erosion of social protections in relation to employment and working rights of health and social care staff. This is followed by discussion of the effects of large private shareholding organisations entering the (low-risk and high-yield) social care market. The conglomerates Southern Cross and Four Seasons are used as case studies, illustrating how asset-stripping, reductions in labour costs, and the weakening of employment law has led to greater precarity for both health and social care workers and for older people. The Covid-19 pandemic shone a very bright light on these precarities and their devastating effects.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

'A limpet on a ship': spatio-temporal imaginaries of patient and public involvement in research

Stan Papoulias, Felicity Callard
(University of Glasgow)

While there is now considerable research on the potential impact of patient and public involvement (PPI) in health research, little explicit attention has been paid to how the choreography and performance of collaborative research also affects how PPI is envisaged and practised – not least in installing futures that constrain how PPI takes place in the present. The spatio-temporal imaginaries of highly regulated and governed collaborative settings, such as funded health research, are beholden to numerous stakeholders and conditioned by tight timelines. We present an ethnography of meetings for an applied mental health project aiming to enhance 'patient activation' in an inner city mental health trust. Drawing on anthropological research that addresses meetings as sites of production and reproduction of institutional cultures and external contexts, we investigate how these functions of meetings affect the potential contributions of patients, carers and the public in research. The paper theorizes four means through which oversight meeting regulate research, install imagine futures, and constrain the possibilities for PPI: a logic of 'deliverables' and imagined external interlocutors; the performance of inclusion; the positioning PPI in a constitutive 'elsewhere' of research that frequently is relocated to an anticipated future which might never arrive; and the use of meetings to embed apprenticeship for junior researchers which narrows the horizon of what is possible. PPI, on our analysis, is essentially out of sync from the institutional logic of 'deliverables', such that any substantive effort to embed PPI in research requires challenging this logic and its spatio-temporal imaginaries.

For Whose Benefit? Service User Involvement, Co-Design and Quality Improvement in the NHS

Arbaz Kapadi
(University of Sheffield)

The last decade has seen renewed impetus for the involvement of service users in the design and delivery of healthcare services, recently described as a 'Zeitgeist' moment (Palmer et al., 2018; Sheard et al., 2019). Strong policy rhetoric abounds with aspirations of 'patients at the centre', whilst further ambitions call for the 'co-production of healthcare' (Batalden et al., 2016). At the same time, the spread of quality improvement (QI) methodology continues across healthcare, with QI calling for the combined efforts of multiple stakeholders – that includes patients, families and carers (Batalden, 2018). Seemingly, then, co-production, co-design and QI have much in common.

This presentation draws on findings from a PhD-level study conducted in one UK Health and Social Care Trust, exploring the scope and agenda for 'co-designed QI' and what roles service users are able to occupy within spaces of QI. Data is drawn from interviews across a range of stakeholders involved in QI (n=25) and observation of three QI microsystem teams followed over several months (situated within respective inpatient mental health and community brain injury settings). Findings implicated tensions over the sharing of power in co-design and QI, with QI largely remaining within the authority of the professional. This authority extended to the selection process in who was deemed 'suitable' for QI, highlighting further tensions of identity and representativeness. This presentation advances focus on these key themes through lenses of power in an attempt to make sense of this space of co-design and QI, whilst questioning for whose benefit?

Co-producing citizen science about health and environment.

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Kath Maguire

(University of Exeter College of Medicine and Health)

This presentation outlines co-production of a citizen science research proposal about Environment Health and Society, inspired by and undertaken during the Covid-19 lockdown of spring and summer 2020.

Health and Environment Public Engagement (HEPE) is a group of citizens from Cornwall and Plymouth who support research investigating complex interactions between environment, health and society. HEPE developed a pattern of quarterly meeting with researchers from the universities of Plymouth and Exeter, with additional project based workshops, opportunities to review documents by email and post.

During the lockdown, when many research projects were paused and face to face meetings postponed, HEPE also kept in touch through weekly online 'drop-in' sessions. Facilitated by a sociologist and an administrator, these provide mutual support and a forum for 'quick bite' discussions of research projects and proposals. In reality they proved a fertile ground for the co-production of new research ideas, based on prior engagement and current experiences.

Drawing on projects about wellbeing effects of access to nature, and on how this could be mediated by technology, HEPE decided to explore benefits of live-streaming natural environments. They developed a conceptual model linking citizens, communities and academics; then set about identifying a research team and funders who could support this work.

Community engagement and citizen science have been increasingly promoted by research funders and institutions concerned to support knowledge production and promote scientific literacy. This presentation will explore the theoretical and practical implications for this method of research co-creation in the field of Environment Health and Society.

Who Designs Welfare Policy?

Ewen Speed

(University of Essex)

Contemporary society and politics are consistently constituted as being in a state of democratic deficit. Practices of engagement and involvement are routinely mobilised to address this deficit, e.g. research funders who insist upon funding proposals including documented processes of engagement with people who have lived experience of the research topic. These approaches to engagement are now orthodox in the context of health and social care research. Whilst laudable, there are a number of issues with the ways in which these processes of engagement and involvement play out. The particular problem we pick up in this paper is the disconnect between health and social care policy and welfare policy. There is none of the same perceived democratic deficit in welfare policy, and there is little imperative to involve people with lived experience of welfare benefits in processes of policy development. At best, government departments might focus group new policies with members of the public. Recent changes to incapacity benefit, and the introduction of sanctions and conditionality in relation to the Work Related Activity Group were developed without any significant involvement of disabled peoples groups, in ways that would not be acceptable were this the health policy arena. In this paper we try to explore this difference, in an attempt to develop a theoretical understanding of the differences between the participative imperative in health policy as opposed to welfare policy. We conclude by asking a number of questions around what participative welfare policy might look like, and how it might be realised.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

What's in an ending? Possible and impossible futures in narratives of self-harm

Veronica Heney

(University of Exeter)

Disability Studies increasingly questions what futures of disability are imagined or assumed to be available. Unsurprisingly, in my doctoral research into fictional representations of self-harm the endings of narratives, and what futures those endings made possible or foreclosed, emerged as a particular area of concern. This paper combines analysis of data from qualitative interviews with people with experience of self-harm with close readings of fictional texts to explore how narrative structure and closure or endings in fiction might provide a frustrating or limited view of the lives of people who self-harm. Bringing together sociological and literary methods and concerns allows for a nuanced

examination both of the role which narrative plays in our lives and our societies, but also for the way in which personal, lived experience might impact the effect (or affect) of a fictional text. This paper will explore themes from the data which included an awareness of the ways narratives mandated a certain form of recovery or cessation, a tendency to combine cessation of self-harm with a narrative of heterosexual romantic fulfilment, and the impact of concluding narratives of self-harm with death or dying. These concerns and their impact on participants' lives can be helpfully framed by Eli Clare and Alison Kafer's writing on recovery and disabled futurities and work by the activist collective Recovery in the Bin on the concept "neo-recovery," allowing us to ask more broadly what should or could the concepts both of 'endings' or 'futures' mean in the context of self-harm.

Dementia and Alzheimer's Disease: Effects of Policy Intervention to Early Diagnosis in England, 2006-2016

Kamila Kolpashnikova
(University of Oxford)

There are ethical reservations about early diagnosis of dementia-related diseases. As a result, from the initial emphasis on the early detection of dementia, the UK policy strategy recommends refraining from diagnosing dementia for younger elderly. This study adds additional evidence of the effectiveness of the National Dementia Strategy and early diagnosis of dementia on the younger cohorts of the elderly. Using the intrinsic-estimator models and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing data, this study shows that cohort effects indicate lower prevalence in younger cohorts controlled for age and period. Although more research in diverse contexts is warranted, this study cautions against the abandonment of early diagnosis and prevention strategies on the national level.

'You have to do something': Snoring, sleep interembodiment and the emergence of agency

Dana Zarhin
(University of Haifa)

Although the sociology of sleep is a growing subfield, little is known about agency in the context of sleep. This article contributes to the sociological literature by showing how different types of agency emerge as a result of sleep interembodiment (i.e., experiencing sleep partners' bodies as intertwined). Drawing on in-depth interviews with snorers and sleep partners, the study shows that two types of agency coexist and, in fact, co-constitute one another: The first type, herein termed material agency, reflects the post-humanist tradition, which conceptualizes agents as entities that alter a state of affairs by making a difference in another agent's action. This type of agency exists in both wakefulness and throughout periods of sleep, as the snorer's body acts and interacts with a partner's body in ways that engender significant change in their lives, relationships and actions. In contrast, the second type, herein termed reflexive agency, reflects the humanist tradition, which regards agency as individuals' creative and assertive capacities motivated by intentionality and reflexivity. This type of agency declines significantly during stages of deep sleep but re-emerges in response to partners' actions. The article adds to the literature by refining the concept of agency and elucidating its relationship to both accountability and interembodiment. In addition, the article provides much-needed empirical evidence showing how 'personal responsibility' for health, as required by neoliberal discourses, is invoked within families, specifically with regard to sleep. This study therefore shows how certain macro-level structures of neoliberalism are enacted and reinforced within micro-level interactions.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

Struggles, Sabar and Selflessness: The Lived Experiences of Pakistani and Bangladeshi Muslim (PBM) Lone Mothers

Sarah Akhtar Baz
(University of Sheffield)

PBM women, particularly those who have migrated to England, have been problematised and presented in public policy and popular discourse as oppressed passive victims who are limited to their domestic role (Anitha et al 2012; Alexander 2013). There have been various public reports focusing on women in Muslim communities, their lack of English language proficiency and integration into the wider community. However, by exploring lived experiences these narratives can be challenged. My research focuses on the lived experiences of PBM lone mothers in a Northern English city, their intersecting identities and the support provided by South Asian women's organisations in facilitating their agency. The

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majority of lone mothers in the study are those who migrated to England (e.g. after marriage). This paper will present findings from the study by illustrating the lived experiences, struggles (e.g. financial struggles, loneliness), 'sabar', selflessness and agency of lone mothers. In particular 'sabar' (Urdu and Arabic term) loosely translates to enacting 'patience' or 'endurance' but can also extend to exercising an act of 'strength', 'resilience' and thus 'agency' in difficult circumstances (Qureshi 2013; 2016). Central to experiences of lone mothers is their identity and role as mothers. Altogether the study's findings contribute to developing an intersectional theoretical approach to examining PBM lone mothers' struggles, agency, resilience, experiences of exclusion, recovery and adaptation, challenging perceptions around PBM women in England. Exploring such experiences are all the more relevant now as the current climax can further disadvantage and marginalise PBM lone mothers.

The trap of Chinese ethnic category

Alex Chelegeer

(School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds)

It is a widely spread stereotype that China is a single monoculture country, populated entirely by the homogeneous Han people who all speak the same language. The fact is that the People's Republic of China today is founded by combining Inner Mongolia, Tibet, Xinjiang, and other ethnic areas together. Indeed, there are 55 national minorities, known as the MINZU category, with state-certificated communities of people and distinct languages, customs, economic lives, and psychological make-ups in culture, whose autonomous habitats account for 64% of the country's total land territory. While tracing back to the period from the 1940s to the 1980s, as many scholars argued, the MINZU category was created and highly politicalized with certain administrative purposes under the model of Soviet ethnicities. This research will carry on the idea and examine how the MINZU category and related policies continuously impact local citizens especially after the Soviet Union collapsed along its ethnic lines. On one hand, the MINZU issue has become sensitive and crucial to the central government; while on the other hand, different from researchers like Waters and Song who argue ethnic options, the Chinese ethnic youngsters are inevitably inheriting certain ethnic identity through the administrative HUKOU system. From a grounded theory approach, some interviewees mentioned their feelings as being trapped by the category, while others expressed their willingness to take their ethnic identity into daily use. This paper will take this Chinese case to more general debates on the sociology of ethnicity.

Doing Ethnicity—the Multi-Layered Meaning of Ethnic Scripts in Contemporary China

Jingyu Mao

(The University of Edinburgh)

Drawing on the case of ethnic performers in Southwest China, this paper seeks to propose a novel theoretical lens which regards ethnicity as something people do rather than who they are. Ethnic performers are people who perform ethnic songs and dances in restaurants or sightseeing points, most of whom are rural-urban migrants. Ethnic performers' ambivalence feelings around whether they are 'authentic minorities' points to the importance of inadequacy of understanding ethnicity in an essentialised way. By understanding ethnicity as something people do, 'ethnic scripts' was proposed as a conceptual tool to illuminate the cultural and social repertoire about ethnicity which deeply shaped people's practices and understanding of ethnicity. By exploring the multi-layered meaning of ethnic scripts in contemporary China, this article also highlights the ways that ethnic scripts are closely related to migrant performers' emotions and sense of self, and the fact that ethnic scripts are inherently gendered.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Lockdown and the Spatial and Temporal Reshaping of Asylum Seeker and Refugee Everyday Lives

Robin Finlay, Peter Hopkins, Matt Benwell

(Newcastle University)

The spatiality and temporality of our everyday lives have been reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic. Lockdown measures to reduce the spread of the disease are restricting the use of public spaces and changing how we interact with people. Whilst the pandemic effects are felt everywhere, the impacts are considered greatest for disadvantaged and marginalised populations in urban areas (Kasinitz, 2020). Within the national context of the UK, one such population who face precarious and disadvantaged everyday circumstances are those seeking asylum and refuge. Since the early BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future 70th Anniversary

1990s, under a premise of a humanitarian response, there is considered to have been a 'systemic impoverishment' (Mayblin et al, 2019) of displaced people by consecutive governments. In this paper then, we examine the impacts of the pandemic and lockdown on the overlapping experiences of asylum seekers, refugees and asylum service providers in Newcastle-Gateshead between March and August 2020 – the peak period of the UK's first national lockdown. In particular, we examine the spatial and temporal reshaping of asylum seeker and refugee everyday lives. We argue that the loss of access to everyday physical spaces of support, solidarity and recreation is exacerbating urban isolation and the 'suspension' of refugee lives. However, we also illustrate forms of resilience to lockdown and creative strategies to reimagine space, spatial practices and solidarity. From this vantage point, we reflect on what the pandemic and lockdown reveal about asylum seeker and refugee marginalisation and the role of non-state urban infrastructures of care and solidarity in times of crisis.

Landscape of civil society organisations in the UK and Sweden in relation to neighbourhood diversity and deprivation

Juta Kawalerowicz, Magda Borkowska, Gabriella Elgenius, Jenny Phillimore
(Department of Human Geography)

The aim of this paper is to explore the relation between civil society organisations (CSOs) prevalence, ethnic diversity and deprivation at the neighbourhood level. We look at official statistics from the United Kingdom and Sweden, two European countries with different welfare state regimes and different civil society traditions. Our point of departure is Putman's assertion about diversity having a negative effect on trust, thus limiting the prevalence of civil activity at the neighbourhood level (2007). But are diverse neighbourhoods really charity deserts? We account (i.e. control for) neighbourhood level deprivation, since it is known that more deprived areas have less CSOs than affluent ones. If Putman's assertion was right, we would expect to see similar patterns in both countries, but our initial results suggests that this is not the case. For example, while unemployment is negatively associated with CSOs density at the neighbourhood level in both countries, in the United Kingdom percent of foreign-born residents is positively related to CSOs density, while in Sweden it is negatively associated.

The relation between gentrification and work in restaurants of a Parisian neighbourhood. What racial dimension reveals.

Jiyoung Kim
(IDHE.S-Nanterre, Université Paris Nanterre)

Although gentrification has become more than an ordinary research subject, a racial dimension of Parisian neighbourhood has rarely been studied. Focusing on the restaurants which started coming up since the end of 1990s in Canal Saint-Martin neighbourhood in Paris, I would like to shed a light on how this urban and commercial phenomenon articulate with racial questions. First, I will show that the gentrification through restaurants relies upon erasing contemporary histories of minority groups, especially from Maghreb which belonged to French Empire, who lived and worked in this neighbourhood. It appears especially through the rhetoric of pioneering entrepreneurs who participated actively in the gentrification, saying regularly that "there was nothing here, it was filthy and dangerous because of drug trafficking". Secondly, I will suggest three groups of restaurant entrepreneurs according to their career: gentrified entrepreneur, gentrifying entrepreneur and gentrifying investor to demonstrate their heterogeneity. Finally, I will focus on the relation between the culinary offers representing diversity of all over the world and the division of labour between the kitchen and hall. While non-white migrant workers are concentrated in the kitchen, most of waiters and waitresses are young white students. I argue that these aspects reveal the relation of power as consequences of persisting heritage of colonial history reproducing Parisian context. This focus on racial relations, through the approach articulating urban and labour sociology, suggests also overcoming a dilemma of studying a postcolonial city in European countries, reflecting directly the Eurocentric historical perspective.

Social Capitals and the Structural Integration of Jewish 'Postcolonial' Migrants in Britain

Liran Morav
(University of Cambridge)

In the decades following decolonization almost all Jewish inhabitants of newly-independent Middle Eastern countries left for Israel, Europe and North America. In Britain and France, the structural integration of these "postcolonial" Jewish

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migrants proved very successful. Professionally and educationally, Jewish post-colonial immigrants and their children are, by and large, firmly embedded in the British middle class. Paradoxically, even though Jewish minorities in Europe are known for their high levels of solidarity and social capital, no previous studies have analysed the social capital mechanisms underpinning Jewish migrants' favourable integration outcomes.

This study employs a social capital framework to examine the role of Jewish interpersonal and organizational assistance in the structural integration of Jewish postcolonial migrants in Britain. The data used in the study derive from 30 Problem-centred Interviews with former Jewish refugees from Egypt and Iraq, as well as from the historical administrative records of Britain's principal Jewish migrant-assistance organizations.

Based on these data, the study identifies four categories of integration-facilitating social capital (SC): family SC, ethnic SC, Jewish-informal SC, and Jewish-institutional SC. The impact of these SC categories on Jewish immigrants' integration trajectories depended, in part, on the personal history and structural position of each refugee in his or her origin country. These findings highlight how migrants' pre-migration histories influence their subsequent integration processes in destination countries. More generally, the study reiterates the importance of social capital in refugee integration and offers a more nuanced understanding of ethnic capital.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1

Art Worlds Online: Memes, Labour and Politics

Idil Galip

(University of Edinburgh)

There exists a specific category of absurdist and subversive meme art on “post-internet” (Connor 2017, Olson 2018) Instagram. Created by a community of internet artists (i.e. The Bottom Text Collective @thebottomtext), these memes seek to alienate Instagram's mainstream, viral-meme consuming audience through grotesque aesthetics and transgressive subject matters. I define these memes as “niche-memes”. This project is an ethnography of Instagram's niche-meme community. It explores how niche-memes facilitate the creation of new markets and mutual-aid networks, and become sites of online public intellectualism. Many niche-meme creators are “diversified workers” (Gandini 2016) and have various streams of income through different types of work. They monetise a large variety of content through subscription services, individual patrons, sponsorships, freelance media production and e-commerce, creating a meme-economy. While using an entrepreneurial logic to fund their art and make a living, they also critique this logic through their art and resist it by cultivating mutual-aid networks built on leftist ideals of equal resource distribution. Through creative practice, economic activity and resistance, they further online political debate about issues such as social inequalities, algorithmic bias, and gender equality. Investigating how these artists make platforms work for them provides an opportunity to re-conceptualise memes, digital labour and platform resistance.

Study-abroad expertise redefined? How social media platforms facilitate student mobility from India to Germany

Sazana Jayadeva

(University of Surrey)

Commercially-run education agents have long been viewed in India as experts with respect to study abroad. However, over the last five years new infrastructures to acquire and exchange study-abroad-related information have developed on social media platforms, which are challenging the expertise of these ‘traditional’ study-abroad authorities.

I will illustrate this by presenting two case studies focused on postgraduate-level student migration from India to Germany. First, I will discuss the emergence of mutual-support WhatsApp groups, which prospective international students from across India use to navigate the application process. In these groups, information about the German higher education system and technicalities of the application process has become an expertise that members seek, cultivate, and share. Second, I will discuss a new genre of wildly-popular YouTube channels, run by Indians studying in Germany, which offer ‘insider knowledge’ of the German education system and application process.

Among prospective international students, the expertise available through the ‘collective mind’ of the WhatsApp groups and YouTube channels is increasingly coming to be viewed as superior to that possessed by professional education agents, and I will show how what counts as study-abroad expertise is being questioned and redefined.

Finally, I will argue that by dramatically increasingly prospective international students' social capital, these new infrastructures of expertise can be seen as democratising access to study abroad.

The paper is based on six months of digital ethnographic fieldwork within 'Study in Germany' WhatsApp groups and YouTube channels, and interviews with 40 Indians studying in Germany.

Experiments in digital sociology: Investigating the birth and death of an online community of practice

Barbara Ribeiro
(University of Manchester)

The year 2020 marked a rapid change in social practices driven by a pandemic, including an increased reliance on online communities of practice to support everyday work and collaborations. Although the emergence of these communities is far from being a new phenomenon, it was only recently that collaborative software and platforms became widely available to support them. In the context of Covid-19, these technologies have allowed complex networks to gather around shared interests and goals, often in self-organised ways. A case in point is a concerted effort towards the production of cheap and readily available ventilators, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE), as Covid-19 started to spread around the globe. Drawing on grounded theory methods, I analyse qualitative and quantitative data extracted from an online community established via Slack, a well-known platform for project collaborations, whose main goal was to produce accessible ventilators and PPE in response to the pandemic. Between March and April 2020, the online community attracted around 2.5k members; by June 2020, activity in the platform had nearly ceased. My study tells the story of this bustling and short-lived online community, focusing on its epistemic practices, structural elements, as well as the relationship between these and the digital environment in which they are inscribed. In doing so, I contribute to debates in digital sociology and science and technology studies (STS) around how we theorise online communities and their socio-material arrangements, and explore the methodological possibilities and limitations of doing this kind of research.

Wasting Time? On TikTok and the possibility of living a 'digital good life' in the future

Andreas Schellewald
(Goldsmiths, University of London)

The paper presents results of a year-long ethnographic investigation into the popular short-video app TikTok and its users located in the Greater London area. TikTok has seen a spike in growth and public attention during the Covid-19 pandemic as its light-hearted content appealed to people trying to fight lockdown boredom. Focussing on how people coped with structures of everyday and social life collapsing, the paper discusses the ways in which mindlessly scrolling through TikTok enabled people to manage their emotions and sense of self while trapped at home. In particular, TikTok will be discussed in relation to three affective states: the 'waiting body', trying to pass time in an otherwise experientially empty situation; the 'tired body', attempting to clear the mind and seeking distraction; the 'energised body', hoping for inspiration from the present structure of feeling unfolding on the screen. The paper does so by contrasting popular critiques rendering social media apps like TikTok as forces of acceleration and addictive time-wasting machines, providing pleasure in the moment but no fulfilment with life in the long run. Instead, the paper follows digital sociologists and uses the seemingly 'unnatural' setting of digital life in combination with the moment of crisis exercised by the pandemic to rethinking the very notion of 'fulfilment' and its relation to ideas of living a 'good life'. In particular, the paper will outline the importance of non-conscious or affective engagements with the world and highlight the need for more investigation into the social organisation of such engagements.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 2

Future touch: speculative trajectories of industrial robots that feel

Edmund Barker, Carey Jewitt
(University College London)

This paper maps the speculative trajectories and identifies weak signals around the possibilities for a future touch in industry based on developments in 'robots that feel'. Specifically, our analysis is concerned with developments and possibilities within tactile telerobotics and living machines and their potential uptake in future industries. From this we

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unpack a set of sociopolitical considerations as 'robotic touch' reaches out to remake the future of the tactility of industrial labour. The genesis of this future-facing foci emerged from a multi-sited ethnography that sought to contribute understanding of how emerging robotic technologies influence the social and sensory qualities of touch in the context of industrial labour. Building upon this starting point, this paper foregrounds the informed perspectives of leading academic and industrial figures in these fields of robotics (n = 4). We present findings from interviews situated alongside contemporary perspectives drawn from public resources (e.g. publications, speeches, videos) and ethnographic data (gathered from site visits, networking events, attending webinars etc.). The discussion of robots that feel and their ability to remake touch in future industry is organised into three sections: design anchors; speculative trajectories; and weak signals. Through this the future potentials of digitally mediated touch through industrial robotics are mapped and the sociological implications connected to these considered. Reflecting on these insights lay the groundwork for the emergence of a critical frame from which (digital) sociologists and roboticists might come to view, and create, robots that feel.

In Pandemic Times: Contested Futures of Artificial Intelligence and Automation in Healthcare

David Kampmann

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

This paper critically examines entrepreneurs' futurist claims that Artificial Intelligence (AI) will (partly) replace human doctors with intelligent machines and improve healthcare services for the betterment of society. The paper is situated at the interface of STS and political economy, and seeks to contribute to our understanding of how those futures of AI are constructed, institutionalized, and contested, building on recent work on sociotechnical imaginaries (Jasanoff & Kim, 2015), assetization (Birch & Muniesa 2020), and platform capitalism (Langley & Leyshon 2017; Srnicek 2017).

As part of my PhD research, this study is based on 2 years of multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork in London and Cambridge (UK) in the entrepreneurial space called "digital health" and draws on data from participant observation, interviews and documents. Taking the AI start-up Babylon Health as a starting point, I analyze how venture capitalists, entrepreneurs and policy makers mobilize futures of AI before and after the Covid-19 outbreak to (1) reinforce existing and create new logics of privatization, and (2) to legitimate the construction of new (data) infrastructures in the UK healthcare sector. I show how start-ups capitalize on healthcare data to build AI chatbots for medical diagnosis, and how this assetization process reinforces existing and creates new economic and health inequalities. In contrast, I find that doctors and civil society organisations challenge such AI futures not only by exposing the lacking capabilities of current AI systems and detrimental effects of privatization on healthcare services, but also by questioning the very act of predicting "the future" itself.

Women's digital mediation of sexual identity

Sheena MacRae

(University of Hull)

This presentation outlines a PhD study to explore the role of online life in the construction of sexual identity. Three core categories were constructed from the data illustrating the temporal development of sexual identity through context and experience, the reflexive complexity online life and the specific digital behaviours which both formed and supported sexual identity. These categories were contextualised within a Bourdieuan frame, with reference to a model of agency suggested by Decoteau (2016). The study revealed the contingent nature of agentic sexual behaviour in women and the structural mechanisms within a patriarchal society which can, and do, serve to inhibit this agency. It also demonstrated, through the theorising of a reflexive sexual habitus, the capacity for online means to contribute structurally against these negative forces.

19 women participated sharing their experiences of relationships, sexual choices, concerns about their lives and some disclosed traumatic events that caused lasting emotional pain. The impact of lockdown has meant these women's voices have not yet been heard. The input from the participants together with the theoretical findings suggest that we do not live in atomised culture devoid of feeling for others, but offer hope that our communities are complex and shifting and still capable of helping other's efforts without need of reward. The instigation of the lockdown arrangements and the supportive academic community which developed as a result will be explored to bring context to the completion of the study and its findings.

Living and understanding risk on and via digital platforms: Cancer genetic risk in the digital age

Stefania Vicari
(The University of Sheffield)

Mainstream social media have become invaluable for patients struggling to access health information offline (Vicari and Cappai, 2016), with recent evidence showing that they are now also a key resource to talk and learn about hereditary cancers (Allen et al., 2020; Vicari, 2020). Against this background, with the increasing use of predictive genetic testing, a rising number of individuals are faced with the challenge of knowing they have a higher than average risk of getting cancer from an early age. While obviously impacting the life of those directly involved, this also causes major concerns for professionals and policy. Yet, little is known about how social media platforms influence the experiences and understandings of health and illness in cancer gene carriers, namely, in healthy individuals who are expecting to become patients and who plan their life around - or despite - this expectation.

Drawing on the term 'previvor' - introduced in 2000 on the online message board of non-profit organisation FORCE (2019) and 2007 top buzzword according to Time Magazine (Cruz, 2007) – this paper focuses on 'previvorship', or the condition of coping with a genetic predisposition to cancer prior to cancer occurrence. It explores if, how and to what extent the architectures, vernaculars and (socio-economic) values of (western) social media platforms shape the way previvorship is lived, performed and understood. In doing so, it brings together digital sociology, in particular platform studies, with concepts from the sociology of health and illness.

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Understanding Girls' Perspectives On Grooming

Selena Gray
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

In recent years, numerous high-profile court cases in towns and cities in England has laid bare the grooming of hundreds of girls for the purpose of child sexual exploitation. The groups of men convicted of sexual offences against these girls have been labelled 'grooming gangs' and 'sex grooming networks' within the mainstream media. Current research has consistently shown that girls are disproportionately affected by grooming for child sexual exploitation; however, up to now, research has not paid sufficient attention to girls' perspectives. This paper will consider girls' understandings of what has been termed grooming. It will draw upon initial findings from qualitative research with girls located in London and Manchester; which revealed that many girls perceived situations which met the criteria of men's grooming for the purpose of child sexual exploitation, as girls 'taking advantage' and 'using' men to obtain 'free' takeaways, meals in restaurants or new clothes. This paper will argue that girls' perspectives which depict girls as 'calling the shots' in grooming situations reflects a postfeminist sensibility (Gill 2007) that masks the unequal gendered power relations within grooming situations. In taking seriously girls' perspectives, this research sheds new light on girls' understandings of grooming and child sexual exploitation.

Girls—high-achieving yet unhappy? An auto-ethnographic exploration within the context of China's one-child policy

Yijie Wang
(University of Glasgow)

Both within China and globally, there exists the phenomenon that while female students are outperforming their male counterparts in academic achievements, they lag behind in terms of mental well-being. Drawing on the materials of growing up within China's one-child policy context—a context that offers a unique window in observing gender relations—this study seeks to provide insights regarding this phenomenon through an auto-ethnographic approach. In line with the patriarchal nature of the society at large, historically "son-preference" has been prevalent in China; and yet, the one-child-per-family limit largely renders such preference invalid, and girls as sole heirs receive resources/expectations that otherwise belong exclusively to boys, which has partly led to girls' enhanced school performances, as well as overall empowerment. However, it is argued in the current study that this apparently female-friendly policy context, which demands/coaxes the public to quickly transit to a gender-blind/egalitarian mindset, also contributes to girls' less-than-satisfactory psychological states. Borrowing perspectives from well-being research, the author's personal experiences are put together to show that girls' well-being may be curtailed due to 1) inconsistent messages, relating to how or whether they are expected to be or act like/as girls; 2) lack of perceived support in interpersonal relationships, augmented and forced unspoken by the presence of support in materialized forms; 3)

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compromised meaning-making capacity, relating to their situation being random results of circumstances rather than an inherent part of natural course. The findings have implications for every context where gender equality is advancing fast in an apparent sense.

In Pursuit of Political Greatness: Action and Civil Death Among Young Female Activists in South Africa and Turkey

Lakshmi Sagarika Bose

(University of Cambridge - Faculty of Education)

Drawing upon nine months of ethnographic fieldwork in Istanbul and Cape Town, I explore how young female activists and revolutionaries are placed in a condition of de facto statelessness (Arendt, 1943) through heightened state practices of securitisation, militarisation and surveillance. Using interviews and participant observation I demonstrate how the punitive arm of the state enacts greater forms of violence upon activists constructed as illegitimate citizens through racialised logics of governance (ie. Kurdish or Black populations), often forcing such young women into experiences of 'civil death'. This experience is characterised by the loss of political legitimacy through for example, the revocation of public employment, detention or extended criminal charges. This ubiquitous disregard for human rights in the authoritarian turn requires new theorisation on shifting forms of statelessness, access to rights, and the phenomena of provisional and precarious citizenship. I then trace comparatively the political responses of these women to practices of violence (often sexual) from both the state and their male comrades. Here we find activists engaged in a philosophical struggle over the meaning of political greatness and political transformation as they aspire towards new forms of action while confronting the failures of both the Left and Right to contend with its well established and deep rooted misogynistic practices and ideals. Finally, I illustrate how, through this struggle, these young activists attempt to explicate and extract their politicality from the inherently exclusionary logics of the modern social contract (Brown 1992, Foucault 1991) which seeks to limit forms of permissible political expression.

From the Umbrella Movement to a "revolution of our times": gender, violence and the place of feminism within Hong Kong protests

Sui-Ting Kong, Petula Sik-Ying Ho, Stevi Jackson

(Department of Sociology, Durham University)

In 2019 the introduction of a bill allowing extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China sparked mass protests that quickly developed into a wider, pro-democracy, anti-government movement. Unlike the static, peaceful street occupations of the 2014 Umbrella Movement, these protests were mobile, using guerrilla tactics which, in response to government intransigence and police brutality, became more confrontational and violent. In this paper we explore the gendered dimensions of this escalating cycle of violence and seek to develop a feminist analysis of the situation that goes beyond the (very necessary) condemnation of police sexual harassment and assault to consider violence within the movement, which has become increasingly valorised. Those who have lost their health, lives and futures by engaging in violent confrontations acquire a martyrdom status, which shuts down space within the movement for any critique of violence, sexism and Sinophobia (directed towards individual mainlanders, not just the Beijing regime). Those who speak out on these issues become 'traitors' and, if they are women, subject to misogynistic, sexualised harassment. Drawing on interviews with activists and bystanders taking a range of political stances and our own experience of the protest, we explore the wider effects of a culture of violence on marginalised individuals and communities and how these effects have played out in the context of the pandemic. Applying an intersectional feminist analysis, we break the silence imposed by the valorisation of violence within the movement, rethink the impact of violent protest and assess the place of feminism in it.

Sociology of Education

Student Imposters in STEM: Institutional Passing and Undergraduate Belonging in UK Universities

Órla Meadhbh Murray, Tiffany Chiu, Billy Wong, Jo Horsburgh

(Imperial College London)

This paper explores how students from underrepresented backgrounds navigate their sense of belonging at university. Drawing on 103 interviews with undergraduate STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine) students at two UK universities, we used an intersectional approach to understanding students' experiences of being BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
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underrepresented, interviewing students who fit into one or more of the following groups: Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic, women, first generation to university, working class, LGBTQ+, disabled, and mature students. Our preliminary findings suggest that many students experienced imposter syndrome. Taking imposter syndrome and belonging as not just individual experiences of university, but as highly organised by intersecting forms of inequality in higher education, this paper draws on educational literature that focuses how underrepresented students navigate belonging and imposter syndrome (e.g. Chapman, 2017), and queer feminist discussions of 'passing' in institutions, belonging, and imposter syndrome (e.g. Breeze, 2018; Ahmed, 2012; Ahmed, 2017).

Many students from multiple underrepresented groups, had a profound sense of not belonging and of being imposters. This was particularly difficult for students who had excelled at school but were getting lower grades at university. For students who were academically successful and/or found spaces of belonging (e.g. the Afro-Caribbean society), feelings of being an imposter could be offset or muted, particularly when imposter syndrome was a topic of conversation in these spaces of belonging. However, many students were working very hard to fit into institutional norms and 'pass' as a student which was harder for some students than others.

Say My Name: the pronunciation of student names in contexts of culturally diverse student identities

Jane Pilcher

(Department of Social and Political Sciences, Nottingham Trent University)

Personal names discursively index individual identities, including family affiliations, civil-legal identities, and socio-cultural identities of ethnicity, nationality, language and religion (Pilcher 2016). The complexity of entanglements between names and identities means that if names are misspelt/mispronounced, identities are misrepresented. This may result in affected persons feeling disrespected, disempowered, excluded and/or othered (Wheeler 2016). In this paper, I focus on student names and their pronunciation, given that (a) educational institutions in the UK are increasingly culturally, ethnically and linguistically diverse (b) key aims of education policies and practices are to enhance engagement, ensure success for all, decolonise the curriculum, and widen participation. I examine existing international research literature on the experiences and impact of the pronunciation of student names, and consider what is known about the UK, and more specifically, contexts of higher education in the UK. I argue that capturing the experiences and practices of students, and of teaching and professional services staff, regarding the pronunciation of student names, can contribute to the development of higher education that is more inclusive and non-discriminatory.

Theory

Governmentality, Population and Relational Space

Yongxuan Fu

(The University of Manchester)

The change that the concept of territory in the lectures Security, Territory, Population (2007) was replaced by 'the series security—population—government' may be frustrating for researchers concerned with space. This paper, however, argues that it is precisely the replacement that inspires a new understanding of space in contemporary social theories, especially in sociology, which can be confirmed in other parts of the lectures. In other words, instead of being marginalized due to the replacement of the territory, the concept space is highlighted by Foucault through the governmentality and the biopolitics, precisely implying a new spatiality involving disease, population, power, security and knowledge, which will be put on an agenda as the relational sociological perspective to reshape contemporary spatial cognition. Therefore, this paper will discuss the importance of Foucault's thought for a new relational spatial epistemology, rather than merely describing the traditional analysis of the series power—physical space—discipline, and then emphasize its close connection with sociology, especially the thinking of relational sociology. Space should not be taken for granted as a purely objective geographical frame with explicit boundaries. Rather, space is relational in nature and constituted by the iteration of interactive strategies and practices in heterogeneous levels, which shows the social thickness of space in itself and the complex field of power relations.

Life as a theoretical category and an object of sociological concern

Karel Musilek

(Cardiff University)

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This paper surveys conceptualisations of human life in social science writing and argues that “life” is a fruitful ontological category (or ‘social thing’) that can serve not only as an object where various strands of theorising can fruitfully meet but also as a horizon within which sociological insights can be translated into everyday language. This paper starts with the suggestion by C. Wright Mills that sociology is a knowledge that seeks to make a connection between social forces of the historical epoch and lives of individuals. “Life” is the terrain on which functioning of social forces can be fruitfully demonstrated, its current form can be debated, and ethical visions of a good life can be juxtaposed. Marx’s writing on production and reproduction of life and Foucault’s work on ‘life as a political object’ are used to delimit the space for theorising life as a social thing, defined by the forces of political economy on the one hand and the works of power/knowledge on the other. Within this space, the paper surveys more recent sociological conceptualisations of “life”, such as Jaeggi’s reformulation of forms of life, Fassin’s work on politics of life, and Harvey’s writing on connection between the ways of living and capital accumulation, to show how these conceptualisations contribute to the problematisation of “life” and hint a way of its possible reconstitution.

Music and contemporaneity: problems of temporality and scale in a global(ised) present

Ryan Nolan

(Aarhus University)

‘Contemporaneity’ describes the fragmentary and globalised condition of the historical present. It is an experiential effect of the conjuncture of social, cultural, historical, and technological times that, since the 1980s, have become increasingly interconnected across the globe, forming something of a ‘shared’ temporal order. It is partly the temporal product of Western globalisation (Osborne, 2013), but has been equally constituted by the ‘overlapping, disjunctive order’ of the ‘new global cultural economy’ (Appadurai, 1990:296) and the emergence of ‘planetary-scale computation’ (Bratton, 2015). This poses certain problems for researching artistic practices and other forms of cultural production, giving new meaning to such concepts as ‘contemporary music’.

The first part of this largely conceptual paper will examine current tensions between philosophical (Osborne) and sociological/cultural theoretical (Born, Devine) approaches to what might be called the ‘contemporary conjuncture’, focusing particularly on music as a specific form of cultural production. The second part will turn to certain methodological complexities that arise in relation to researching the concepts of music and contemporaneity, highlighting the issues of ‘temporality’ and ‘scale’. How can sociology/cultural theory analyse such dynamic, processual forms (and forms within forms) without occupying a detemporalising position (treating them as ‘fixed’)? Can the micro- and macro-scales of music’s mediation maintain their specificity on a global scale, and their generality across a broad geopolitical spectrum? Beyond highlighting disciplinary differences, the point of the paper is of social and historical experience today, and how that might be transposed (or not) into sociological knowledge to inform and remake the future.

The geometry of desire and Covid-19

William Atkinson

(University of Bristol)

This paper builds on the work of Pierre Bourdieu to sketch a model of the ‘geometry of desire’. More specifically, it draws on phenomenology and psychoanalysis to modify Bourdieu’s vision of practice as a product of a meeting between field and habitus. To be even more precise, it locates Bourdieu’s model within a larger whole, which is the dialectic between a lifeworld structured by multiple field effects and a meta-habitus or ‘social surface’. The geometry of desire relates to the relations between field relations within an individual’s life: the strength of commitment (illusio) to different fields and their degrees of antagonism or harmony can be modelled as vectors of different distance and direction in a multidimensional space. In sketching these ideas I am elaborating on marginal remarks by Bourdieu but also, more importantly, fashioning tools for making sense of empirical data on the interplay of class, employment and family. I will also consider the utility of the model for making sense of the effects of the disruptions and transformations of daily life wrought by Covid-19.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

BALANCE AND CONFLICT

Worker in the legal limbo between self-employment and dependent employment

Hans Dietrich

(Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Recently, European countries have experienced a rise in solo self-employment (SSE). Against this backdrop, three broader scholarly debates emerged. First, the economic perspective discusses the economic dependency of the solo self-employed from a main or dominant client. Second, the law perspective addresses the dichotomy of dependent and self-employed work. Here, the literature addresses the challenge of differentiating the legal construct self-employment from illegal forms of employment. Third, a mainly sociological perspective discusses SSE as a form of precarious or atypical employment. However, surprisingly little is known about the association of SSE and atypical work because the literature mainly focuses on atypical work performed within employment contracts.

This study builds on the outlined research streams and uses economic and legal factors to identify the degree of dependence of the solo self-employed in 26 European countries. To this end, we use two waves of the European Working Condition Survey (EWCS) that allows identifying the degree of economic and/or legal dependency of SSE. We find country-specific distributions of dependency within the formally solo-self-employed, including the independent and dependent solo self-employed and dependent workers. Moreover, our results indicate that vulnerable groups in the labour market like the low educated, labour market entrants and the elderly show higher risks of dependency or precarity. Finally, the results indicate that country-specific differences in the occurrence of workers' dependency can be partially explained by the degree of employment protection, unionization, digitalisation and macro-economic factors within countries.

The public discourse on gender equality and women's role in society in the face of Covid-19

Irina Gewinner, Frederick De Moll, Jurgen Muci

(University of Luxembourg)

Sociologists have hypothesised that the Covid-19 crisis works as a great magnifier of gender inequalities at home and work. Greater inequalities might, therefore, be expected through a spatial shift of work into private sphere, which has come to the fore of public debates. We ask how the work-life balance of women has been debated in the media in three countries with different courses of the pandemic, distinct political measures in response to the virus and dissimilar gender arrangements: United Kingdom, Germany, and Italy. How are societal expectations towards women paired with depictions of childhood and family life in public discourse?

Applying a discourse analytical framework, we collected N = 515 articles from national newspapers and weeklies to identify interpretive patterns concerning working mothers. Our analysis uses a qualitative approach drawing on grounded theory methodology and reconstructive methods.

First findings indicate that across the British and Italian discourse mothers are commonly depicted as 'superhuman multitaskers' who put family and chores above their career, whereas the German media discuss stress and negative effects of the pandemic. Simultaneously, inequalities receive much attention in the press: the treatment of women by employers, their overproportionate representation in poorly paid jobs, their increased risk of being infected on the job and exposed to violence at home.

In our presentation, we will discuss how the pandemic has triggered similar debates in the three countries, and how these relate to women's rights debates and women's long fought struggle for egalitarianism in paid and unpaid work.

Employment Tribunal Claim Statistics: Solid Data or Ghostly Apparitions?

Jonathan Mace

(Cardiff University)

The Conservative government of 1970-74 created statutory employment rights for protection against unfair dismissal and redundancy and gave the jurisdiction to Employment Tribunals (ETs). Today ETs are responsible for nearly 90 jurisdictions.

The annual number of claims accepted has risen from 130,408 in 2000/01 to 236,103 in 2009/10. The increase in the 2000s has been portrayed as a 'burden on business' and used as justification for the introduction of ET Fees in 2013 to stem the tide of 'vexatious claims'.

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My PhD research focuses on one aspect of the growth in ET Claims, Multi-Applicant Claims (MACs). This is where many employees of the same employer file an ET claim arising out of the same circumstances against that employer. There can be thousands of claims per MAC. Examples would be Equal Pay claims and Working Time Directive holiday pay claims. My research suggests that:

1. The number of claims filed and the number of people filing them are significantly different – there are ‘ghost’ claims in the system.
2. Because of this the Ministry of Justice statistics do not validate some of the policy & political interpretations that have been based on them.
3. The fall in ET Claims following the introduction of Employment Tribunal Fees may have been partially coincidental as a result of the technical quirk unwinding itself.

My presentation will conclude with a brief exploration of what the annual ET Claims statistics represent in the light of these findings.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

FUTURE OF WORK AND POST-WORK

Unconditional Welfare: Intimations of a post-work economy amid the pandemic

Tom Boland
(University College Cork)

The unprecedented shuttering of the economy and rolling public health restrictions of the pandemic have posed a host of social problems, around connection, community and the compounding of inequalities. However within this slowly unfolding catastrophe there are also grounds for optimism for the future, yet uncannily unlike most predictions of the end of work (Gorz, Graeber, Flemming). Particularly, most states made emergency welfare provisions which were ‘unconditional’ – with means-testing minimal or absent and without demands for labour market activity or jobseeking. Unconditional welfare permits the economy to be de-accelerated for emergencies, and presages an ecologically sustainable future.

Despite long-standing concerns within mainstream social policy for the subjective deterioration of the unemployed – the ‘deprivation theory’ which implies that the social goods attached to work are essential to individual well-being – data from surveys and interviews we conducted during 2020 in Ireland show a very different picture. The provision of unconditional temporary entitlements, despite some invidious distinctions of payment levels, provided a sense of ontological security and supported social solidarity. This suggests that theorising the labour market as an allocation of scarce resources following Malthusian logics, rather it generates continuous surpluses, akin to Bataille’s accursed share. Building on these empirical reflections, we suggest that the pandemic reveals the excesses of the or ‘work-cult’ of modernity, and provokes us to rethink ‘economy’ in terms of a longer genealogy – returning to the ancient Greek roots of the ‘oiko-nomos’.

Covid-19, nostalgia and ‘post-work’: towards a ‘post-employment’ society?

Alessandro Gandini
(University of Milan)

Already before the Covid-19 pandemic, the societal model based on the large-scale availability of permanent, dependent work was in a terminal crisis. Following decades of neoliberal policies and a harsh economic recession, the expectation of a ‘job for life’ had already vanished for many. Particularly, a highly unequal labour market had prospered in the digital economy, where the few corporate jobs available are often ‘bullshit’ ones (Graeber, 2017), while nonstandard, precarious, low-skilled, low-paid, algorithmically-managed forms of work affirmed (Graham and Woodcock, 2019).

In this context, the events of Brexit and the election of Trump in 2016 were marked by the ‘retrotopian’ (Bauman, 2017) fantasy of a return to ‘old’ ways of working, expressed in the revival of manufacturing work, the refusal of climate change concerns, a war against migrants as ‘job stealers’. While this nostalgic wave was extending to various parts of the world, Covid-19 struck, changing the state of play but also renewing the (unanswered) concern of the ‘future of work’.

Liaising with the debate on the 'post-work' utopia (Srnicek and Williams, 2015), the paper critically discusses the possibility that the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic represents an acceleration towards the 'postcapitalist' scenario of a society without work. In so doing, it proposes the notion of an upcoming 'post-employment' society (Kendzior, 2016), characterised by the large-scale diffusion of forms of work that deviate from the normatively-codified, culturally-established definitions of work typical of the industrial era, and reflects on the significance of the 2016 events in the present scenario.

Deskilling as a consequence of reskilling: Information post-scarcity, temporarily scarce skills and routinisation of learning labour

Chong Zhang
(Durham University)

Braverman (1998) foresees a trend of the removal of workers' skills and knowledge over the production, so that they have less control over the production process and are thus more subject to workplace controls. His 'deskilling prediction' has faced challenges as empirical evidence shows no shrinking, but an expansion of educated white-collar workers. This paper offers another interpretation of 'deskilling' that reconciles the false contradiction between monopoly capital principle and the expansion of educated workforces: degradation does not require reducing workers to mindless production machines, but can a) routinise learning, the mindful labour to 'modify the human organism' (Marx, 2013, p. 116) to produce labour power and b) devalue workers' labour power, in the contemporary labour market. 'Skills' is merely a label for the labour power that has more scarcity in the market. Traditionally, the obstacles to education opportunities had maintained the scarcity of the scarce labour power (Wright, 1997). The scarcity of labour power empowers the so-called 'skilled workers' to have a better control over their labour in an exploitative employment relationship (Wright, 1997). However, in addition to expansion of education opportunities, digitalisation and the use of the internet enable an easy access to share and acquire information resources for learning, rendering the scarce status of labour power being challenged. Lifelong learning has been adopted a strategy to keep one's labour power scarce, although workers' active participation in learning and competition is the very cause of the devaluation of labour power in the first place.

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Culture, Media, Sport and Food

Reimagining Young Women's Community Sport, Leisure and Wellbeing: Corporeal Habits, Crisis, and Everyday Creativity

Louise Ann Mansfield
(Brunel University London)

This paper explores the experiences of young women involved in the design of a community sport/leisure project. Drawing on year-long observations and focus groups with young women (16-19 years), the paper discusses the contemporary culture of sport/leisure for public health and wellbeing in terms of the interconnections between individual and institutional modes of bodily regulation and resistance. It addresses a key sociological debate concerning the relationship between physical and ideological control of the female body. Recognising the significance of feminist scholarship, the paper identifies the ways in which organisations, practices and ideologies of health and wellbeing are mobilized as technologies of power, establishing biological and societal norms of physical activity. Drawing on Shilling's (2008) understanding of embodied action the paper explores processes of corporeal habit, crisis and creativity. For young women in this project, becoming and being physically activity reflected a complex and dynamic health and wellbeing experience shaped by both bodily crisis and regulation, and corporeal de-regulation and creativity. Yet creativity, marked by original, curious and personal meaning appeared as a dominant ethic in their practical and intellectual engagement in the project enabling them to physically and emotionally negotiate and/or reject established ideals of the physically active body at the same time as realising positive health and wellbeing experiences. Such findings are timely for understanding young women's corporeality and are significant in contributing to knowledge about gender and inequality as community sport/leisure seeks to remake itself in a post COVID-19 world.

Rowdy Politics on Facebook: Club Model and External Shocks

Didem Turkoglu
(New York University Abu Dhabi)

Scholars who study deliberative democracy put a lot of emphasis on the importance of the way people talk about politics, which shapes their thoughts and practices. In online political settings people tend to talk about politics with like-minded individuals creating echo chambers that are heavily guarded by group dynamics. This balkanization has been raised as one of the major threats to democracy. However, by focusing on overtly political venues, the literature on political discourse understudies the political talk that takes place in non-political settings. In this paper I investigate the question of how we come across political discourse on a pre-dominantly non-political platform on social network sites (SNSs). Based on a mix-method analysis of over 80.000 comments from the 50 most popular public Facebook pages from Turkey, the findings suggest that we are more likely to find the core elements of deliberative talk in non-political settings in social media if politics is considered to be an appropriate discussion topic. Focusing especially on external shocks like terrorist attacks and the Covid-19 pandemic when emotional language increases, findings show that group norms play an important role. Due to the group norms, the type of dissent that leads to deliberative talk in those non-political venues may also be unexpectedly rowdy, contrary to the most of the conceptualizations of deliberative talk. By introducing the club model that highlights group norms I intervene in the theoretical debates on deliberative potential of political talk and point out a methodological blind spot.

The Safe Standing movement: vectors in the post-Hillsborough timescape of English football

Mark Turner
(Solent University)

This paper draws upon archival and fieldwork research to analyse the longer-term impact which all-seated stadia has had on football supporters' consumption of the game in England. Consequently, 26 supporter activists identified as important in building a rich social history of activism were interviewed as a type of activist life story. By analysing empirical snapshots of a 30yr social movement against all-seated stadia, the paper cross-pollinates ideas from sociology and social movement studies on eventful protests and temporality, to show how events and ruptures shape the dynamics of a social movement, and secondly, to show how discursive vectors indicate the developing understanding, by networked actors, of the stakes of a movements core conflict. In English football, historically significant events like the Hillsborough disaster continue to shape many of the key mobilizations of supporter networks, and their collective, but also complex and contradictory consumption of the game. This movement, Safe Standing, is sociologically important, because it evidences the complex interplay of cultural and technological vectors and their manifestation across the compelling time-frames and orientations which make up the consumption of English football in a post-Hillsborough timescape. By engaging in a 30year struggle over Hillsborough as a restlessness event, Safe Standing sought to gain control over the interpretation of this timescape and is characterised by the complex struggle supporters face over the ritualistic expression of identity and solidarity.

Families and Relationships 1

The future is gender creative

Max Davies
(Brighton University)

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

It Is My Turn Now: How and Why Single Women Complain About Non Reciprocal Gift-Giving

Kinneret Lahad, Michal Kravel-Tovi
(Tel-Aviv University)

This paper uses the prism of gift-exchange to analyse singlehood as a site of unilateral giving. The sociological problematization that undergirds our inquiry is, what happens when reciprocity is not an established norm within ostensibly reciprocal social relations; specifically, when giving in the context of marriage and family celebrations is normalised, but giving back to singles lacks an equivalent etiquette. By analysing online narratives, we explore an emerging critique by single women regarding non-reciprocal gifting to their wedded friends, colleagues and family members. We analyse the discursive practices they use to complain about unfairness – and to manage the social risks entailed therein. This article positions gift-exchange as a productive lens for understanding the marginalisation of singles as secondary and inferior participants in social relations. Equally, it offers singlehood as a valuable case study for engaging with broader questions concerning reciprocity, and the challenging task of changing norms of giving.

Rethinking the relation between individual and society: a narrative study on leftover women in China

Yaqi Li
(University of Birmingham)

This research explores leftover women's life stories in contemporary China, where being unmarried is always described as 'leftover' and seen as unfeminine, abnormal, living a precarious life, and not conforming to China's Confucian moralities. By drawing from narrative interviews with single Chinese females between 27 and 40 years old, I discuss leftover women's choices to conform to, or challenge, the social institutions and gender hegemony that force them to marry sooner.

Findings showed that participants failed to fit the normative feminine image by being unmarried in this patriarchal society, indicating that heteronormativity still remains as the mainstream ideology. Well-educated urban participants of higher social status are more likely to be active subjects in making life plans, but will face conflicts when making choices between career and family. Participants reported their capacity to make life choices independently, but responses also suggested that women's choices are still regulated by social norms and institutions in the Chinese society.

During the individualization process in contemporary China, marriage and family have gradually replaced the state as the primary institutions for alleviating individual burdens and risks, as well as the restructured institutions for providing women with more life choices. The Chinese case will enrich the theoretical framework of reflexive modernization and individualization primarily on the social realities in Western Europe. The feminist perspective and narrative approach also helps women actively construct their fragmented, mixed and contingent identities through story-telling, instead of passively being designated with a given social identity as 'single women'.

Transformative Agency: Women's Experiences in Living Apart Together (LAT) Relationships

Shuang Qiu
(University of York)

This paper is primarily concerned with the complex intersections among various kinds of agency in the non-West context and through which the transformative nature of agency is recognised and examined. Against the backdrop of the individualisation thesis centred on the growth of individual reflexivity in making individual choices, concepts of structure, individualisation and relationality have been taken into dialogue with a focus on Chinese women's agency in non-conventional relationships. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 35 women who are in living apart together (LAT) relationships, three different, but interrelated, aspects of agency are explored: constraint, relationality, and individualism. Instead of viewing these categories as a discrete and static entity, agency can move and slide amongst each category in response to changes and new circumstances across the life course. It is suggested that the interaction and contradiction between individualism and familism have significantly shaped the ways people negotiate and make sense of their personal lives. This study moves beyond the dualist understanding of agency as either enabled or constrained, giving an insight of how agency is also relational and potentially fluid and transformative process, through which the complex interplay of social circumstances, individualism, and relational bonds with others are captured. In doing so, this empirical-based research fills the gap by providing an alternative understanding of how agency is developed and exercised in a fluid and elastic way, as people's life stages change under different circumstances and contexts.

Families and Relationships 2

Remaking memory and materials: A case study of memorial fabric upcycling

Clare Holdsworth
(Keele University)

Upcycling, or the practice of remaking used objects into new forms, has emerged as a popular form of fabric craft. In this paper I consider one specific expression of upcycling to remake clothing into memorial items. This examination of memorial upcycling considers the assemblage of time, materials, bodies and memories that are brought into play through this practice. This includes how the practice of memorial crafting is a form of therapeutic busyness for the maker.

In particular, memorial crafting highlights the necessary tension between the importance of making versus finishing a product that is inherent in crafting. This practice also emphasizes Bergson's theorisation of duration and the significance of fabricating something new as a continuation and remaking of memory. This study therefore speaks to important broader themes in sociology that address sustainability and the therapeutic value of doing and making for the self and others.

Empirically this study is based on my own practice of memorial crafting following the death of my father and how I used this skill to reconnect with family members during the necessary isolation of lockdown. In developing an autoethnography of crafting this paper also seeks to develop the practice of (auto)ethnography beyond observation and reflection to encompass a material ethnography that situates making for the self and others as a core research activity.

Dealing with clutter: everyday moralities and the power of things.

Sophie Woodward
(University of Manchester)

The context of the pandemic in calling people to spend more time at home, as well as placing significant spatial, financial and relational burdens on people has put people's relations to the objects in their home in the spotlight: as an 'opportunity' to declutter, exhortation to buy less stuff, or as people feel more attached to their things. Clutter is particularly interesting in this context, as decluttering discourses position it as meaningless things that get in the way of our daily lives as well as seemingly paradoxically morally problematic – as signs of laziness or a failure to organise the house. This paper explores these seeming contradiction as well challenging the mischaracterisation of clutter as meaningless by drawing from ethnographically informed research into clutter in people's homes in Manchester. The article is situated in, and contributes to, the sociology of ordinary consumption, the unmarked, and materiality by bringing together theoretical work that outlines the potency and potential of unnoticed materials and matter of everyday life, Douglas (1969) with theories of vital materiality (Bennet, 2009) to think through the capacity of clutter to become morally potent. I argue that moralising discourses around materialism and decluttering interact with existing everyday moralities around consumption, finances and family life which are brought to bear when people deal with their clutter. In arguing that through its materiality, clutter forces people to engage with moral discourse of wastefulness, usefulness, materialism, and everyday familial norms.

Frontiers – Special Event

The Sociological Legacy of David H.J. Morgan 1937-2020

Sue Scott, Vanessa May
(University of Newcastle and University of Manchester)

David Morgan was the foremost UK Sociologist of the Family - developing the concept of Family Practices through explorations of different aspects of 'doing' family - he also wrote about Masculinities, the Body, Acquaintances and Snobbery, and was one of the foremost members of the BSA Autobiography Study Group as well as being BSA President and a recipient of its distinguished service award. While David's published work continues to be important, this session would be more than a celebration of his achievements. Rather, it will explore the continuing influence of his ideas in both current and future research, not least through the work of the Morgan Centre (named after him in 2005), at the University of Manchester. It is our intention to curate and chair a session which explores, through a number of presentations, the influence of David Morgan's work on Families and Intimate Relationships and Autobiography, and also the potential for future developments from his unpublished work in areas such as Masculinities, Hope, The Body and Social Networks. The presenters will include David's colleagues and collaborators and also early career academics who have been influenced by his work.

Lifecourse

Employment, Peers, and Gender: Disentangling the Context of Adolescent Substance Use

Sampson Blair, Shi Dong

Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 13:00 – 14:15

PAPER SESSION 5

(The State University of New York)

During the adolescent years, paid employment is quite common, and can provide youth with a variety of experiential opportunities, both beneficial and detrimental. Among the more deleterious, researchers have noted that employment during the teen years is associated with a higher rate of substance use. The specific aspects of employment which may be linked with higher substance usage rates, though, have received little attention. Using a representative sample of high school seniors, this study examines the relative impact of job characteristics upon substance use patterns among adolescents. The analyses are presented by sex, and also take into consideration the potential influence of peers and parents.

The analyses reveal that employed teens report substantial usage of alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana. Across all three substances, males report significantly higher usage, as compared to females. Employment in food service and sales is shown to be associated with lower alcohol and tobacco usage among males, while more hours of employment are linked with higher tobacco (cigarettes) usage among females. Peer disapproval of substance use, in conjunction with time spent with peers, also yields significant effects upon substance use patterns, particularly among adolescent females. While certain job characteristics do affect substance usage, the broader contexts, and particularly the peer context, needs to be given greater consideration by researchers. The results are discussed within the life-course paradigm and precocious development theory.

“I really like your new track”: Young people connecting through music-making during COVID-19

Frances Howard

(Nottingham Trent University)

Music is advocated for improving health and wellbeing among young people (Howarth, 2018), where music-making holds value for developing social connectedness (Papinczak et. al 2015). Whereas previously music has been viewed as an ‘intervention’ (Daykin et. al 2017), much less attention is paid to everyday music-making practices. Our research sought to evaluate if music-making has contributed to young people’s individual well-being and their sense of connection with others, under the COVID-19 pandemic.

The paper reports on one aspect of our international research collaboration, focusing on the sense of social connection offered by diverse music-making activities. Drawing on interview data from England, Australia and Portugal, 52 young people, were interviewed about their music-making practices during lockdown. Despite reporting poor mental health due to loss of jobs and income, young music-makers reported the value of having more time, to be both producers and consumers of music. Interviewees overwhelmingly reported benefits to maintaining social connectedness through music-making.

This paper reports on the different ways that young people continued to make music and connect with others. These included collaborative and DIY techniques which enabled them to engage with the value of creativity differently in their lives. Whilst COVID-19 has had deep and damaging repercussions for the live music industry and the livelihoods of professional musicians, young musicians have been able to take the time to turn inwards and take up digital technologies. Therefore, our research has been able to examine the importance of music-making for young people, in both an individual and collective sense.

Leisure Liminality and Intersecting Crises of Youth: Then, Now and in 'the Future'

Karenza Moore, Nicolas Woodrow

(University of Salford, University of Sheffield)

In this paper we explore leisure liminality and intersecting crises of youth as apparent in worsening education, employment, health/wellbeing, and leisure inequalities, and the sequelae of Covid-19. Reflecting sociological and interdisciplinary concern with emergence and ‘the future’ (Moore 2004, Urry 2016), we argue that leisure liminality is emergent through intersectional disadvantage compounded by profound disruptions to youth leisure cultures and associated spaces/times. Government responses to the virus such as ‘lockdowns’ have meant the liminal leisure status of disadvantaged young people pre-Covid-19 - through socioeconomic, cultural and geographical exclusions – is emerging as the experience of young people (such as students) more generally. Night-time economies are subject to increasing control measures including curfews, nightclubs remain shut, and dancing to amplified music attracts heavy fines (Coronavirus Care Act 2020). Further, the largely unsupervised, unregulated, (in)visible leisure spaces/times previously available to disadvantaged young people (streets, parks, local hangouts, flat/house parties) are subject to even more intense public, media and police scrutiny. Online party spaces are available to those on the ‘right’ side of the

digital divide. Young people experiencing intersectional disadvantage are especially vulnerable to digital-leisure exclusion, the criminalisation of social interaction, and the escalation of 'proactive policing' of intoxication (Measham and Moore 2012). Through an intersectional approach to young people's differentiated alcohol and drug use in leisure spaces/times, we explore heterogeneous responses to liminal leisure landscapes. To conclude, we suggest that a crisis in already precarious youth leisure spaces/times presents a challenge to those working with young people to remake our future.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

Between hope and fear: the imagined futures of people at risk of inherited motor neurone disease

Jade Howard
(University of Aberdeen)

Motor neurone disease (MND) is a neurodegenerative condition that causes progressive muscle weakness and most commonly leads to death within 2 years of diagnosis. Up to 10% of people have an inherited form, and as such families must not only manage the disease in symptomatic relatives but adapt to life knowing that they could develop the disease in the future- what I refer to here as being 'at risk'. Based on an ongoing interview study with people currently affected by inherited MND, people at risk of developing it in the future, and other family members, this presentation explores how people at risk of MND perceive their future. I will firstly look at how they imagine a future for themselves and other relatives based on past experiences, leading to particular hopes, fears, vulnerabilities- and decisions around living and dying with the disease. In this, the role of pre-symptomatic genetic testing will be foregrounded as a pivotal event which (re)defines how people understand themselves and their future. I will secondly lay out perceptions on the future of MND in light of research progress, which has the potential to change the landscape of MND as an incurable disease- but for a limited genetic subset, amidst ongoing uncertainties. I will explore these experiences in the context of the pandemic, which for some has led to shifting views on what the future will look like, and frustrations for their own families and the wider community who are waiting for a breakthrough.

From imaginaries to implementation of promissory technologies: remaking healthcare futures through understandings of patient experiences in genomics

Kate Lyle, Susie Weller, Anneke Lucassen
(University of Southampton)

Imaginations of healthcare futures are frequently constructed around the role of promissory technologies, which are positioned as transformative solutions to the challenges facing the sector. Yet many technologies remain difficult to integrate into everyday practice, often falling short of the expectations vested in them. This paper argues that if the expectations of technologies are to be realised, we need to move beyond these socio-technical imaginaries and focus on their implementation in practice. This requires empirical research that can ground our understandings of innovations within the context of current practice, illuminating the ensembles of social practices, experiences and perspective within which the innovation must be embedded.

We present findings from an ongoing qualitative study exploring the implementation of genomic medicine, which provides a timely case study. Drawing specifically on our empirical research with patients, we demonstrate the multiplicity of genomics and explore how different imagined futures are constructed through personal experiences of what genomics comprises, what it might help to achieve, and the actors it relates to. These imagined futures have important implications for the implementation of genomics, which may need to reshape and reframe multiple imaginings of genomics to allow them to converge around specific services. In this way, we argue that working through the implementation of innovations in current practice serves to remake a collective imagined future that represents a diversity of experiences and perspectives.

Imaginaries of Genomic Futures: mainstreaming genomic medicine in the NHS

Shadreck Mwale
(Brighton and Sussex Medical School)

Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 13:00 – 14:15

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Since the completion of the Human Genome Project, genomic medicine has captured imaginations of policy-makers and medical scientists keen to harness its health and economic potential. It's small wonder then, that in 2012 the UK government launched the recently completed 100,000 Genomes Project with the goal of sequencing genomes of 100,000 NHS patients, laying grounds for mainstreaming genomic medicine in the wider NHS and the development of a genomic industry in the UK.

However, recent research and reports from national bodies monitoring the rolling out of genomic medicine suggest genomic medicine presents both ethical and practical challenges for healthcare professionals (HCPs). It is against this backdrop that this research was developed to explore how healthcare professionals view the plan to roll out genomic medicine in the NHS and its implications for their practice. Using Jasanoff and Kim's concept of 'sociotechnical imaginaries' it illustrates how some technologies become established over others, the paper uses genomics as envisioned by NHS England as a case study.

Drawing on qualitative research, from a Wellcome Trust Funded project on Ethical Preparedness in Genomics Medicine, the paper presents findings from in-depth interviews with 55 HCPs on the south-coast of England examining their views on the genomic medicine agenda and how they see it impacting their practice. Findings suggest that while HCPs support genomics, they imagine it as research and with limited application. This contrasts with policy directives suggesting a present and applicable technology, indicating tensions in imaginations among actors of a present, imminent and distant future.

Re-imagining 'the patient': Linked lives and lessons from genomic medicine

*Susie Weller, Kate Lyle, Anneke Lucassen
(University of Southampton)*

How 'the patient' is imagined has implications for ethical decision-making in clinical practice. Patients are predominantly conceived in an individualised manner as autonomous and independent decision-makers. Fields such as genomic medicine highlight the inadequacies of this conceptualisation as patients are likely to have family members who may be directly affected by the outcome of a genetic or genomic test. Indeed, professional guidance has increasingly taken a view that genetic information should be viewed as confidential to families, rather than individuals. Drawing on the notion of linked lives from lifecourse theory, this paper calls for a wider reimagining of 'the patient' to locate decision-making within the matrix of past and present familial relationships (biological ties and families of choice) in which they are located.

The paper presents findings from a qualitative longitudinal study following those experiencing genomic testing for a rare disease or cancer. The study forms part of EPPiGen (Ethical Preparedness in Genomic Medicine); a Wellcome Trust collaborative award. The findings emphasise the often-collective nature of decision-making about participation in testing and the sharing/withholding of genetic information, elucidating differences between those included/excluded from such decisions. In the quest to gain 'answers' many took an inter-generational view, linking their experiences to those of past generations through familial narratives around probable explanations, and/or hopes and expectations for the health of imagined future generations. This paper offers important insights into familial experiences of genomic medicine, with implications for how we ensure future patients and practitioners are prepared for this expanding field of practice.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

Enacting reproductive citizenship? Understanding egg donation as a socially embedded practice

*Nicky Hudson, Christina Weis
(De Montfort University)*

This paper aims to conceptualise how women become egg donors in the European context. Whilst several attempts have been made to explain why women become egg donors, these studies often rely on binary constructions of altruism vs financial gain to consider what are commonly thought of as women's 'motivations' for providing their eggs. Whilst some have attempted to go beyond this binary, few have considered in detail how wider political, moral, economic and sociotechnical constellations shape, complicate and mediate individual rationalities around reproductive donation.

In this paper we consider not why, but how women become egg donors, by analysing both women's narratives and the wider context in which they are described. We draw on comparative data with 75 egg donors from the UK, Spain and

Belgium to explore how what are often conceived of as individual motivations and decisions are part of a wider set of practices, which are increasingly shaped in relation to the logics of fertility capitalism. Whilst research has considered the experiences of women who donate their eggs in more commercialised settings (such as the US), little attention has been given to contexts where a logic of non-commercialisation has traditionally operated. We draw on Healy's conceptualisation of donation 'procurement regimes' (Healy, 2004) to show how country specific regimes produce different meanings, framings and practices of egg donation and to explore how individuals narrate and rationalise their actions and practices within this wider context.

Egg Provider views on the uses of eggs in the age of cryopreservation: a study of the UK, Belgium and Spain

*Christina Weis, Sara Lafuentes-Funes, Veerle Provoost, Nicky Hudson
(De Montfort University)*

As the global fertility markets expand, egg donation continues to undergo technical, political and commercial transformations. Its use by a growing and diverse range of social groups, complex national changes in donor identification and compensation practices, and vitrification technologies have fundamentally reconfigured the process. Vitrification allows clinics increased flexibility in the storage, export, and import of eggs, thereby opening up potential for increased commercialisation. Whilst existing research has focused on egg providers' motivations and experiences, less attention has been given to women's perceptions of contemporary developments and changing practices in this reproductive bioeconomy.

Drawing on interviews with egg providers in the UK (n= 29), Belgium (n=21) and Spain (n=25) carried out as part of the EDNA project (ESRC grant ref: ES/N010604/1), we focus on egg providers' views on the potential uses of eggs for third party assisted reproduction. We consider how much they know about the potential uses of eggs and their preferences. We examine their attitudes towards the use of eggs for several recipients and a shared concern regarding what is perceived as the over-commercialization of eggs by clinics.

Egg providers' ideas about the use of their eggs need to be considered as new techniques and protocols emerge for the clinical and commercial management of donated tissue. Decision-making and informed consent processes should be reviewed in light of these shifts and incorporated into the wider policy context.

Changing fertility landscapes: Exploring the reproductive routes and choices of fertility patients from China for assisted reproduction in Russia

*Christina Weis
(De Montfort University)*

Global reproductive landscapes and with them cross-border routes are rapidly changing. This paper examines the reproductive routes and choices of fertility travellers from China to Russia as reported by medical professionals and fertility service providers. Providing new empirical data, it raises new ethical questions on the facilitation of cross-border reproductive travel and the commercialization of reproductive treatment.

The relaxation of the one-child policy in 2014 in China, the increasing demand for ART exceeding the capacity of national fertility clinics, and the difficulty of accessing treatment with donor eggs concomitant with a growing economic power of the upper-middle class is shaping the ART industry in Asia in new ways. A new development is Chinese citizens increasingly seeking ART treatment in Russia, which has a long standing practice of ART governed by a liberal legislation. Further, as China prohibits the export of gametes, Chinese fertility travellers rely on acquiring donor gametes once starting treatment abroad.

Clinicians in Russia report the following strategies amongst their Chinese patients: One group is using donor eggs of women of Asian appearance living in Russia or is hiring women of resembling appearance from third party countries to donate their eggs in Russia to create resemblance in their offspring. Another group is buying 'white' donor gametes to create Eurasian mixed children and thus 'enhance' their offspring.

This paper informs ethical deliberation and raises imminent questions for further research in this understudied geographic region and on cross border reproductive treatment.

"Thanks for retweeting it, but can you go and spit in a tube now please": Patient campaigners, racialised inequity, and stem cell donor recruitment

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Ros Williams

(University of Sheffield, UK)

Blood or bone marrow stem cell transplantations are a treatment for a number of blood malignancies like leukaemia. Whilst many people find a match on existing donor registries, others do not. Often, it is patients racialised as minority ethnic who end up without a donor. In recent years, increasing numbers of these individuals and their families are turning to social media to amplify a message encouraging people to register as stem cell donors. They aim to locate their own donor, whilst also diversifying the stem cell registries more broadly for future minoritised patients. These efforts are key to understanding the intersection of new digital and 'traditional' media, and health inequities activism.

This paper builds on recent empirical work on health-related online crowdfunding, and more established literature on the role of health narratives. It offers analysis of semi-structured interviews with patients and families who've organised their own stem cell donor recruitment campaigns, as well as analysis of social media activity and 'traditional' media coverage of these campaigns. Data were collected for a Wellcome Trust Fellowship exploring minority ethnicity stem cell donor recruitment.

I argue for the importance of surfacing the vital work undertaken by these individuals. As part of this, I reflect on the ambivalence articulated by participants in deciding to expose one's own personal narrative of suffering to an unknown networked public, with the hope of both saving one's own life, and ameliorating the wider health inequity experienced by many minoritised people who need, but cannot access, stem cell transplantation.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

Living with hate relationships: familiar encounters, enduring racisms and geographies of entrapment

John Clayton, Catherine Donovan, Stephen McDonald

(Northumbria University)

This paper utilises the concept of 'hate relationships' in conversation with the literature on geographies of encounter to explore experiences of racism for those entrapped by racist encounters with those who are familiar. In so doing we attend to the uneven and harmful risks involved in some forms of everyday urban encounter. We draw upon case notes collated by a hate advocacy service in North East England, UK, to illustrate the cumulative damaging force of enduring hate relationships. By drawing parallels with work on domestic violence, we suggest hate relationships evident in our data exhibit distinct temporalities of routinisation, whereby harmful 'low level' violence, often under the radar of the criminal justice system, gains force through repeated neighbourhood-based encounters. In so doing we also highlight both the situated and relational spatialities at work; localised encounters marked by familiarity, racialised territoriality and experiences of fear and immobility, but also relations of entrenched disadvantage and institutional failures that sustain harm. Concerted acts of resistance look to confront and/or escape these relationships, but as forms of resolution, where additional burdens are placed on victim/survivors, these are constrained by the same violent conditions through which such relationships are allowed to take shape.

Colonial collisions at the asylum border: an analysis of imperial entanglements and afterlives in Somali-Bajuni asylum cases

Emma Hill

(University of Edinburgh)

Situated within a rapidly-growing area of scholarship which analyses the role, effects and ongoing legacies of British colonialism in the development of the UK's asylum border regime (Bhambra 2015, 2017, Mayblin 2014, 2018, Mayblin et al 2019, El-Enany 2020, Achiume 2019), this paper asks, what happens if the prevailing framework of analysis is shifted from a focus on the colonial genealogy of the asylum border, to a focus on the collision of multiple colonialities at the asylum border?

Building on participatory ethnographic work conducted with a small group of refused Somali-Bajuni asylum seekers living in Scotland between 2013 and 2017, this paper considers how the bordered and social violence experienced by the group members can be related to a complex interaction between: (1) the colonial environment of the asylum border, (2) genealogies of epistemological violence, and (3) the effects of colonially-entangled racialised and ethnic hierarchies. By mapping-out the effects of these three factors on the lives and prospects of the group members, this paper argues

that it is possible to see how the asylum border is a space in which the social machineries of discreet colonial systems intersect and interact, with serious consequences for asylum applicants.

Reimagining Borders: The limitations and possibilities of everyday practice interactions.

Asma Khan, Julie Walsh
(The University of Sheffield)

In the UK, hostile immigration policy and normative conceptualisations of family practices are shaped by processes of racialisation that 'other' migrant families and position some as 'more British' than others. Here, we will draw on the findings of a collaborative study - that set out to explore the presence of 'everyday bordering' in social care practice with migrant families living in the north of England - to show how these patterns of power are enacted but also 'reimagined' in the everyday. We will do so by focusing on how practice interactions are described by migrant families themselves, and by social care practitioners.

Whilst the primary site of immigration control is traditionally perceived to be at national borders, the ways in which immigration is controlled and surveilled are multiple. 'Everyday bordering' is therefore a concept developed by scholars to describe how, in a hostile policy and media environment, bordering practices extend increasingly into everyday life and influence ideas of who 'belongs'. In this paper, we will contribute by showing that although interactions between social care practitioners and migrant families are affected by the hostile environment, and can reify borders, they also have transgressive potential; practitioners and migrant families frequently engage in a range of strategies to navigate and 're-make' their futures and the everyday borders encountered. We conclude, however, by highlighting the limitations of these strategies in achieving structural change, and offer suggestions for future directions in social care practice when working with all families that have migrated to the UK.

Asylum Seekers' Emotions and Self-Presentation During the Flight

Basem Mahmud
(University of Granada)

This contribution studies emotions and self-presentation during the forced migrant's journey – beginning just after the decision to flee is made. It is based on empirical research conducted in Berlin (2015-2017) with 33 Syrian refugees and asylum seekers (semi-structured interviews). The results indicate that fear is the most prominent emotion structuring forced migrants' emotional practices during this period. Accordingly, these practices are generally defensive or protective, aiming to protect the self and others (esp. family members) from psychological or physical harm. The forced migrant is faced with an arduous emotional task - the goodbye moment – as well as stressful periods during which family and loved ones await any news of the forced migrant's progress. The strategies employed to confront this task are various, including avoidance of the goodbye moment, requesting the family's support in the decision to leave, self-deception, and presenting the self in different or even contradictory ways, especially when dealing with authority. Altogether, the study identified seven different types of self-presentation which differ according to the stage (at home, in between homes, and home building). However, they are overwhelmingly employed during the in-between-home stage. This is the stage where forced migrants need most to be "not who they are," whereas, in the home-building stage, the tension between the self and its presentation is reduced. Still, some of these types of self-presentation (esp. 'the victim') may continue to be present in the home-building stage. This is almost always due to structural issues such as media, migration policy, discrimination.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Ukrainian migrant workers in Warsaw and the informal paperwork economy: bluffing out and escape from control

Daria Krivonos
(University of Helsinki)

Drawing on fieldwork on Ukrainian migrant labour in Warsaw, I trace the acts of subversion of the regime of labour and immigration controls by analysing young Ukrainian migrant workers' use of the informal economy of the paperwork market. Ukrainian migration is the largest of all post-USSR migratory movements to the EU, and Poland is the country that issues the highest number of residence permits based on work. While Poland's labour migration regime is one of

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the most liberal in the EU, it ties workers to their employers and makes it difficult to achieve social mobility and get a permanent residence status. Ukrainian migrants' subversion of the regime of labour that I analyse include buying bank certificates, job invitations, address registrations, acquiring visas that do not reflect the 'purpose' of staying in the country or getting enrolled in professional schools where no teaching takes place. Using the analytical toolkit of the literature on autonomy of migration, I analyse these practices as modes of escape from national sovereignty. These are the attempts to overthrow dependence on employers for their visas that is structurally produced by the border regime. While borders and immigration controls aim at reconstituting migrant bodies as disciplined, dependent and productive, Ukrainian migrants' acts of subversion draw attention to the instances and spaces where sovereignty loses its totalizing grip.

The other Eurostars: lifestyle migration, class and race among vocationally trained Italians

Simone Varriale

(School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lincoln, UK)

This paper investigates the aspirations for adventure, cosmopolitanism and self-exploration among non-graduate EU migrants from working- and lower-middle-class backgrounds. Drawing on 57 interviews with Italians who moved to England after the 2008 economic crisis, and focusing on participants with vocational school diplomas, the paper explores participants' lifestyle imaginaries, how these contextualise participants' economic concerns, and how they are negotiated in classed, racialised and gendered migrations. The findings reveal that these 'other Eurostars' come from class fractions endowed with relative (but unequally distributed) economic security and low cultural capital. This has a significant bearing on their motivations and experiences of migration, but without reducing them to mere economic instrumentalism. Moreover, participants approach employment as a means of self-realisation and status distinction, following aspirations that the extant literature ascribes to graduate migrants. The paper contributes to lifestyle migration and intra-EU migration studies by revealing the centrality of non-economic motivations among less resourceful EU migrants and showing that individualisation, as a late-modern project, is central to their migrations, but that it takes classed, racialised and gendered forms.

Rights, Violence and Crime

'We need to hold the hope for this': Feminist epistemology, patriarchal realism and the uses of utopianism

Katherine Allen

(University of Suffolk)

One of the major achievements of the twentieth-century Women's Liberation Movement was the cultivation of a set of hermeneutical resources, a shared vocabulary that enabled women to articulate hitherto unspeakable experiences such as sexual harassment and marital rape and, just as importantly, to identify them as 'ideological and political rather than isolated and personal' (Kelland, 2016: 733). Rape crisis centres (RCCs) emerged as part of this wider epistemic and political project.

While chronicles of the anti-rape movement often describe narratives of decline and co-optation by the state, Rape Crisis England and Wales (RCEW) still works from an avowedly feminist perspective that recognises sexual violence as, in principle at least, eradicable, 'a cause and consequence of gender inequality' rather than a regrettable fact of life (RCEW, 2019). However, individual RCCs in England and Wales retain such radical commitments and ambitions to varying extents, with a general historical shift from a grassroots, collectivist approach to a more professionalised service provision model (Jones & Cook, 2008).

Drawing on semi-structured interviews with nine women working in two RCCs in the East of England, this paper explores the ongoing tensions and resonances of feminist aetiologies of sexual violence for women engaged in anti-rape work, applying feminist epistemological concepts such as epistemic injustice (Fricker, 2007) and ameliorative analytical enquiry (Haslanger, 2000). I argue that feminist explanatory models of gendered violence offer an essential counterweight against patriarchal realism - an encroachment of imaginative horizons that diminishes the transformative potential of contemporary feminist organising.

'I'm not surprised it's happening but I don't think it is right:' Contradictions and tensions in female student attitudes towards sexual violence at elite universities.

Alice King
(University of Warwick)

Over the past ten years, research has indicated that sexual violence amongst the student population is a sizeable and persistent problem (Hidden Marks 2010, That's What She Said 2014). As such, researchers have begun to explore strategies for tackling the problem. At present, however, there exists little research concerned with students' attitudes towards sexual violence or indeed socio-sexual norms more broadly.

This paper forms part of a larger project concerned with interpreting students' attitudes towards sexual violence in elite institutions and considering what such attitudes might tell us about the potential for behavioural change. It contributes to the growing discussion surrounding sexual violence in the university context.

Drawing on both quantitative and qualitative data from fieldwork conducted at Russell Group Universities in 2019/20, this paper explores the attitudes held by female undergraduate students pertaining to the acceptability and permissibility of common sexual behaviours. In particular, it explores the relationship between contemporary understandings of female heterosexuality, through a post-feminist framing, and these attitudes.

The findings indicate that female students' attitudes are influenced by a number of contradictory discourses. On the one hand, their attitudes are shaped by an understanding of a positive and proactive sexual agency. Yet simultaneously, their attitudes are shaped by dominant discourses of heterosexuality relating to the gendered socio-sexual norms of male dominance and female passivity. This paper critically analyses these findings and considers how they may prove imperative when theorising about preventative strategies aimed at tackling sexual violence in these communities.

League tables and the untold narrative of students' university experiences

Nicola Roberts
(University of Sunderland)

Each year, the Office for National Statistics and Discover Uni website publish online the results from the National Student Survey (NSS), which measures students' perceptions of their university experience. Embedded within neoliberal ideology, the survey findings are combined with other measures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) with the purpose of ranking UK universities from best to worst. The resulting statistics form timely media supplements, which help guide consumer choice about where to send students to study. As such, this warrants critical debate because the league tables do not inform about the entire student experience. Firstly, students' worlds of danger are missing, and secondly, quantitative data is prioritised over qualitative data. To address these oversights, an online survey, that allowed for open responses to ask about perceptions of on-campus safety, was sent to all students studying at a university in the north of England. This paper shows how women students' perceptions of safety about feeling unsafe in the dark and when alone impacted upon them going onto campus to study. The implications of this are discussed: firstly, the wider impact upon students completing their education, and secondly, re-thinking metrics to take account of the social nexus in which learning is situated. It is timely to think about the latter given the global pandemic and Covid-19 restrictions reducing the numbers of individuals in public spaces. The ultimate outcome would be a wider reading of student experiences at university for consumers when informing their choices about where to study.

Rejecting the Master's Tools: Promoting an Ethics of Care in US and English University Responses to Sexual Violence

Erin Shannon
(University of York)

Despite having comparable student populations and sexual violence victimisation rates, universities in the US and England have different frameworks for responding to sexual violence: The US has a standardised legal framework through Title IX while universities in England follow non-mandated best practice guidance from Universities UK's Changing the Culture report. Interviews with student survivors and administrators at five universities in each country ultimately revealed a shared emphasis on protecting the university's reputation over survivor wellbeing in responding to sexual violence. Drawing on Phipps (2018) and Ahmed (2017, 2020), I conceptualise this need to protect reputation as the consequence of neoliberal marketized higher education structures in which a positive institutional reputation translates to economic security in terms of high rankings, student recruitment, and grant capture. Furthermore, Lynch (2010) contends that in the hyper-individualised context of neoliberal higher education, "carelessness"—the absence of caring responsibilities for oneself, for dependents, and for students—is a virtue. In such a landscape, there is little incentive to support survivors of sexual violence. This paper therefore argues that sustained support for sexual violence

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survivors in English and US universities is impossible within the confines of neoliberal marketized higher education. Instead of looking to liberal approaches that work within such structures, this paper suggests the need for transformative interventions that centre care as an ethic. While it does not offer concrete solutions to this systemic issue, it opens up space for imagining alternative futures to higher education as a more compassionate and equitable space for vulnerable students.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1

"We have always been living through austerity": rewriting time with justification practices

Kieran Cutting

(Open Lab, Newcastle University)

After the 2008 financial crisis, youth services in the UK had to compete for increasingly smaller funds, whilst constantly demonstrating that they provide 'value for money' through program evaluation. Reflecting on three years of ethnographic and participatory research with workers and young people involved in the foster care system, this presentation proposes the concept of 'justification practices' as a way to understand how this emphasis on evaluation has transformed the everyday reality of youth and social work. By prioritizing the measurement of 'outcomes' and the creation of visual 'outputs', justification practices have led to an affective shift towards isolation, anxiety and powerlessness.

In this presentation, I focus on how justification practices are able to alter workers and young people's self-concept and senses of possibility. Justification practices are simultaneously anticipatory and hauntological, containing an ability to rewrite past, present and future. Through justification practices, people begin to feel that the world has always been as it is now, diminishing our sense of possibility, hope for the future, and desire to enact social change. This presentation interrogates the legacies of post-2008 austerity, and its ability to change who we are, have been, and will be, whilst acknowledging that further austerities no doubt await us as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. As our collective histories and imagined futures are constantly rewritten by austerities, we must attempt to "move towards something 'radically Other'" (Foucault, 1981) by rewilding the future, rather than blindly following the paths laid for us by decades of hegemonic neoliberalism.

Imagining smart care: implicit ethical frameworks for technologies of care at a distance

Christine M Hine

(University of Surrey)

Smart technologies promise a future in which care can be delivered at a distance, informed by remote sensing and artificial intelligence. Innovations in this field aim to support people in living at home with conditions such as dementia, enabling distant carers to be alerted to changing patterns of activity and vital signs that may presage a worrying deterioration and thus to act in time to avert crises. Such personalized monitoring is intended to enable people to be supported but maintain some autonomy and independence.

Concerns have been raised repeatedly about the ethics of smart technologies, with their potential to invade privacy and challenge human autonomy. A sociological perspective on such debates allows us to understand ethics as an emergent everyday practice that resides not simply in technologies themselves or as abstract principles, but in the social relations that these technologies enact and develop meaning within. This paper examines the promise of smart care through analysis of documentation from policy, from research and development settings and from marketing materials aimed at carers, people living with dementia and social care agencies. The focus of the analysis is on the ethics of care expressed in such documents, asking how the objects and subjects of care are framed. The analysis explores significant ethical framings in these documents concerning who cares for whom, what relationships are made explicit, what role is played by technology in the act of caring and what temporalities and locations of care emerge when care becomes smart.

Social work, technology and the media: A content analysis of messages presented in newspapers across the Island of Ireland

Katheryn Margaret Pascoe

(Ulster University)

Media has the ability to present images of the world and influence the interpretation and construction of reality in society. Influencing the public image of the social work profession, media has commonly focused on crisis events such as child

deaths, impacting the funding, credibility, authority and resourcing of social workers (Blomberg, 2019; Warner, 2014). In an increasingly internet-based and technology-driven world, technology use has increased in social work practice, often without conscious decision or critical reflection and with limited guidance in professional Codes of Ethics (Pascoe, 2020). As media shapes how consumers perceive and react to social issues, this research investigates the narratives presented in the media on social workers and their use of technology across the island of Ireland. Taking a 10 year period of analysis, the research investigates if attention in the media has increased and/or if messages have changed in response to Covid-19 and the increased need for remote service delivery models. With a growing reliance on technology, it is important to understand how the media is constructing the image of social workers in this dynamic space and what messages are being promoted as these can impact the day to day practice of social work and how the profession responds to technological developments now and in the future.

The Promise of New Technologies for Disabled People: Opportunities, Omissions and Problems

Sarah Woodin

(University of Leeds)

Artificial intelligence, machine learning and the Internet of Things (IoT) are examples of new technologies that have considerable promise for disabled and non-disabled people alike. They have been hailed by the UK government as offering 'major economic and social benefits' and form the basis of a large programme of financial investment. At the same time, the technology is viewed as a potential threat to privacy and the possible gateway to exploitation and harm. Concrete examples of discrimination in relation to race and gender have been widely reported and discriminatory practices against disabled people are emerging.

Disabled people are often said to be well placed to benefit. However, their access to information and control of new technologies is limited and user involvement in design and engineering for new products is often an afterthought.

This paper arises from a seven country interdisciplinary ICT project that focusses on designing innovative technology for people who are deafblind. It will present some of the emerging findings from a review of national and European attempts to develop and regulate new technologies in relation to disabled people.

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Gender norms, performativity and sharing parenting

Juliet Allen

(University of Cambridge)

Greater sharing of parenting and caring responsibilities is widely recognised as fundamental to gender equality. Yet, in spite of policy interventions aimed at helping fathers to share parental leave around the world, fathers continue to use less leave than mothers, even in countries where each partner is entitled to half of the leave. Women's participation in the workforce has changed dramatically over the past 50 years; men's engagement in reproductive labour has not kept pace.

Entrenched gender norms are key to understanding the slow pace of change in fathers' participation in childcare and domestic work. However, existing scholarship examining fathers' use of leave has, thus far, relied on theoretical frameworks that cannot account for our compulsion to reproduce normative gender. My research addresses this by deploying Butler's theory of gender performativity and theorising parenting as performative. Based on empirical work conducted in UK, Sweden and Portugal, this paper presents three ways in which performativity bears on fathers' use of parental leave entitlements: through policy and discourse, 'maternal privileging,' and peer and familial norms.

With a dual focus on the power of subversion to effect change and the importance of an enabling institutional environment, this paper presents the strengths and limitations of a Butlerian approach. Given the threat presented by COVID-19 to gender equality, it is imperative to continue to identify barriers to more equal participation in both work and care. An approach using performativity can illuminate powerful forms of gendered social constraint that constitute one such fundamental barrier.

Sorry the Wi-Fi keeps cutting out! Finding new ways to connect with each other and do feminist and participatory research when working remotely

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Ruth Beresford

(Sheffield Hallam University)

Covid-19 and the consequent lockdown have required rapid changes to the ways in which social research is conducted, with digital and remote forms of working becoming the norm. Methods for building rapport and creating safe spaces to talk about intimate topics vary greatly between in-person, online and on-the-phone conversations. It is important to consider what impact the suspension of face-to-face research has on doing qualitative social research and on constructing knowledge. As a researcher who follows feminist and participatory principles and who usually conducts face-to-face research, I am having to develop new techniques to support the building of reciprocal research relationships in the digital sphere.

In this talk, I will reflect on my current research which explores self-identifying women's perceptions on how pornography should be covered within Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), and how their own encounters with it might be used to inform what content on pornography is taught in SRE. I hope to create a space in which these women can share their opinions and lived experiences in-depth, where they feel comfortable and confident in disclosing personal and emotive stories, and from which collaborative discussion and analysis can follow. I will share my reflections on doing feminist and participatory research on an intimate topic remotely, and offer practical tips for creating a listening space in the absence of meeting in person.

Protecting women? Gender relations and men's use of women's metro carriages in Guangdong province, China

Huawen Cui

(University of York)

The women's metro carriages in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, China have been operating for more than two years. The establishment of the carriages has led to much controversy and now the carriages for women are crowded with male passengers. The carriages were set up for female passengers' convenience, but why there are many male passengers instead? This paper explores the use of women's carriages and attitudes of female and male passengers to the carriages. Through interviews and observations, this study analyses the changing attitudes of male passengers when they use the women's carriages, and female passengers' attitudes towards this phenomenon. I discuss their opinions on whether men have the right to use women's carriages. The policy on women's carriages is used to explore more about male passenger's attitudes to such public facilities established for women. Furthermore, given the social propaganda on gender issues, such as 'protecting women' and 'respecting women', how do these social initiatives affect male attitudes to gender equality and gender relations? Therefore, this paper aims to examine male viewpoints on topics of gender rights, gendered equalities and gendered relations, by focusing on male passengers who use the women's metro carriages in China.

'Interdisciplinary, Intersectional and International': Gender and feminist knowledge and the politics of difference in the internationalising university

Lili Schwoerer

(London School of Economics (LSE))

The benefits and challenges of 'internationalisation' in Higher Education are now widely explored by Sociologists of Education. Feminist scholars have noted that the move towards a global university market benefits some feminist knowledges and those that produce them, while also producing new inequalities and hierarchies. Building on this literature, this paper explores how discourses of difference and the 'International' circulate in descriptions of gender, feminist and queer studies degree programmes. Drawing from a discourse analysis of descriptions of all such existing degree programmes in English universities, I argue that the 'international' at times is imagined around constructions of temporal and spatial alterity that reproduce Eurocentric hierarchies of power/knowledge. In addition, difference is constructed as an asset in a way that risks positioning the university-educated feminist and gender studies scholar as responsible to categorise and manage alterity. As such, feminist and gender studies programmes, in the way they represent themselves to the public, can reproduce liberal multiculturalist discourses of inclusivity which seek to manage and transcend difference on its own terms, while keeping Eurocentric hierarchies of power/knowledge in place. Conversations about English universities' positioning vis-à-vis postcolonial relations of power/knowledge thus do not stop at the door of gender and feminist studies but must be considered as functioning through and in conjunction with it. Such a recognition, I conclude, is essential to imagining an emancipatory gender and feminist knowledge production for the future.

Sociology of Education

Students' aspirations for their post-university lives: evidence from six European nations

Achala Gupta, Rachel Brooks
(University of Surrey)

While there is now a relatively large literature on young people's aspirations regarding their transitions from compulsory schooling, the body of work on the aspirations of those within higher education is rather less well-developed. This is likely to be related to the relative absence of policy activity in this area, underpinned by policymakers' assumptions that university provides a smooth pathway, for those who secure access, to professional employment.

This article contributes to this limited scholarship that has focussed on HE students' aspirations by examining the hopes of young people enrolled in degree-level study across Europe. The article draws on data collected in 2017-18 through focus group discussions with 295 students in six European countries: Denmark, England, Germany, Ireland, Poland and Spain. It considers what students anticipated their HE would lead to, and the extent to which such aspirations were similar across different national contexts, institutions and subjects of study.

The article demonstrates that aspirations for employment were discussed most frequently. Moreover, despite significant commonalities across the six nations, aspirations were also differentiated, to some extent at least, by national context, institutional setting and subject of study. Finally, it is important to note that while the most commonly articulated aspirations were those relating to employment, our participants certainly did not define their HE experience solely in these terms; for the vast majority of the students we spoke to, a degree was significantly more than a qualification for the labour market (irrespective of whether they viewed themselves as 'investors' or 'insurers').

The scope for private higher education in England to widen participation

Stephen Hunt
(UCL)

The Government has placed a great deal of faith in the competitive effects of private higher education (HE) providers addressing the apparent deficiencies of the public HE system in England, including a failure to effectively widen participation.

We examine how well placed private providers are to widen participation in terms of their geographic distribution, and draw on a unique database detailing aspects of all private providers active in England, a large proportion of which are often missing from official records of HE provision.

We examined 496 private providers' location against existing data concerning HE participation rates by location (POLAR4) and density of HE providers by location (HEFCE pre-2015 data on HE provision). These were combined into a single index grading participation and density from low to high. The results indicate that fifty per cent of all private providers were located in the area of greatest existing participation/ provision; only ten per cent in the area of least participation/ provision.

Additionally, the higher the educational level the provider offers the greater the concentration in high participation/ provision areas; even the presence of providers offering only level four or five qualifications did not exceed seventeen percent in areas of lowest participation/ provision.

The implication of this national distribution has for widening participation is bleak. The more disadvantaged the potential student the narrower their mobility intentions, often confined to areas they are already connected with: this is particularly true for those belonging to groups already under-represented in English HE such as ethnic minorities.

The Mobilisation of AI in Education: A Bourdieusean Field Analysis

Huw Davies, Rebecca Eynon
(University of Edinburgh)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is currently hailed as a 'solution' to perceived problems in education. Though few sociologists of education would agree with its deterministic claims, this AI solutionist thinking is gaining significant currency. AI is

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being hailed as a remedy to sources of educational disadvantage such as the financial means to access tutors and under-resourced schools. In this presentation, using a relatively novel method for sociology – a knowledge graph – together with Bourdieusean theory, we critically examine how and why different stakeholders in education, educational technology and policy are valorising AI, the main concepts, such as personalisation, they collectively endorse and their incentives for doing so. Drawing on analysis, we argue that AI is currently being mobilised in education in problematic ways, that it is therefore unlikely deliver its promises and may be counterproductive. Consequently, we advocate for more systematic sociological thinking and research to re-orientate the field to account for the ways in which society's structural conditions influence educational outcomes.

The Digital Transformation of Egyptian Secondary Education: A Critique of Technological Reason

Hany Zayed

(University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Egypt's educational reform has historically been punctuated by socio-economic and socio-political junctures. Since late 2018, Egypt has been implementing an audacious reform program that involves the digital transformation of public secondary schooling. This program includes the distribution of educational tablets, the development of e-learning platforms and e-examination systems, the introduction of smartboards in classes, and the wiring of public schools. Following the Covid-19 school closures in March 2020, this digitization program was massively accelerated with scale, speed and depth unprecedented in Egyptian history.

This research seeks to understand digital transformations and educational change within a critical moment of disruption and uncertainty. Moving away from celebratory techno-optimistic rhetoric and idealized visions of positive technological transformations, this research examines the messy realities of technologies of learning in Egyptian secondary public education. This includes examining how digital technologies restructure education and schooling, change cultures of learning, alter socio-educational relations, instigate resistance and adaptation, perpetuate inequalities, and act as transformative social forces. Deploying relational and digital ethnographies, this research uses in-depth interviews, oral histories, observations, content analysis, in addition to novel social media research.

This project uses the unique case of a middle-income country engaged in creative, swift and vast digital transformations akin to advanced industrial nations to elucidate socio-educational changes. Its critical questions, distinctive access, empirical richness, methodological innovations and theoretical insights provide a timely intervention that is theoretically significant (as it informs socio-educational research), and practically valuable (as it informs other spatial and temporal contexts) with both individual and institutional consequences.

Sociology of Religion

Rethinking the Public Sphere: Islam, Modernity and Covid-19 in Indonesia

Asep Darmini

(Centre for Cultural and Media Policy Studies, University of Warwick)

One of the most compelling aspects of Indonesian education is a constant battle between religion and modernity (Jackson & Parker, 2008). Central to this idea is the historic Islamic boarding school (Pondok Pesantren) that emphasizes religious values as its core pedagogy (Fananie, 1997; Lukens-Bull, 2001; Pohl, 2006). This paper argues that the tension and the public sphere's diversity have created various measurements in tackling the challenge of COVID-19. In the global and national public sphere, online learning and social distancing have become the main methods of minimizing the pandemic's risk. However, amidst such health concerns, many Pondok Pesantren still holds educational activities in a pre-pandemic way. As many students come from a lower socio-economic background, technological affordance has become the main barrier to online learning. Simultaneously, there is an inherent feeling of security and certainty to follow offline religious activities. By emphasizing the institution as the backbone of the Islamic public sphere, this paper aims to interrogate the public sphere's diversity, from the secular public sphere (Habermas, 1984, 1987, 1999) to the Indonesian public sphere (Brenner, 2011; Kitley, 2008; Rinaldo, 2008), to the Islamic public sphere in Pondok Pesantren. Based on the spectrum of connectivity, this paper aims to understand whether offline religious practice still relevant in mitigating the global risk of COVID-19. Against the background of Islam and modernity, this paper also seeks to navigate the tension between secularisation and religious revival in the Indonesian public sphere.

Remaking Ireland's Religious Future?: Religion Online during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Gladys Ganiel
(Queen's University Belfast)

This paper explores how churches on the island of Ireland moved online in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, analysing the impact of this massive shift in practice on Ireland's Christians. The first part of the paper draws on an island-wide survey of faith leaders conducted in May 2020, which revealed that the percentage of churches offering worship opportunities online increased from 56% to 87% during the pandemic. It also found surprisingly high numbers of viewers of online services, increased levels of prayer, and that 70% of faith leaders anticipated retaining aspects of their online ministries as lockdown restrictions ease. The second part of the paper draws on (ongoing) interviews with 30 faith leaders from a range of Christian denominations, offering in-depth analysis of their perceptions of the strengths and limitations of blended online/in-person approaches in terms of its perceived effectiveness in constructing Christian or congregational identities, evangelisation, and nourishing faith. Preliminary analysis indicates that faith leaders have been surprised and encouraged by the response to 'religion online' during the pandemic. Some now see it as an opportunity to remake Ireland's religious future, expanding their reach and influence on a secularising island.

Churches during the pandemic in Poland. Using digital media as a response to discrimination against religious minorities.

Marta Kolodziejska
(Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences)

During the Covid-19 pandemic, most European states imposed some form of lockdowns, restricting the functioning of businesses, and limiting access to religious services. While seemingly neutral and based on objective calculations, the restrictions of church attendance in some states were perceived as overt forms of discrimination against religious minorities. The paper discusses the case of Poland, where the restrictions were based on calculating the number of participants per square meter, which favoured the dominant Roman Catholic Church, which owns the largest church buildings. For small Protestant minorities, such as the Seventh-Day Adventists (SDA), the restrictions often rendered organizing religious services impossible. Despite appeals from the Evangelical Alliance, and the SDA officials, the government did not adjust the limits to make them more inclusive. Therefore, in many cases the minority Churches were forced to move the majority or all of their services online. On the basis of this example, the paper argues that lockdown measures regarding church attendance in Poland may be viewed as an implicit discriminatory policy, strengthening the connection between the conservative government and the dominant Church. It will also argue that the use of digital media by religious minorities in Poland during the pandemic should be seen as a proactive response to discrimination and a form of asserting their religious identity: one which has been used for decades, but has intensified during the restrictions. The concluding remarks will include the question of the possible changes in the functions of digital media for minority Churches after the pandemic.

'It's Not Macho, is it?' Contemporary British Christian Men's Constructions of Masculinity and Churchgoing

Line Nyhagen
(Loughborough University)

Religion is a key site for constructions of masculinity, and visions of a gender equal society must include religious men. This study examines how a group of British white, heterosexual, middle-class, lay Anglican men construct masculinities via discourses on churchgoing, worship styles, and godly submission within the broader context of feminised congregations and male-dominated hierarchies. The interviewed men express a hybrid form of masculinity, informed by religious faith, that embraces typically 'feminine' characteristics such as love, humility and vulnerability. At the same time, they articulate ideals of heteronormativity and essentialised gender differences that support hegemonic masculinity (Connell, 1995). The participants engage simultaneously in a selective, 'discursive distancing' (Bridges & Pascoe, 2014; 2018) from, and a discursive alignment with, hegemonic masculinity norms (Connell, 1995), thus demonstrating tensions between competing masculinity norms. The study raises questions about the future of men's church-going and sense of belonging within the Church of England.

Theory

B/order Work – the Practices of Public Administration in the seam-ful carescapes of Health and Social Care Integration in Scotland

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Tamara Mulherin

(University of Edinburgh)

Across the arts, social sciences, and humanities, interest grows in the materiality of the everyday. Varied schools of thought, illustrated through, new materialisms, actor-network theory, object-oriented ontology, post-humanist feminisms etc., are scaffolding emergent thinking that breaks from the hegemony of discourse, problematises notions of agency as more-than-human, and embraces the materiality of practices underpinning knowledge, science, and power. However, public administration (as an applied subdiscipline related to organisational sociology, political science, and policy studies), with its relative absence of 'things', is a relative latecomer to these developments - the material has been conspicuously absent. I argue that merging insights from 'transversal new materialisms' (van der Tuin and Dolphijn 2010) into public administration, generates more nuanced representations of not only the way in which public administration is enacted, but the world-making public administration does.

I draw on my multi-sited, interorganisational ethnography on health and social care integration in Scotland, as a public administration nexus of practices, to explore it's becoming 'materialised' through objects, as well as how enmeshed artefacts were things around which meanings associated with contemporary forms of public administration, especially partnership, coalesce and are subsequently sustained, and contested. I delve into obscuring, 'seam-ful', b/order work that sustains the idiosyncrasies of the NHS and Council and the making of worldly normative b/orders, (re)shaping the contours of a 'carescape' in a place I call Kintra. I show how immersion in the materiality of integration reveals the (re)organising of b/orders was an always-ongoing act of maintenance and repair of a (dis)integrating carescape.

Assembling knowledge: assemblage thinking as a new materialist onto-epistemology

Emma Seddon

(University of Glasgow)

New materialist approaches have increased in popularity and visibility in recent years owing to their ontological commitments that encourage and enable researchers to focus on multiplicity, complexity and heterogeneity. However, the epistemological implications of these ideas are often not discussed. This paper explores how assemblage thinking can be understood as an onto-epistemology that can frame research. In this way, the ontological commitments of assemblage guide and shape research throughout the entire process, facilitating methodological and analytical experimentation. The concepts of affect and becoming that make up this novel ontology are equally a means of knowing in which epistemological assumptions are challenged and rethought. Here, ethnographic methods are combined with quantitative social network analysis under the umbrella of assemblage to demonstrate the synthesis of theory, methods and data this enables. In a complex, interconnected world, assemblage as an onto-epistemology is a powerful explanatory tool that can attend to the messiness of the world, data, and the research process.

uBuntu and the Relational Turn: Decolonising Social Ontology with African Philosophy

Stephen Seely

(School of Geography, Politics, and Sociology (Newcastle University))

In recent years, social theorists have tried to displace the (neo)liberal ontology of the autonomous individual through a turn to more relational ontologies drawn from affect theory, new materialism, and psychoanalysis. But despite calls for 'southern epistemologies' in the social sciences, little attention has been paid to African philosophy as a resource for rethinking social ontology. As a contribution to such a project, this paper focuses on the implications of the South African philosophy of ubuntu for decolonising social theory. First, it briefly reviews two of the leading relational ontologies in Euro-American theory--'entanglement' (Barad) and 'vulnerability' (Butler)—to show the limitations of these ontologies in accounting for social inequalities or political struggles. It then introduces ubuntu, centered on a concept of relationality that is not only an ontological 'fact,' but a political demand to realize a social world in which the flourishing of each person contributes to the flourishing of all. In ubuntu, social ontology is therefore inseparable from a political struggle for justice: Who and what we actually *are* is made in and by our collective struggles for a better future. Thus, the significance of ubuntu is not only that it offers an African 'alternative' to Euro-American theory, but that it entirely reconceptualizes the link between 'the social' and 'the political' as it is generally understood. Moving beyond critique of Eurocentrism, the paper therefore contributes to a decolonization of social theory by allowing it to be fundamentally rethought on the basis of African philosophical resources.

Feminist Materialism and Covid-19: The Agential Activation of Everyday Objects

Tina Sikka
(Newcastle University)

This talk takes up and make the case for the study of Covid-19 through the lens of feminist new materialism. This approach is best placed to tease out, assess, and reach conclusions about the impact of Covid-19 as well as helping to determine how we might be best placed to deal with its complex consequences. I begin with a brief introduction to Covid-19 followed by an analysis of the virus through the lens of feminist new materialism by drawing on the work of Karan Barad (2003, 2007), Rosi Braidotti (2011, 2013), and Jane Bennett (2004, 2010). I contend that the interconnected frameworks articulated by each of these theorists provides the basis for a more robust understanding of the viral non-human (Covid 19) and everyday objects (the toilet roll and medical masks) whose agentic power is embedded in larger assemblages of natureculture. This kind of analysis is urgent in light of our current media-saturated, interconnected, highly politicized, and expert-adverse environment

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

WORK AND MOBILITY

Skills and Mobility in Times of Crisis: The Study of Relative Deprivation in Greece and the United Kingdom

Paraskevi - Viviane Galata
(Panteion University)

In times of crisis, one of the main features of change regards intra and inter occupational skill classification and how this affects workers stratification and mobility. Since the 1980s, the changing nature of working patterns and flexibility have led to a shift from acquired skills through training to generic skills based on physical, hereditary, and cultural characteristics, especially in services. It seems that class, gender, and racial stereotypes return, and “merit” becomes the main criterion of social stratification and mobility, unequally limiting opportunities for certain groups and creating feelings of resentment.

The research examines the process of changes occurred in job skill classification within an occupation and their implications for the social status of the most affected by the crisis, specifically migrant workers, their expectations for occupational mobility and their understanding of relative deprivation. The study uses the theory of relative deprivation to analyse social attitudes towards job inequalities amongst migrant workers. Based on the comparative method, it investigates the impact of crisis in two ethnic groups and two different cities: the Albanians in Athens, Greece and the Irish in Newcastle, United Kingdom. The study selects the Case Study to explore job inequalities and relative deprivation, as well as in-depth Work History Interviews in 20 migrant families to understand through their experiences the process and complexity of social interaction. Responding to a call from scholars for more qualitative data to explain people's feelings of injustice, the study aims to contribute to the academic and policy debate on fair social policies.

Lost in translation: a Bourdieusian perspective on cross-national occupational cultures, as revealed by employees' visible consumption patterns

Karina Pavlisa, Peter Scott
(Henley Business School, University of Reading)

Globalization and liberalisation have increased international economic migration flows, including rising numbers of professional/managerial workers. Immigrants often experience low returns on their credentials and competencies, owing to their outsider status and imperfect fit with the new country's cultural norms and values. Thus, what is considered an ideal “portfolio” of capital forms in their source country may be less valuable in the host nation. Using the perspective of Pierre Bourdieu, we examine one potentially important cause of poor outcomes for immigrant professionals – mismatches between the forms of capital prized in their country of origin, and in their host nation. Using quantitative evidence on different types of visible expenditure (signalling capitals and status) from the British household expenditure survey (secure version) and the European Household Budget Surveys (Eurostat), we find strong commonalities in preferred forms of capital for four professional/managerial occupations in two “mature capitalism” nations, Britain, and France. Conversely, these are less pronounced for the same occupations in Hungary, reflecting its status as a transition economy with an inherited egalitarian culture. This implies that migrants from Eastern Europe may find their “capitals” substantially discounted by West European employers, who judge it by their own national benchmarks. Understandings about what are the “right capitals” in the professional domain may differ by national context, as country-bound

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professional ethos, determined by the institutional setting, defines the relative value of these competencies in local professional networks. Our research also has implications for international careers, multinationals' staffing practices and cross-national economic migration.

Oil & Gas Engineers Migration: Migration Inside Infrastructural Network

Aleksandra Salatova
(*Sakhalin State University*)

Oil & gas industry play a significant role in modern geopolitics and, as T. Gustafson argued, unite Europe's nations in mutual self-interest. However, the people, who works for that industry and make it alive, stay in some sense invisible in most scientific discussions. Meanwhile, Russian oil & gas engineers belong to one of the mobile migrational groups of the society: they are, in common, have a good education, demanded skills (and English language on acceptable level) and upper medium wage. Their driving factors for migration by Hays report: 1) competitive wage; 2) career perspectives; 3) interesting functions/projects. However, there is a one significant factor for their migration presence of the industrial infrastructure in the region (LNG, commercial fields etc). Their migration paths are located strongly inside infrastructural network, stronger than it is for it-engineers or for service industry in general. On one hand that makes the migration paths and flows researching easier. On another hand, in case of unstable market climate, which was clearly demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, oil & gas engineers become hostages of that infrastructure.

The paper presents some results of the qualitative research conducted in summer-autumn of 2020 among the Russian oil & gas engineers working on Sakhalin Island (Russian Far East).

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

INSECURITY, PRECARIITY AND INFORMALITY

Early Career Academics' Experiences of Precarity in the 'Corporate' Higher Education: The Accounts of the UK and the USA

Canan Nese Kinikoglu, Aysegul Can
(*Istanbul Medeniyet University*)

Neoliberal restructuring of higher education and its crises, as evidenced in the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, have exacerbated the inherent stratifications of academia based on discipline, age, race, and gender, and further casualised academic labour force. The increase in fixed term and part-time contracts, escalating pressure on early career academics to publish, teach, and attract more research grants in a shrinking and competitive job market have pushed young academics into insecure work and life environments. Notwithstanding the differences stemming from their institutionalisation, the USA and the UK stand out as the two most prominent examples of corporate higher education that rely mostly on tuition fees and research grants. This study sheds a comparative light on how early career academics in the UK and the USA negotiate their positions in insecure academic work environments and a shrinking job market, particularly against the backdrop of an overarching hiring freeze across the fee-based higher education sector during the on-going pandemic. Since April 2020, we have carried out semi-structured interviews with 20 (10 from the UK and 10 from the USA) early career academics (ranging from new PhDs to those who have completed their PhDs in the last 10 years) in the field of social sciences. Our preliminary findings highlight gendered aspects and nuanced degrees of precarity experienced by early career academics in the UK and the USA in line with varied features of employment, work and living conditions, and how these affect the future of the sector in the Global North.

Hire of Service or Hire of Work? A Case Study of the Employment Relationships between the Riders and the Food-delivery Firms in Taiwan

Bo-Yi Lee
(*King's Business School*)

Platform-based food-delivery firms have become popular with Taiwanese people recently, and the issue of the employment relationships between the riders and the firms has been widely discussed due to the two fatal accidents and numerous injuries of the riders in 2019. Some of the people argue that the relationships should be defined as 'hire of service,' which suggests that the riders are the employees of the platform-based food-delivery firms. However, other

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people define the relationships between the riders and the platform-based food-delivery firms as 'hire of work,' which implies that the riders are contractors of the firms.

Current studies regarding gig economy and gig workers focus more on the problems, such as law and regulation and the consequences of the gig economy, such as the impacts on gig workers' job quality. However, fewer studies have explored how diverse views regarding the employment relationships between the workers and the firms interact with each other in a particular field. This study, therefore, applies the theory of institutional logics to fill the gap and analyze the discourses from multiple stakeholders, such as the riders, platform-based food-delivery firms, customers, labor activists, lawyers, researchers, the media, the government officials, and legislators. By doing so, we could, from a theoretical perspective, learn how different logics of employment relationships, such as 'hire of service' and 'hire of work' in this case, interact with each other. Examining this subject aids us to understand more about how this controversy is discussed and further have implications for policymaking.

The biggest trade fair in comedy: the Edinburgh Festival and employment in stand-up

Dimitrinka Stoyanova Russell, Nick Butler
(Cardiff University)

The paper looks at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival and its labour market functions. Festivals are commonly analysed with regards to their economic and social value (Wilson et al.2017) but as the Edinburgh festival shows they can also be fundamental to employment through skills development, networking and exposure to audiences and gatekeepers. The extraordinary congregation of industry players offers much of what is lacking in the institutionally fluid and fragmented labour market in comedy.

Drawing on 64 semi-structured interviews with professional comedians, we discuss how the 'biggest trade fair in comedy' serves comedians at different stages in their careers. For those in the initial stages it provides exposure to a variety of venues and audiences (crucial for skills development), building material (key resource for sustaining a career); being noticed by industry players and immersing oneself in the professional community. For the more established stand-ups Edinburgh helps maintaining good reputation (the one hour show is the golden standard in the industry), and enables access to TV gatekeepers. Earning money is not a factor. In fact, most comics 'invest' in being at the festival (usually in the range of £10.000) and even when they become 'regular' festival performers with a few shows a day, they often just about manage to break even. The high financial and other costs are problematic. But with few if any alternative means for comics to access in the labour market what Edinburgh provides, it seems like a must sacrifice for anyone wishing to have a career in comedy.

Emotional resources and insecurity in life and labour: affective responses to precarious work in Germany

Vera Trappmann, Ioulia Bessa, Kate Hardy, Charles Umney
(Leeds University Business School)

Beyond extensive debates on 'emotional labour', the 'affective turn' in wider social science has had little impact on the sociology of work and employment. This is despite the fact that affect is 'key to transforming the individual and collective well-being of workers' (Hardy and Cruz 2018). In contrast to this absence, debates on precariousness in relation to the sociology of work and employment have become diffuse and excessively wide ranging (Alberti et al. 2018). This discussion has often investigated the relationship between precarious working conditions, and "precarity" in their wider life situations. Largely missing from these debates has been attention to the role that emotion and affect play in impacting on how people experience precariousness. In this paper, we draw on 60 biographical narrative interviews (Schütze, 1983) in Germany whose work situation deviated from the norm, defined as having an open-ended, full-time job covered by social security and minimum wage. We examine the ways which emotional and affective resources shape participants' relationship to work, life security and ways of responding to insecure work, including a focus on how this is different across the sample. Our argument is that experiences relating to emotions and affect have a profound impact on the experience of precarious work, and that this relationship should be a fruitful line of investigation. Both working lives and personal lives therefore are imbricated by affect in both their material conditions and outcomes and as such, conceptualisations of 'precariousness' must also incorporate notions of emotion and affect.

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

A clean and 'civil' future: local associations and the moral policing of Parisian public space

Carrie Benjamin
(University of Warwick)

For years, neighbourhood associations and city officials in Paris have attempted to police behaviour to reduce discourteous uses of public spaces, with a particular focus on visual, olfactory, and sonic disturbances. Among these sensory nuisances, litter, dog waste, public urination, fly-tipping, loud groups of young people, and 'abusive' occupations of public spaces are deemed to be 'incivilities' that contribute to a sense of insecurity among residents. City officials have reacted to these incivilities with securitised responses—even creating uniformed 'incivility brigades' who are overseen by the Directorate of Prevention, Security, and Protection and have the power to issue citations for public infractions. However, not all residents are content with the efficacy of this approach. In particular, local residents' associations that seek to 'defend' their neighbourhood against a perceived neglect from the city argue that these measures do not go far enough, preferring instead to 'educate' their neighbours about proper behaviour while also lobbying for increased police intervention. Drawing on interviews and participant observation with local activists, and archival research in the Paris city and police archives, I analyse the discourse that surrounds 'incivility' and depicts it as a security issue. I argue that by using the discourse of incivility to combat the 'degradation' of their neighbourhoods and challenge 'bad' behaviour, local associations attempt to create a future based upon a supposedly pre-existing moral hierarchy defined by respect and order in public spaces.

Parkour, graffiti and the politics of (in)visibility in aestheticised urban landscapes

Nicola De Martini Ugolotti, Carlo Genova
(Bournemouth University)

In the last few decades, the production of leisure-oriented, aesthetically pleasing and consumption-enticing cityscapes has become the core of post-industrial urban economies. The "hegemony of vision" (Zukin, 1997) characterizing these urban processes has also implied the spatial removal and/or containment of bodies and practices deemed "unsavoury" in rebranding urban areas. Drawing on two sets of ethnographic studies on parkour and graffiti-writing in Turin and Bologna (Italy), this paper articulates the sensory and political dimensions of (in)visibility to unpack the multifaceted urban politics of contemporary, regenerating cityscapes. Parkour and graffiti's capacity to cut across definitions of what is (il)legitimate and (un)desirable in regenerating cityscapes will provide a unique perspective over the less-than-coherent rhetorics of "creative" urban rebranding, as well as over the temporary and tactical reconfigurations of the regimes of visibility operating in contemporary urban scenarios. The discussion of writers and traceurs' situational re-appropriations of accessibility, publicness and (in)visibility in/of urban spaces will thus inform two related domains of discussion. Firstly, it will critically interrogate existing analysis that discussed urban public spaces as only readable through all-encompassing impositions of decorum, public order and consumption, or through practices finalised to "claim a pure form of equality" (Nicholls and Uitermark, 2017, p. 5). Relatedly, the paper will address how practices that open up the accessibility and publicity of urban spaces in ways that are not universally emancipatory can offer relevant entry point to explore "different opportunities for public action" (Iveson, 2007, p. 12) in contemporary urban contexts that require further empirical analysis.

Covid-19 and social and economic precarity of the street food vendors in Delhi

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Priyasha Kaul
(Ambedkar University Delhi)

The aim of this paper is to examine the immediate and long term social and economic precarity of the street food vendors in the city of Delhi in the changing Covid-19 related climate. The street food vendors form a large albeit vulnerable section of the informal economy of the city. They are often migrants drawn from various parts of the country who depend on daily earnings to support themselves and their families back home. With the sudden announcement of the lockdown in India on the 24th of March 2020, many such migrants were forced to undertake long journeys back on foot. As the unlock process began months later, Prime Minister Modi launched the 'atma nirbhar bharat' [self reliant India] initiative encouraging Indians to become self reliant by utilising local resources to counter the economic impact of the pandemic. This paper explores how in the context of the Covid19 related economic and social climate, this self reliance discourse while using the rhetoric of 'localisation', invisibilises the most vulnerable sections of the informal local economies in Indian society. Due to the perishable nature of the goods and informality of the business, street food vendors often remain undocumented in the official government records of the economic impact of the pandemic in India. Using the ethnographic method, this paper highlights the complex negotiations of migration, gender and class by the street food vendors in Delhi and its long term implications for their social and economic survival during and post- the Covid19 pandemic in India.

Re-imagining the urban: new exclusions and displacements?

Nigel De Noronha
(University of Nottingham)

This paper explores the urban environment emerging from UK policies during and after the crisis. Current interventions have been short-term and piecemeal, at best failing to address structural inequalities and potentially exacerbating them. Rising unemployment and increasing levels of debt may force many to lose their homes. Brexit is likely to add to economic pressures as well as increasing polarisation through scapegoating migrants (and those seen as migrants).

The UK promises to support home ownership during the lockdown by allowing a mortgage holiday but this protection does not extend to renters leaving many vulnerable to increasing debt and eviction. In America after the 2008 financial crash foreclosure by banks displaced and impoverished many. Those affected were more likely to be black whilst the emerging evidence in the UK suggests that ethnic minorities, recent migrants and the young will be disproportionately affected.

On the supply side those who can afford to may flee the centres of towns and cities in search of more space away from the proximity of disease and decay, echoing the middle class flight from disease articulated in the Housing Question (Engels, 1872). Small landlords who dominate the UK market, faced with shortfall in income, may resort to mass evictions and selling their property. The extent to which the changed housing market will be affordable for those in need will depend on levels of financialisation (Rolner, 2015).

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 1

“The Loneliness of the Long Distance Golfer”: A Study of Professional Golfers’ Mental Health and Wellbeing during Life on Tour

John Fry
(University Centre Myerscough)

This paper examines the mental health and wellbeing of elite sports athletes who are increasingly required to ply their trade in transient workplaces. Interviews with 20 touring professional golfers reveal that many experience intense feelings of loneliness and isolation given the long periods spent from significant others combined with pressures to perform on the global stage. Players are required to spend longer 'on the road' with other golfers, caddies, and tour employees, but experience feelings of being 'cut adrift' from people whom they have deeper affective ties with. It is argued that feelings loneliness and isolation combined with the unstable environments often exhibited in professional sport – such as irregular cycles of work intensity mixed with low reward and lack of control, as indicated here in professional golf – can negatively impact on mental health and athlete stress. Results have important implications for those who support professional sportspeople, such as governing bodies and player management groups, as well as the athletes themselves who may not recognise the symptoms of mental health issues.

Whiteness: issues of allyship and the racialisation of sports spaces

Steve Raven
(University of Worcester)

The paper postulates a new understanding of the consciousness of racialised spaces is required before allyship will achieve full community participation in sports spaces. A theoretical framework is developed on which the analysis of two ongoing projects will draw on. Both studies are contextualised within the sports domain and are investigating the role whiteness plays in constraining participation

A lacuna of thinking exists regarding systemic racism, denial of racism, racial consciousness, and allyship concerning whiteness within the sport and physical education. We develop a framework of systemic whiteness to detail how structural and institutional elements of 'race' and racial discrimination are operationalised through whiteness. We problematise how the operationalising includes the individual in deploying learnt 'whiteness'—redefining whiteness as the adoption of a persona, grounded within an ideology and politics, drawing on a reinterpretation of Marxist theory to understand the concept of the 'diversity bargain' (Warikoo 2018). Disengagement of the individual with the civilising process is theorised, establishing covert racism as the responsibility of the individual to engage in discrimination and othering, questioning the notion of unconscious bias.

The paper concludes by framing a series of connections between a range of related terminologies used in the research. For example; a central feature of whiteness in sports participation is about maintaining privilege, and therefore interactions within the sports interaction are about keeping their whiteness privileges. The paper demonstrates that the denial of whiteness' further develops a capacity to racialise social interactions within sports spaces hence impacts those who are 'othered'.

Running Through A Pandemic: the impact of COVID-19 on female ultra-runners in the UK

Bethan Taylor
(Birkbeck, University of London)

This paper will draw on critical theory and adopt a social constructionist position to analyse the experiences of female ultra-runners during the COVID-19 pandemic and consider the impact this significant global event has had on how these women approach their sport.

My research will comprise in-depth interviews with female ultra-runners where I will explore how the social distancing and lockdown measures introduced in the UK to counter COVID-19 have impacted their personal priorities, training priorities and approach to competition. I will then draw comparisons between the experiences of female ultra-runners in 2020 to the findings of similar research I conducted in 2017. This work suggested that ultra-running offered an opportunity to create more equitable sporting spaces where men and women could compete side by side. I am curious to see whether this remains the case, particularly considering that my previous research suggested that traditional gender differentiations still appeared to be significant and that women in ultra-running may be seen as the exceptions to gender-based expectations of women in sport, and arguably wider society.

I will briefly outline the process of data collection and then outline my findings before commencing my discussion. I will also mention further work I am doing in this area.

Culture, Sport and Wellbeing: Reflections on Social Capital and Cultural Capital in the Leisure Sphere

Alan Tomlinson
(University of Brighton UK)

The presentation draws upon the ESRC-funded evidence review(s), 2015-2019, on Culture, Sport and Wellbeing, and Culture, Sport and Communities, undertaken by a team from Brunel University, the University of Brighton, the London School of Economics, and Tampere University, and constituting part of the UK What Works for Wellbeing evidence review programme. In one of our reviews focused upon the participatory arts (Daykin et al., Arts & Health: An International Journal for Research, Policy and Practice, published online 18 August 2020) it was shown that social capital is often cited as shaping impacts of participatory arts. Although the concept has not been systematically mapped in arts, health and wellbeing contexts, many studies have, drawing in particular upon the work of Putnam, cited the

positive impacts of bonding and, to a lesser extent, bridging forms of social capital. The concept of social capital has then been widely employed but seldom critically examined or deeply articulated. Relatedly, Bourdieu's conception of cultural capital has been cited but in little depth. In this presentation, therefore, I re-assess the uses made of the conceptual contributions of Pierre Bourdieu and Robert Putnam in the work reported in the evidence review(s) and reflect upon the theoretical and analytical strength of such work, and its relevance to the remaking of communities and the enhancement of wellbeing through sport and leisure practices.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 2

The Future of the Food System and the Sociological Imagination

Catherine Price
(University of Reading)

The future of food is currently a topic of intense debate. There is a growing desire for a more socially and environmentally just and sustainable food system. Food is bound up with some of the biggest challenges facing the world including climate change, biodiversity loss, public health, inequalities and workers' rights.

A qualitative study was undertaken and a visual methods approach was adopted to gather data for this research. The collection of data took place in July 2019 and involved a visit to the FOOD: Bigger than the Plate exhibition which was taking place in the V & A Museum, London, UK. A smartphone camera was used to take digital images of the exhibits on display and 136 images were taken.

The findings presented in this paper illustrate some of the different points of view, priorities and visions for the future which were on display in the museum exhibition. Ideologies, rooted and disseminated through visual experience and understanding, advocate for debate and participation in collectively rethinking the way we eat and what we can do with food. We are the result of our actions with the food system. We design, produce, consume and create waste. As citizens, we can continue in the same vein as we have always done, or we can try to initiate change. To re-imagine new food futures means adopting new narratives. This paper offers a visual journey into some of the potential possibilities and options.

Lolita: Fashioning Identity, Liberal Selves and the City. An investigation into practices of construction of the self in hybrid urban contexts

Lavinia Sarah Tinelli
(Kingston University)

This paper explores how fashion and infrastructures shape cultural identity in increasingly hybrid urban societies. It focuses on Lolita subcultures in London and Tokyo, a transnational phenomenon which has become part of changeable global modernity. Since the 1980s, Japanese Lolitas have been developing new forms of affiliation and community-building, challenging mainstream society (Hebdige, 1979), later taking roots also in Europe (Kawamura, 2012). Lolita subculture, with its particular fashion, lifestyle and sociality which merged Western and Japanese values and aesthetics, appears to be resilient to fast-changing trends. This comparative qualitative study gathers new empirical materials through ethnography, psychogeography and object-based research, exploring the making of self in the Lolita communities of London and Tokyo. This paper hypothesises that Lolitas use the style as a social and aesthetical resource to construct what they see as "liberal", "autonomous" selves, arguing that material culture becomes a means for the crystallisation of identity and community. This process depends on urban localities and generational contexts, but also on the changing fashion industry. Inspired by Foucaultian work on the material and cultural history of liberalism, and by Latour's Actor Network Theory, it will adopt a micro approach on specific urban case studies, contextualising them in the history of British and Japanese cultural modernisation. Having so far conducted extensive online research, this paper aims at contributing novel data on the hybridization of identity and its interrelation with the material world, adopting a critical assessment and development of a methodology which combines sociological and design-based modes of investigation.

Access-based Fashion Consumption: A Review and Research Agenda

Yiqun Wang
(University of Birmingham)

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The COVID-19 pandemic has critically hit the traditional fashion retail sector and has changed individuals' lifestyles considerably, which arouses people's reflections of the human, environment and sustainability. Compared with other sectors, however, access-based fashion consumption has grown significantly over the past year, particularly in the UK. Access-based fashion allows consumers to temporarily access fashion items without ownership and includes renting, borrowing and co-ownership. The purpose of this presentation is to examine the state of access-based consumption in light of the current global situation and the influences of access-based consumption on consumers' lives. By undertaking a review of existing relevant literature on access-based fashion consumption, this presentation addresses scholarly research published between 2016-2020 in business, marketing, sociology and fashion journals. Three main themes emerge from the review: (1) the development of access-based fashion and its various business models; (2) the role of access-based fashion in people's lives; and (3) how access-based fashion consumption contributes to sustainability. This presentation seeks to contribute to sociological research by systematically reviewing existing literature and their relevance to understanding access-based fashion as a sociological phenomenon. At the end of this presentation, potential pathways to future research on access-based fashion consumption are proposed to call for attention in this field.

Families and Relationships – Special Event

Families and community in the time of COVID, findings from Argentina, Chile, Pakistan, Sweden and the UK

*Katherine Twamley, Humera Iqbal, Charlotte Faircloth
(University College London)*

In this panel we will report findings from the International Consortium of the 'Families and Community in the Time of COVID' study. This research investigates the challenges experienced by families with children during the COVID-19 pandemic using longitudinal in-depth qualitative methods. Data collection spans from May 2020 to the present, and draws primarily on digital diary data and interviews. In this special event, we will present findings from five of the ten countries in the study focusing on how everyday family life and family practices have been impacted by social distancing measures in the respective countries. The selected countries represent very different experiences of the pandemic, including Sweden where no lockdown was initiated, through to Argentina which had the longest and strictest lockdown in the world. The countries also hail from majority and minority world countries, with different cultural, economic and political contexts. Through this comparative lens, we unpack how the social context, as well as participants' access to various forms of capital (such as that determined by socio-economic class as well as age and gender), shape the means by which individuals respond to a public health crisis and the resulting impacts on family life and relationships.

Social imaginaries of the Covid-19 pandemic in Chile

Germán Lagos; Daniela Leyton*; Mauricio Sepúlveda**; Jorge Iván Vergara**
(*Universidad de Concepción, Chile **Universidad Diego Portales, Chile)

The presentation aims to reconstruct the social imaginaries of Covid-19 in Chile in the two societal levels distinguished by Jürgen Habermas: life world (Lebenswelt) and social systems. We raise the hypothesis that: 1) in a complex society like Chile, several social imaginaries coexist at both life world and social systems; 2) the pandemic's crisis is overdetermined by the mass political mobilization initiated in September 2020, one of whose main features is a profound scepticism towards the State, its policies and the neoliberal economy. We seek to identify how social imaginaries of the pandemic confront/deal with both process and crisis: the political and the health crisis, which are also necessary related without subsuming each in the other. For this aim, we identify the most important issues concerning each one and unpack the similarities, differences and mutual influences.

Urban ethnographies: negotiating family during Covid in Karachi, Pakistan

Faiza Mushtaq, Indus Valley School of Art and Architecture; Shama Dossa, Habib University; and Ayesha Khan, Collective for Social Science Research, Karachi.

The COVID-19 pandemic is producing long-lasting consequences for families in Pakistan. Although the death toll in the country is lower than expected, the twin public health and economic crises are likely to deepen existing patterns of gender inequality, transform the landscape of opportunities for youth in employment and education, and further strain the credibility of weak governance systems. We present some early findings from our study of family life in the urban context of Karachi, showing how individuals as well as households have negotiated these challenges to their well-being. One main area of focus is how young adults and adolescents within these households respond to disruptions in daily

life, the demands of online schooling, loss of privacy and peer support networks, and mental health pressures. We also probe how perceptions of the value of women's work inside and outside the house have changed differently for male and female participants of the study.

The everyday life of families in Sweden during Covid-19: generational and socioeconomic stratification

*Disa Bergnehr**, *Laura Darcy*** and *Annelie Sundler***

(*Linnaeus University, ** University of Borås)

Sweden has been (in)famous for its public health recommendations during Covid-19, with no lock down and, compared to its Nordic neighbours, an initial high number of deaths. Visiting elderly people in care homes was not allowed for six months, and it was strongly suggested, until recently, that those over 70 years of age self-isolate. Preschools, primary and secondary schools have been running as usual, while upper secondary schools changed to distance education for three months during spring 2020. Thus, apart from restrictions in physical contacts with, and support from, older generations, everyday life has been close to normal for many children and parents. However, the social and economic implications of the pandemic appear to have affected mainly families in disadvantaged areas. The present study examines generational and socioeconomic differences in children's, parents' and grandparents' experiences of life under Covid-19, and the consequences of these for family relating.

'Covid Labour' experienced in everyday family practices in the UK

Katherine Twamley, *Charlotte Faircloth*, *Humera Iqbal*

(University College London)

Drawing on qualitative longitudinal data from 38 families in the UK, this paper discusses the extra everyday labour which families experience in going about their daily lives during COVID-19. Much attention has been paid to the added care and housework which the pandemic provoked once childcare institutions were shut. In our in-depth study, we found an important aspect of added labour has been overlooked by scholars – we call this Covid Labour. Covid Labour entails the extra labour involved in everyday tasks or practices, as individuals and families attempt to deal with the repercussions of the pandemic. It involves four elements: Risk assessment; Consultation; Research; and Resources. We discuss the details of Covid Labour, and how socioeconomic resources impact how different families experience of it.

Lifecourse

Re-imagining evaluation in youth work and beyond

Louise Doherty, *Tania De St Croix*

(Kings College London)

'Rethinking impact, evaluation and accountability in youth work' is a three-year qualitative study (ESRC ES/R004773), seeking to investigate how impact measurement tools and processes are experienced and enacted by young people and practitioners in youth work settings. We focus in particular on 'open youth work', a practice of informal education that takes place in youth clubs, community settings, and on the streets. In this presentation, we argue that open youth work practice is distorted by inappropriate monitoring, evaluation, and accountability techniques and that these imposed methods neither capture nor reflect the depth of youth work as a practice, or fully illustrate its impact on the lives of young people. Drawing on participant observation in eight youth work settings, alongside interviews and focus groups with over one hundred young people, youth workers and managers, the paper argues that youth work is rich in remarkable examples of impact emerging from 'everyday' practice. Yet the accountability mechanisms encountered reinforce incongruent measurement tropes, and shape practice in a neoliberal image (Ball, 2003). We argue that evaluation must be more holistically rooted in the needs and realities of practice, through an anti-oppressive approach that creates the conditions for young people to flourish. The need to re-imagine evaluative methods and processes that are anti-racist, anti-oppressive and democratic presents a challenge for both youth workers and researchers. This opens a space for dialogue and exchange of ideas between youth work practice and creative, ethical research methodologies that may nurture more innovative, sympathetic and grassroots narratives of practice.

Austere Conviviality; Theorising 'Ordinary' Youth in Transition during Austerity

Isaac Hoff

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(University of Leicester)

Drawing on ethnographic data from my PhD thesis, this paper will present the concept of 'Austere Conviviality'. This will draw together the 'cultural' and 'transitions' approaches to young people, showing how the two shape and contour one another in ongoing ways during austerity. In doing so, I will critically show how young, white, economically 'middling' men simultaneously draw upon their relative privilege, whilst suffering from inequalities that prevent them from attaining the normative markers of adulthood. This will show how culture, economy and temporality are mediated in 'ordinary' lifestyles and how imagined futures embedded in normative adulthood allow for a future to be aspired to and actively worked toward even if the material realities of achieving this is much harder to do. By taking this critical approach, I will show how for an 'invisible' taken-for-granted social location that there is active work required to align to values they may be assumed to share automatically. I will also demonstrate how there are seeds of resistance within this grouping to the dominant cultural politics of austerity, but that these are latent and often unspoken as a form of politics. Finally, I shall argue that this form of conviviality can justify inequalities because it is a way of balancing leisure and transitions to adulthood that renders this grouping invisible in contrast to more marginalised young people.

Low-income teenagers' experiences of living in a mixed-income neighbourhood and its influence on their wellbeing

Rana Khazbak

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

This study explored experiences of low-income teenagers whose inner-London council estate has been demolished and transformed into a mixed-income/tenure neighbourhood. The new sociology of childhood principles, and the capability approach were utilised to explore with participants their own definitions of their wellbeing and understand how the latter is influenced by living in their redeveloped area.

Participatory and ethnographic methods were used. About 75 participants were involved in the study, 39 of which were young people (12-19 years).

Young people's freedom to take advantage of neighbourhood improvements to enhance their wellbeing is restricted. A number of their valued capabilities are constrained, including social status and respect, material wellbeing, belonging, autonomy, safety, emotional and mental wellbeing, and freedom to play. To them the regeneration highlights the social divide between them and the more affluent households that moved into the area. They are being dispossessed of their homes, neighbourhood, community, memories and history. The prejudiced views of low-income and BAME teenagers means they are actively being excluded from the new spaces created by the regeneration. Their lack of genuine participation in decision-making contributes to their feelings of powerlessness and alienation in their area. Inequalities between higher and lower-income households cause resentment among participants. While they have new housing, they are still exposed to violence, lack work opportunities and their families experience worsened material wellbeing from higher housing expenses. Finally, the money oriented nature of such development puts the needs and tastes of higher-income families as the priority by local service providers.

Medicine, Health and Illness

Fit for the future: new approaches to social research of health and illness

Priscilla Alderson

(University College London)

Malcolm Williams criticised sociologists for pursuing disconnected directions, like an orchestra of soloists. They work as if their own method is self-sufficient, stand-alone and compensates for the failings of all the others. They lack a cohesive intellectual division of labour. If sociologists disagree on the basics, how can anyone else take their research seriously? Social researchers have been notably missing from SAGE, the mass media, and policy and public debates.

Critical realism offers coherent ways to coordinate the soloists. It combines contrasting social research paradigms, such as positivism that mainly measures and interpretivism that mainly describes, into a larger three-level framework of analysis. This includes real unseen causal influences that help to explain society.

To coordinate analysis of all aspects of social life including the political, economic and moral, critical realism provides a four-part framework: physical, interpersonal, social structural and inner being. It traces unity though not uniformity

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between the social and life sciences, to promote the interdisciplinary research needed to address such problems as pandemics and the climate crisis.

Critical realism works with interactive dialectics to resolve confusions between common dualisms: thinking/being, structure/agency, fact/value, fact/perception, macro/micro, local/global, social/natural. Its four stage dialectic provides methods of analysing research about time-sequences, cause and effect, emergence, transformative change and the future. Critical realism offers theories relevant to all social research topics and methods.

Details about this session can be found in *Critical Realism for Health and Illness Research: A Practical Introduction*, P. Alderson, 2021, Policy Press.

Making futures in a hush: socio-political secrecy within the Iranian egg donation landscape

Tiba Bonyad

(The University of Manchester)

Iran is the Muslim country leading on all forms of assisted reproductive technologies (ART), including gamete donation and gestational surrogacy which are widely practised among involuntarily childless couples (Abbasi-Shavazi et al., 2008). In this assisted reproductive landscape, egg donation is the most sought-after method among all forms of donor conceptions (Abedini et al., 2016). Despite its relative popularity, this technology is exercised in an intersection of gendered socio-cultural structures and the absence of any straightforward law. In this paper, I aim to illustrate how uncertain social spaces of ARTs are constructed through a 'public secrecy' (Taussig, 1999). Following Michael Taussig's concept of the 'public secret' as a grid of social formations and power relations, 'that which is generally known, but cannot be articulated' (1999, p. 5), I propose to examine possible venues on how secrecy is implemented by biopolitical actors of AR system to reproduce and render the contemporary and future cultural imaginaries of Islamic kinship while renegotiating women's reproductive rights/ commodities in juxtaposition with technology and the patriarchal state. I will build my argument based on my fieldwork in two IVF clinics in Tehran, Iran, as well as thirty-five interviews with medical staff, egg donors, and female recipients in 2019.

Re-thinking the relationship between food insecurity, health and social isolation

John Mckenzie, David Watts

(Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen)

Food insecurity is a social issue in many high-income countries and governments, including Scotland's, have policies aimed at reducing it. Current research focuses on the detrimental impacts that food insecurity can have on health and social networks. Based on qualitative interviews with fifty-five food insecure adults across Scotland, we will contend that the relationship between food insecurity, health and social network is more complex.

This paper will argue that poor health and social isolation can be both a cause and consequence of food insecurity. However, it will also demonstrate that: poor health can provide a path out of food insecurity through an increase in welfare benefits; and that coping with food insecurity can provide access to new social networks (e.g. in the social services and foodbanks) that can provide opportunities (e.g. employment) towards greater food security and an improvement in mental and physical health. However, those who experience the most intense levels of food insecurity over a prolonged period of time, may not have access to enhanced welfare benefits and these forms of social capital and be unable to take advantage of the opportunities they can provide.

In conclusion, it will be contended that the relationship between food insecurity and health and social networks is more complex than current literature suggest and that paying greater attention to the different ways that it is embodied and the impacts it has on the individuals who experience it is required if effective policies aimed at addressing this social inequality are to be developed.

The rising importance of education for subjective wellbeing across cohorts

Alexander Patzina

(Institute for Employment Research)

This study analyzes cohort variation in education-specific life course patterns of subjective wellbeing (i.e., life satisfaction, health satisfaction and income satisfaction). Predictions regarding the development of the education-specific life course differentials draw on empirical findings from health research, labor market research, and theoretical

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considerations from life course theories. Drawing on this body of research, the study hypothesizes finding increasing educational differences in the life course development of subjective wellbeing across cohorts; these predictions are in line with the rising importance hypothesis. The empirical analysis relies on German Socio-Economic Panel data (1984-2016, v33). The results from random effect growth curve models reveal the increasingly stratifying role of education for the life course development of life, health and income satisfaction across cohorts. Thus, the main results are in line with the rising importance hypothesis. The increasing educational gap across cohorts is driven mainly by the deterioration of the subjective wellbeing of the low educated.

Methodological Innovations

METHOD, COMPARISONS & CRITICAL REFLECTIONS

Survey research as a negotiated social product: insights from a cross-national research consortium

Neil Kaye, Alessio D'angelo
(University College London & University of Nottingham)

Whilst the technical challenges of undertaking survey research are well-established within the social science literature (Dale, 2006; Hlebec et al., 2012; Spector et al., 2015), what is often missing is a discussion of the processes of decision-making, planning and negotiation involved within and across research teams, particularly in the context of cross-national consortia.

We use our first-hand experience of one such research project - Reducing Early School Leaving in Europe (RESL.eu) - as a case study to examine the academic, conceptual and interpersonal challenges of designing quantitative surveys for comparative analysis. Funded by the European Commission, RESL.eu (2013-18) involved a consortium of institutions across nine countries and examined the complex micro-, meso- and macro-level processes that lead some young people to leave school early. The project's quantitative element comprised a baseline survey of ~20,000 students in secondary schools and a follow-up survey of the same cohort two years later.

In addition to the logistical challenges of designing survey instruments that are comparable across different cultural and linguistic contexts, we illustrate how the development of international research instruments involved a considerable degree of negotiation between researchers and teams, each bringing with them their own disciplinary, methodological and structural exigencies.

We highlight that cross-national survey research, whilst still espousing a (post-)positivist epistemology, is nonetheless imbued with subjectivity on the part of the research team and mediated through the academic structures and policy contexts within which they operate. The survey is therefore not merely a 'scientific' product, but also a negotiated social product.

Precarious methods for precarious futures

Jacob Nielsen
(York St John University)

In this paper, I will argue that in order to apprehend increasingly precarious futures sociology needs to move towards more precarious method assemblages. Drawing on 18 months fieldwork with precarious workers in London I will layout how traditional social research method assemblages hinges on practices and principles that can end up separating them from the precarious life that they set out to study.

The paper will argue that the notion that precariousness is something that exclusively belongs to specific groups that can be delineated and studied is problematic both in terms of trying to make sense of precarious lives and in terms of the political implications such approaches have for how policy problems and solutions are imagined and carried out in ways that risk reinforcing existing inequalities.

The paper furthermore questions whether traditional research methods that rely on analytic coherence; the robustness of its categories; the logic and stability of its arguments; and its ability to project a sense of strength and structural integrity that can survive the critical gaze of its peers are appropriate to make sense of a precarious world that is characterised by fragmentation, fluidity, contradictions, incoherence, instability, and vulnerability. It argues that in order

to better apprehend precarious worlds we need to move away from methods that rely upon ringfenced meanings and conclusive findings and instead open up for more vulnerable and interdependent ways of making sense of the world.

Decolonising Quantitative Research Methods: Teaching to Challenge Hierarchies from Data

Rima Saini, Nadine Zwiener-Collins
(Middlesex University London)

In this paper, we explore how two, ostensibly separate initiatives—the project to mainstream quantitative methods teaching and the endeavour to decolonise Higher Education—can be effectively combined to generate a pedagogical strategy that is effective and opportune for contemporary social science curricula. In doing so, we weigh the merits and challenges of combining decolonisation and quantitative approaches to undergraduate social science teaching. Our approach is informed by several years of experience in teaching quantitative methods across Sociology and International Politics to diverse cohorts of undergraduate students at various institutions. Our starting point is the observation that the production of social data is a form of knowledge production. Equipping students to grapple with the authoritarian, hierarchical and hegemonic nature of data is at the core of our approach. We provide examples to show how this may be applied for two learning outcomes: (1) to understand the power relations that underlie knowledge production, and (2) to describe and critically analyse social data, in secondary as well as primary forms, in the context of its biases. So, instead of teaching quantitative methods principally to attain data literacy for instrumental, often individual or institutional economic objectives we propose approaches in which data literacy is an explicit tool to critique mainstream social and political discourses in pursuit of broader social justice aims.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1 – Special Event

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

The resurgence of the global Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement in 2020 has ignited a public debate on the role of statues in memorialising histories of slavery and colonialism. During the past year, statues have been targeted by BLM protesters; toppled by activists; removed by governments and institutions following public pressure; and defended by legislators, academic institutions, and members of the public. Public debate and action has given rise to inquiries into historic links of slavery and colonialism and, in some cases, commitments to beginning the process of removing highly-contested statues.

This paper compares the diverse processes by which statues are contested and removed, from the toppling of Colston in Bristol to the removal of monuments to Confederate Generals in Virginia. Drawing on research across five countries (the UK, the US, Belgium, South Africa and Martinique), we will situate these processes in relation to longer histories of contestation, and analyse their national and transnational implications. By asking what happens to statues after they are removed, and how the process of removing a statue might change the dominant discourse on both the statue and the historical figure it represents, we will consider how particular process of contestation shed light on broader debates about the role of statues in legitimising and contesting politics, institutions, public space, memory and history.

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

Ethnic minority older people in the UK are one of the most disadvantaged groups in terms of their health, access to health and social care services, financial security and housing quality. The racism that ethnic minority older people have faced over the life course is a fundamental reason why disadvantages are evident for this group in health, social and economic later life. Yet, there is very little research exploring the experiences of this group, to understand how discriminatory experiences over the life course have contributed to current circumstances.

The aims of this ESRC-funded narrative research project are to explore the complex structural, institutional and interpersonal factors that affect ethnic minority people across the life course, employing life story interview methods to capture how these factors have affected their identities, life chances and family members. These methods allow us to

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interrogate critical biographical junctures that have shaped job opportunities, access to good housing, provision of timely healthcare, and the opportunities and experiences of their wider families. Further, we will highlight how these inequalities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as exploring how older ethnic minority people have experienced and been involved in the Black Lives Matter movement in 2020, drawing parallels with resistance and activism that older people participated in earlier decades.

This presentation aims to discuss the significance of narrative methods used in this research study, and initial findings from the data that have been collected.

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

This special event will present six inter-linked papers from colleagues at The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) at the University of Manchester. The papers explore how ethnic inequality manifests itself, and is experienced, by ethnic minority people in multitudinous ways. Specifically, we explore how this is reproduced in a number of areas: health inequalities, limited empirical data, lack of diversity in the arts, mis-education, through the legitimisation/ contestation of statues, and racial misogyny.

The panel presents initial findings from ESRC-funded research, examining opportunities for institutional change. Two of the papers explore how a lack of data and understanding can shape ethnic minority people's access to resources, in health (Hewitt) and through the absence of data (Taylor). Three papers explore arts representation, activism and education respectively, by examining; the lack of diversity in creative industries (Ali), significance of statues (Peacock & Ramsden-Karelse), and critical steps needed to address issues of ethnicity and decoloniality in education (Rai). The final paper analyses the under-representation of ethnic minority women in UK local government, and the intersection of racial misogyny experienced by female, ethnic minority local politicians (Begum & Sobolewska).

The panel, therefore, presents a thoroughly researched overview of the impact of structural inequality and how it affects ethnic minorities in relation to these research areas, against 2020's backdrop of COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter. By doing so, the panel addresses ways in which ethnic inequalities persist and are reproduced, both socially and institutionally in the UK, and presents evidence-based recommendations for moving forward.

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

'Has diversity become a dirty word?', asks Janice Gassam Asare (2020). Diversity seems to have attracted a bad reputation with some referring to it, indeed, as 'dirty'(Coleman 2008). For years now, there has been a growing recognition of the ethnic inequalities in the UK cultural and creative industries. Tracking diversity in its funded organisation through annual reports since 2015, the Arts Council England found ethnic inequality to be prevalent and persistent: 11% of the workforce in national organisations in the council's portfolio were from Black and ethnically diverse backgrounds. This is despite a number of leading cultural institutions introducing action plans and policies to improve their diversity. Yet, change of the status quo seems to be minimal and in some cases static. The cultural sector remains steeped in ethnic inequality.

During a two-year research project, we found that one of the contributing factors to the slow progress in addressing ethnic inequalities is the discourse around diversity in the sector, and that there is an urgent necessity to change it. This paper explores how diversity as a language and ideology within the cultural sector has become pervasive, problematic and purposefully discursive. It aims to engage in the discourses around the motivation, or cases, for diversity be it the business case, the creative case or anti-racism case for diversity. Based on research conducted in two cultural institutions over two years, this paper explores the visibility and effectiveness of diversity policies initiatives in the daily operation of the institutions. It also examines the trajectory of diversity projects from initial funding to implementation and the afterlife of project to assess the effectiveness of these projects and identify any missing links that impede such diversity initiatives

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

With a third of local councillors being female and just 7% from an ethnic minority background, this paper analyses the under-representation of ethnic minority women in UK local government. We find that representation varies among minority groups with South Asian males holding more councillor positions compared to their female counterparts while Black female councillors outnumber Black males. Using an intersectional mixed-methods approach, this paper will present findings from quantitative analysis of ethnicity and gender of local councillors as well as qualitative interviews with ethnic minority councillors and local activists. While ethnic minority female councillors can simultaneously increase ethnic and gender representation thereby 'ticking two boxes at the same time', we analyse opportunities and barriers to entry in selection and election processes, the role of institutional gatekeepers, and the intersection of racial misogyny experienced by female, Black Asian Minority Ethnic local politicians.

The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity (CoDE) Panel Proposal

Jenny Hewitt, Maria Sobolewska, Ruth Ramsden-Karelse
(University of Manchester - The Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity)

The past few years have witnessed the rise of the 'decolonial turn' in British Higher education where students, staff and activists alike have sought to challenge the political, cultural and structural legacies of imperialism, colonialism and racism that continue to operate within, and beyond, the universities (Laing, 2020). This impetus to decolonise the academy in the UK can be seen as a part of the decolonise movements that have mushroomed across the globe; and in the UK, the impetus to decolonise the academy has been shaped by the current 'crisis of race' in British Higher Education.

Among the social science disciplines, history and geography seem to stand out in terms of the decolonial agenda, not only because both of these disciplines have historically functioned as institutions of coloniality, but also because in recent times, both the disciplines have been undertaking significant critical work towards decolonisation. Drawing from qualitative interviews and focus groups among staff and students from these disciplinary backgrounds, as well as taking the case study of learned societies like the Royal Historical Society and Royal Geographic Society, this paper examines what 'decoloniality' means for these disciplines but also to academia at large, as well as examining the contours of the concept. It explores the links, the overlaps but also the potential divergences between decolonial and anti-racist works.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Reflections from Two South Asian Science Novels on Postcolonial Transformations in Indian Science

Fabian Hempel
(University of Bremen, Germany)

This presentation offers a sociological reading of two Science Novels – Amitav Ghosh's "The Calcutta Chromosome" and Manu Joseph's "Serious Men" – to explore the relationship between modern science in postcolonial societies. Informed by different standpoints from the social studies of science, literature, and Indian society, both novels, considered as products of societal self-observations, allow to rethink the multi-layered role of science in society, especially with regard to the cultural understanding of the autonomy of science and against the standard account of the advancement of modern science and society. In that regard, the presentation offers two interpretative angles on Ghosh's historical fiction about Malaria research in colonial South Asia during the late 19th century and Joseph's contemporary story of a lower-class, Dalit assistant to an upper-class, Brahmin director of a fundamental research institute in Mumbai:

1. A reading of collision avoidance as indigenous forces redirect science to preserve the local social order.
2. An intersectional reading that considers this subversion of science as an emancipatory act by local Dalits to overcome their subaltern position within both traditional and modern social systems.

In the first reading, the autonomy of science degrades into social irresponsibility; in the second, the autonomy of science is used, for right or for wrong, as a weapon against multiple structures of oppression. Based on both interpretations, both novels shed new light on the conventional view of an autonomous science as a self-evident component of the „package“ of (apparently postcolonial) modern social transformations.

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The Sound of liminality: Afro trap, Afropean soundscapes, and worldmaking in France

Sophie Marie Niang
(University of Cambridge)

This paper explores Afropean identity in France through Afro trap and other forms of African influenced rap music. In France, postcolonial citizens are prevented from full integration into the national group because “Frenchness” is racialised as white. Afropean citizens therefore find themselves in a liminal position, which leads them to engage in world-making practices in order to claim this liminality. Viewing Afro trap as an example of such a practice, I ask what can be learned about Afropean experiences from listening to the sound of this music, and taking it seriously.

Using a combination of musical analysis, focused on sound, and autoethnography, I argue that this music makes various interventions in public discourses about identity in France. By drawing both from African and Western musical traditions, Afro trap celebrates and (re)produces the unhyphenated aspect of Afropean experiences. Moreover, because this music is created by young, often marginalised Black men, it intervenes critically into an exclusionary public discourse, enabling new, complex iterations of Black masculinities and life in the quartiers to emerge. Studying it

Toppling Colston, Translating Cultural Objects

Meghan Tinsley
(University of Manchester)

Statues are ambivalent cultural objects carved in stone. The recent and ongoing wave of activism surrounding statues that commemorate slavery centres on the contested meanings of the material. This paper delves into the relationship between materiality and meaning, asking: How do statues embody racism? I argue, drawing from actor-network theory, that statues are assemblages whose meaning lies in builders’ intentions and in audiences’ interpretations, as well as their physical form, their location in public space, and their relationship to cultural and educational institutions and texts. When institutional racism pervades these human and non-human actants, statues of slaveholders embody racism. Whilst this argument seems to foreclose the possibility of material objects taking on new meanings, it offers hope for processes of translation. That is, the alteration of their physical form can transform racist statues into embodiments of anti-racist resistance. To illustrate this argument, I consider two case studies: the recently toppled statue of Edward Colston in Bristol, and the graffitied statue of Robert E. Lee in Richmond (US). I consider how various actants understood the meaning of each statue, and to what extent its meaning was translated through the altering of its physical form. I conclude by considering how this argument may open up new possibilities for bringing together cultural sociology and the sociology of race and ethnicity.

Sounds of Aliyah: A Sonic Inquiry into Diaspora Identity and Migration Through Soundscape Composition

Carter Weleminsky
(Goldsmiths, University of London)

This presentation discusses a sonic inquiry into contemporary experiences of human migration, focusing on Anglo Olim (English-speaking Jewish diaspora immigrants to Israel), that used interdisciplinary soundscape composition as its primary method. This research is opportune, given the lack of scholarship utilising sound to explore diaspora identities. Judaism has an enduring and significant historical connection to oral traditions. Many diaspora groups share this connection, carrying language, stories and sounds with them on their journeys. This project reflected on how this movement can produce fluid, hybrid identities and how soundscapes are a unique way to explore them. The project spanned a 9-month period of living in Israel as a diaspora Jew, becoming both an insider and outsider to the world of Anglo Olim, which created an opportunity to reflect on the impact of studying communities that connect to the researcher’s own identity. This personal connection enabled a complex exploration of wider immigrant issues pertinent to the sonic landscape of the Olim; including language, religion and carving out an Israeli identity. The presentation will share methodological insights, including extracts from the final compositional piece. The compositional process was led by the experiences of the interviewees, blending sounds from places familiar to them, melodies and sonic symbolism that mark the seasons of the Jewish year and their own voices telling the story of their journeys. I conclude that sound studies, and soundscapes in particular, is an especially apt and rich avenue for study of diaspora identities and the migration experiences that form them.

Rights, Violence and Crime

Get yourself free: women's journeys to remake their futures after domestic abuse

Janet C. Bowstead
(Royal Holloway, University of London)

"I'd like to help you in your struggle to be free

There must be fifty ways to leave your lover"

Relocation – often multiple times – is a common strategy used by women trying to escape an abusive male partner. When the abuser knows so much about you, and you have connections of shared friends, family, and children, it is often necessary to escape to an unknown place – both for physical security and a sense of freedom. If there are interventions to hold the perpetrator to account, then women and children may be able to return to their local area; or even to stay put. However, tens of thousands of women and children relocate in the UK every year due to domestic abuse. Their journeys are necessarily hidden, and women may face ongoing risks if they reveal details of where they have been, or their future relocation plans. This presentation uses de-identified administrative data, which were collected during an England-wide programme of service funding, to reveal women's journeys over time and distance. Linking records shows complex journey-graphs of multiple stages between different types of accommodation and services; and reveals unique trajectories and ongoing housing insecurity. Graphs of journeys and statistical analysis on nearly 2,000 individuals will be presented to highlight the limited association of distances or places with types of journeys or demographic categories; and that there are far more than 50 ways to (try to) get yourself free.

Re-tangling the concept of coercive control: a view from the margins and a response to Walby and Towers (2018)

Catherine Donovan, Rebecca Barnes
(Durham University)

This paper critiques Walby and Towers' (2018) article, in which they presented a quantitative methodology that evidences gender asymmetry in 'domestic violence crime' (DVC). Through examining issues such as harm, severity and repetition of DVC victimisation, they argue that Stark's (2007) concept of 'coercive control' is obsolete and refute Johnson's (2008) typology of intimate partner violence. However, their conclusions are based on problematic assumptions about, for example, the relative impacts of physical and non-physical violence; the usefulness of incident-rather than relationship-based understandings of domestic violence; and the focus on victim/survivors' 'resilience' and 'vulnerability' over perpetrators' motives. Moreover, their cisnormative operationalisation of sex and gender and neglect of sexuality overlooks important evidence about lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or transgender people's domestic violence victimisation. This reinforces a limited 'public story' of domestic violence and abuse and arguably creates weaknesses in feminist analyses of domestic violence that could further fuel anti-feminist, gender-neutral approaches.

Drawing parallels between domestic abuse and repeat reporting of hate incidents/crimes to talk about hate relationships

Catherine Donovan, Stephen Macdonald, John Clayton
(Durham University)

In this paper we draw on the accounts of service users of a hate crime advocacy service in the North East of England to unpack the parallels that exist between those who repeat report hate incidents/crime and those experiencing coercive control in adult intimate relationships. In this study, those repeat reporting hate incidents/crime, are typically living in close proximity to their perpetrators as next-door or nearby neighbours. The perpetrators often engage in low-level hate incidents, too low to meet the threshold of a crime and which are often recast by help-providers as neighbourhood dispute or anti-social behaviour. However, over time, these incidents often increase both in frequency and violence. The impacts on those being victimised are mirrored in the accounts victim/survivors give of living with domestic abuse: increasing fear of threat to life, safety, mental health; increasing feeling of being entrapped, increasing sense of despair of being believed and/or of anything being done to end the hate relationship. The perpetrators are able to rely on their 'knowledge' of their victim/survivors, their daily routines/habits, in order to apply maximum impact of their behaviours, as well as to do so in ways that are difficult to evidence. Similarly to domestic abuse being able to leave is often the only

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route out of the hate relationship though this is often not what victim/survivors want. Identifying and intervening early in a hate relationship might better pre-empt escalation and provide possibilities for victim/survivors remaining in their own homes.

The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Covid-19: A British Case-study

Christina Julios

(The Open University)

Following a global rise in domestic violence (DV) during the current coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, this paper examines the extent of the problem in Britain. It also considers the UK government's response to this unprecedented crisis, and long-term implications for service provision. Since the outbreak of the epidemic in December 2019, the World Health Organisation estimates that over 42 million cases and 1.1 million deaths have been reported worldwide. The unabated spread of the virus has seen countries implementing extraordinary restrictive measures, with lockdowns and social distancing becoming the norm. As a result, new unintended consequences such as loneliness, isolation and mental health risks have emerged. One of the most stark effects of Covid-19 is the global rise in DV, with many countries reporting large increases of between 25% and up to 50% in cases and helpline calls. In Britain alone, the charity Refuge reported a 700% increase in helpline calls in a single day. As vulnerable victims often remain 'trapped' at home with their abusers, the UK government has launched various public policy initiatives such as the Home Office's #YouAreNotAlone online campaign, and the provision of a £2M bolster for DV helplines. Given the chronic erosion of support for specialist DV services, and the contested Domestic Abuse Bill before Parliament, many see Covid-19 as exposing a deeper lack of commitment to the DV question. Drawing on an intersectional feminist perspective, the paper raises serious questions about the future shape of DV provision in this brave new world.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1

In Technology We Trust? Complexity and uncertainty in the turn-to-digital amidst disproportionate COVID-19 impacts on pregnancy and maternity

Ranjana Das

(University of Surrey)

Reflecting on fieldwork with perinatal women (pregnant women and new mothers) conducted during the spring lockdown in England in 2020, this paper nuances the roles and expectations which have come to be held of the digital turn amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has been disproportionately impacting, amongst other areas, pregnancy and maternity, as a series of lockdown measures left formal and informal in-person support networks suddenly disrupted. Amidst a turn to digital for numerous services, it appears, unsurprisingly from the fieldwork, that despite many benefits, the role of technology in this context has been complex, as contexts of use, maternal practices, literacies, and the nature of perinatal support required deeply shape the role technology can play amidst blanket lockdown restrictions. Amidst findings which reveal broader gendered imperatives during COVID-19 on perinatal women to mother intensively and inseparably from fetus/infant in the face of a novel virus, heightening anxiety at the same time as social support was curtailed and reduced, the role of virtual and remote support was, at best, complicated. The paper treats these complexities around the digital in two broad strands - the strengthening of strengths and the non-addressing of weaknesses and the plea for in-personness in a digital-by-default everyday. The paper concludes that there is an urgent imperative to make a persuasive case for maternal wellbeing (distinctly from being grouped in with fetal/infant welfare) during and after the pandemic, in a way which embeds the digital into the strengthening of in-person and offline provision.

Remaking blood: Anticipation and assetization in big tissue futures for human blood cell production

Neil Stephens

(Brunel University London)

Healthcare systems around the world rely upon blood donation to support a variety of medical procedures, to help address disease and injury. This given, the supply of sufficiently high quality blood poses logistical challenges for those involved. One proposed solution is the development of a diversity of 'cultured blood' products, which use bioreactor systems to grow human blood cells under controlled conditions, with ongoing work producing both red cells and platelets.

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I analyse the topography of this emergent technology by drawing upon interviews conducted with researchers leading the companies and university labs developing this work. I will articulate the politics of these technologies, as their developers navigate issues of personalisation and universality - both of which are presented as areas of strength - and the tension of nearer and further likely achievements across which cultured blood is situated within a promissory cascade of potential futures. Through this, I will explore the potential assetization of human blood, as specifically configured networks of human cells, anticipated market conditions, and bioreactor technology, are positioned to leverage sustained value from the supply of cultured blood and the systems that support it. As such, I will show how cultured blood represents a distinct intervention into the existing market structures of established tissue economies.

'Harnessing the little white cells': Tracing practices of immunity in cancer

Julia Swallow
(University of Edinburgh)

This paper presents a Wellcome Trust-funded project (2020 - 2023) exploring immunotherapy as an emerging biotechnology in the treatment of advanced cancer. Immunotherapy has been heralded as the 'fifth pillar' of cancer therapy after surgery, radiotherapy, chemotherapy and genomic medicine, and two specific types have emerged in clinical practice and/or are being tested as part of clinical trials in the UK: checkpoint inhibitors and chimeric antigen receptor T-cell (CAR T) therapy. Hope for 'cure' has (re)emerged in scientific and clinical discourse surrounding these treatments as they have the potential to extend progression free survival for patients with previously intractable cancers, and yet clinical concerns have been raised regarding long-term treatment side-effects and toxicities, and predicting response and prognosis. Drawing on ethnographic methods including observations of virtual consultations, the project explores how these therapies are applied in practice, their impact on patients' understandings and experiences of cancer, and how they're (re)shaping understandings and experiences of the body that produces cancer. In doing so, tracing the material practices and handling of immunity across clinics, and the work required of patients experiencing these demanding treatment practices when faced with living with advanced cancer for longer, including managing uncertain futures. Grounded in STS research on the social, cultural and biopolitical significance of how the immune system has been understood and imagined, the project extends this work by exploring the social, cultural and experiential significance of the mobilisation of the patient's own immune system as 'weapon', or 'saviour', in the long-term treatment for their cancer.

Sorting people out, or sorting them in? On the many forms of triage in sexual health before and during COVID-19

Catherine Will, Ulla Mcknight
(University of Sussex)

In this paper we examine the interplay of different logics and classification in sexual health. In this field diagnostic technologies and practices are shifting in response to fears about antimicrobial resistance, encouraging targeting of prescription antibiotics. Yet the work of the clinic is also about managing fears of a range of viral as well as bacterial infections and exploitation, violence and structural disadvantage. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork we show how staff attempt to sort between patients who should be seen urgently, and assign time and treatment accordingly. Using interviews we ask staff to elaborate on the professional use of categories of 'vulnerability' and 'complexity', and how they make sense of the combination of ascribed factors like race/ethnicity, practices (oral, anal or vaginal sex or nonconsensual sex), gender identity, location, age, and their connection to services and family. This involves reference both to broader protocols and operating procedures and their own experience of choreographing smooth interactions with patients. Such skills both lose and gain importance as COVID-19 required that people make first contact by phone, and staff worry about the needs of those who never get into the system by this route. The pandemic has thus intensified the use of formal triage techniques to assign patients to different kinds of appointment and to make the best possible use of interactions with patients in 'care' infrastructures that staff and patients experience as increasingly fragile and fragmented.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 2

Designing economic sustainability through technology in a scarce resource and hostile environment: a design pre-study of green community living feasibility in Wales

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Dennis Chapman

(Coventry University)

Despite the short-term effects of Covid-19 and political conflict nationally and globally, the planning for a future in which the Earth is no longer providing the requisite abundance to feed the unsustainable supply chain currently in existence, in particular, in regards to the energy, agricultural and transportation industries, has not yet been fully considered. Although progress is being made in all industries toward efficiency--with energy production in the UK going 100% carbon neutral over the next decade--the culture of living, that is, the design of our lives must come together to construct a future in which the unsustainable excess and waste demanding frantic production are no longer an option, as cultural change has come too slow to prevent the worst of climate change already occurring. Such a move requires thinking in completely new ways of culture and society, in particular designing regional, agile economies capable of generating sustainable wealth through technology implementation. This paper is the pre-study of designing this future--with a science and technology emphasis--envisaging a future grid of sustainable communities located in Wales whose main export would be surplus energy and IT insourcing.

Experiencing time in the digital anthropocene

Audrey Verma

(Newcastle University)

This paper considers the temporal dimensions of environmental loss as captured on social media. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork intended to inform the broader question of what it means to be human and a citizen in the digital anthropocene, this paper compares two case studies. In the first case - an exhumed cemetery-turned-birding hot-spot slated for residential development - loss was a foregone conclusion protracted over decades, with a large part of the experience since 2012 lamented and logged on Facebook. In the second case - a coastal dune habitat with multiple environmental designations facing a golf course proposal - loss was and still is a potential scenario, one that has been and continues to be discussed online in 'future conditional' terms. Two related implications from these findings are discussed: Substantively, digital platforms hold the capacity to delineate newer practices of environmental advocacy by facilitating collective witnessing over years. Methodologically, in capturing a depth of social accounts and ecological documentation that may complement the breadth of the geological record, the digital holds a particular stratigraphic potential for the anthropocene.

Modelling controversies: remaking social futures in climate change assessments

Laurie Waller

(University of East Anglia)

Recent debates in digital sociology have focused on the roles of complex computational models play in social research and challenges involved in making models of social processes accountable. This presentation will explore how the analysis of "modelling controversies" might contribute to methodological and theoretical developments in digital sociology. I will focus on a series of controversies about the roles computation models play in co-producing knowledge about climate change, technology and society. At the centre of these controversies are so-called "negative emissions technologies" (NETs) that feature prominently in the integrated assessment modelling of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Both modellers and policy analysts have argued that the IPCC's models rely too heavily unproven NETs for future removals of atmospheric greenhouse gases in order to mitigate climate change risks. The presentation will discuss some findings from a study using digital methods to map debates about two NETs, afforestation and bioenergy with carbon capture and storage. I will show some "issue mapping" visualisations, based on digital traces from Twitter, that were used in interviews with a group of interdisciplinary researchers assessing the feasibility of these two NETs and discuss the role that different platform metrics and styles of visualisation can play in making issues visible. The paper will offer some reflections on the potential for developing modelling techniques in digital methods research and how controversy analysis might contribute to making the social futures projected in climate change assessments more accountable to the publics they concern.

Social Divisions/Social Identities – Special Event

Imaginations of (future) citizenship

BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
70th Anniversary

Anne-Marie Fortier
(Lancaster University)

One thing that the pandemic sheds light on is the ingrained inequalities of citizenship as we witness the closing of borders, the importance of visa status, of residency, of living conditions, and the disproportionate effects of the disease on indigenous and racially minoritised citizens. The pandemic reminds us how minoritised and disenfranchised citizens find themselves chronically in the 'waiting room of citizenship.' Extending from Dipesh Chakrabarti's idea of the 'imaginary waiting room of history', the waiting room is used here as a heuristic device to examine how citizenship takes place, takes time and takes hold in ways that conform, exceed, and confound frames of reference laid out in policy and theoretical understandings of citizenship. Drawing on a study with migrants seeking British citizenship and state intermediaries tasked with implementing naturalisation measures and policies, this paper presents scenes from 'life in the waiting room' that reveal the uneven access to imaginings of future citizenship. While the study was conducted before the pandemic, it sheds light on the how citizenship is, and always has been, uncertain.

COVID Time and the Asset Economy

Lisa Adkins
(University of Sydney)

The COVID pandemic has provoked predictable claims that we are now experiencing a distinctive temporal universe. In this universe, suspension, pause, deacceleration, stretch-out and the collapse of the future are all claimed to prevail. These latter experiences are, however, leitmotifs of the sociology of time and elsewhere have been understood to represent more generic experiences of time in late capitalism. Drawing on both the sociology of time and my recent work on asset-based inequalities (Adkins et al, 2020), in my contribution to this panel I will suggest that, instead of a break or rupture with pre-pandemic time, the pandemic has in fact made the distinctive temporal experiences of the asset economy explicit. I will focus in particular on the temporal experiences of the struggle for liquidity where survival turns on 'buying time'.

A Day at a Time: Imagining the future in the time of the coronavirus pandemic

Rebecca Coleman and Dawn Lyon
(Goldsmiths, University of London, University of Kent)

Time is central to the unfolding of the pandemic and COVID-19 has changed time as we know it, in ways that are both prosaic and extraordinary. The temporal organisation and experience of everyday life and social relations have come into view for reflection and debate. Everyday examples of waiting, queuing and rushing demonstrate how infrastructures of time can themselves quickly unravel and be reorganised. People are grappling with what the temporal instability of the past months means for the present and how they inform or inhibit imagined futures. In this presentation, we share the preliminary findings of our collaboration with the Mass Observation Archive to investigate the structure and experience of time in the pandemic. Our project, A Day at a Time, asks how people are experiencing, making and remaking time in light of the imposition/lifting of lockdowns at the local and national level, social distancing, new patterns of work and care, and illness and bereavement in households. Our 'Directive' asked the Mass Observation panel of diary-writers to document first-hand how they are sustaining and making new everyday rhythms and routines, especially in relation to the household; the role of media, technology and material devices in the structuring of time; and the experience of speed, suspension and other forms of waiting. In a context where the nature, scale and pace of change can render individuals passive and reactive, we are particularly interested in the different ways in which the future is being imagined and we explore how the disappearance of strong temporal markers for many has given rise to new relationships to material and technological objects and devices for planning, anticipation, and structuring time.

Sociology of Education

"Si yo quiero, lo puedo todo". Understanding aspirations of Chilean vocational upper-secondary students in transition to adulthood

Alice Aldinucci
(University of Glasgow)

Aspirations of working-class vocational students in transition to post-secondary education life trajectories have gained significant relevance in academic debates and in policy agendas on a global scale within the discourses on 'poverty of aspirations' and 'widening access to tertiary education'. Yet, in-depth analysis of the factors that contribute to determine

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educational and professional aspirations of socially disadvantaged young people remains under-investigated. This paper addresses this research gap by bringing youths' perspectives and experiences to the forefront of the discussion while retaining the role of structures in shaping aspirations. Given its radical market-oriented education system and extreme neoliberalist meritocratic ideology, which permeate public policy and culture, Chile constitutes an insightful case study to problematise mainstream theories that prevail in academic debates and public policy assumptions. By means of semi-structured biographical interviews to 30 upper-secondary students of a public vocational school in Chile, this research explores how working-class young people perceive and manage socioeconomic, cultural and individual resources differently which results in diverse conceptualisations of aspirations and choices. The study shows the limits of traditional social reproduction or instrumental rationality theories in explaining educational and career aspirations and choices, and it proposes an alternative perspective to interpret what young people aspire to and why. A typology of aspirations is presented according to the participants' perception of the highest opportunities available for them after upper-secondary education. The main explanatory factors informing the different types of aspirations are presented and interpreted drawing on sociological concepts of 'socially situated agency' and 'reflexivity'.

Impact of Habitus on International College Graduates' Ability to Succeed in the Canadian Job Market

Oleg Legusov

(University of Toronto (OISE))

The developed countries are striving to attract international students in the hope that many of them will stay on after graduation as skilled immigrants. Canadian community colleges offer many programs that can provide international students with an expeditious way to immigrate. Small wonder that the number of such students has increased rapidly in the past decade, with students from three former Soviet republics – Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus – being among the fastest-growing populations. For most of them, the path to Canadian citizenship begins with suitable employment in Canada. Not much is known about their experiences in the Canadian labor market. More specifically, how their upbringing and socioeconomic background prepare them for work in Canada. The study seeks to address this research gap by using Bourdieu's concept of habitus, which can be viewed as an internalized social reality that informs a person's world view and helps guide his or her actions. Thus understanding the environment where the individuals' habitus was formed is crucial for an assessment of their ability to succeed in the job market. In-depth interviews of 30 participants revealed that each belonged to one of three distinct age groups: "Teenagers" who arrived in Canada shortly after graduating from high school; "Young Adults" who were in their 20s and had further life experience when they arrived; and "Mature Adults" who were over 30 when they arrived, leaving behind well-established lives. Differing significantly in terms of habitus, the members of the three groups have distinctly different labor-market outcomes.

Sociology of Religion

Religious residual: investigating variations in religiosity among the unaffiliated

Nadia Beider

(Hebrew University)

One of the distinguishing features of religious life in Western Europe in recent decades has been the sharp increase in those not identifying with any religion. Nonaffiliation does not necessarily entail the absence of all religious belief and practice. Nones are by no means a homogeneous group and there are a variety of patterns of religiosity to be found among them. In order to better understand the religious characteristics that define the nonaffiliated, several attempts have been made to divide the unaffiliated into a number of subcategories based on faith or spirituality. This study analyses the phenomenon of varying religious commitment among the unaffiliated by examining the role of upbringing, and more specifically, comparing lifelong nones with disaffiliates. Drawing on data from the ISSP surveys of 1998-2018, this study assesses whether disaffiliates retain a religious residual from the faith in which they were raised. It further examines developments over time in four West European countries (France, Germany, Sweden and the UK) regarding the strength of this residual. Demographic projections suggest that disaffiliation will continue but that an increasing proportion of those who do not identify with any religious tradition will be cradle nones rather than disaffiliates. Therefore, understanding the distinct religious patterns of those who have always been unaffiliated and those who have exited religion is crucial in understanding changes in religiosity among the nones in particular, and the general population as a whole, both in the present day and in the future.

Religion and Worldviews: Towards a New Paradigm?

Celine Benoit
(Aston University)

In 2018, the Commission on Religion Education (CoRE) published a report which advocated a new vision for Religious Education (RE). In the report, the Commissioners suggested that RE should be renamed Religion and Worldviews (R&W). The name was proposed to reflect a new emphasis on personal worldviews, and a move away from the six 'world religions'. In the CoRE report, worldview is put forward as a new area of study, to allow pupils to explore the role that religious and non-religious worldviews play in all human life. This proposal has led to scholarly debate, especially pertaining to the notion of worldview, and how it should be defined and interpreted for usage in the classroom. In a multidisciplinary report, Benoit, Hutchings and Shillitoe (2020) raised several key questions regarding the epistemological and ontological nature of worldview. In this paper, I present scholarly debates about worldview, and highlight some possible concerns for the future of RE/R&W. Is RE about to be transformed? Or are we about to remake the same mistakes again? I conclude the paper by reflecting on the fact that while the future of RE is currently the object of much debate and discussion within the RE community and among scholars, the voices of children remain sorely missing. Should we, in the 21st century, continue to make decision on behalf of children and young people without consulting them? Or is it time for a paradigm change and for us to start to actively involve them in curriculum changes?

Evaluating Inclusive and Collaborative Journalism as a Framework for Muslim Engagement with News Media in Britain

Michael Munnik
(Cardiff University, Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK)

The past and present state of representation of Muslims in the British news media is often hostile and harmful. If we are to remake its future, multiple tools for understanding and correcting the problem are needed. Social research on this subject has told a consistent tale, from studies in the mid-1990s through to the present: Islam and Muslims are perceived as a threat, and though Muslims are over-represented in coverage, they are under-represented as sources and as storytellers. Improving diversity in newsrooms is one measure to correct this problem (Saha 2018, Cherubini et al. 2020). But for an industry with an exaggerated majority population (Thurman et al. 2016), this cannot be the only method of redirecting the course of journalism. In this paper, I evaluate concepts taken from applied journalism studies – inclusive and collaborative journalism – to consider their potential for improving the representation of and engagement with Muslims. Inclusive journalism is a normative concept intended to disrupt policies and practices that favour established voices in journalism (Rupar 2017). Collaborative journalism identifies projects and practices that connect news organisations with competitors, state bodies, or civil society groups to enhance and extend news investigations (Stonbely 2017). Both put the onus on journalists to reflect on practice and orientations, and this makes them vulnerable to being neglected or ignored in busy, sometimes ideologically indifferent newsrooms. Yet, incentives (prestige, bigger scoops, the push of a changing journalism climate) may encourage journalists to broaden their scope and improve engagement with British Muslim communities.

Re-imagining Muslim identities in times of COVID-19 – A Methodological Reflection

Halima Rahman
(University of Liverpool)

In this paper, I will discuss the dilemmas of doing insider research during the times of Covid-19 – a global pandemic. I draw upon the reflections and challenges that I, as a Muslim and British-Bangladeshi researcher have faced in the context of doing fieldwork in research sites, interactions with participants, and during the processes of data interpretation. As with many of us conducting fieldwork, resorting to the sudden change to carry out research using "alternative" methods can feel somewhat "artificial" and "out of the ordinary". I propose that extending the multiple methods design of my research by going virtual can offer early academics, like me, new ways of engaging with innovative methods that can change the way we consider doing insider research. I reflect upon this change and my own positionality. Though having the same religious, cultural, and ethnic background can have its advantages, caution is still required to which I will discuss the complications and uncertainties that I have encountered upon the transition to online spaces. Additionally, my paper will address the research questions to explore how Muslim women's attitudes about hijab and modesty is changing, whilst also taking into account the extent that Muslim women are also occupying "spaces" to cultivate ideas about modesty and piety. Therefore, I will further highlight how Muslim communities have used online

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spaces to adjust their spiritual, individual, and collective needs during the pandemic, through which I will explain how these spaces become hyper-mediated religious spaces for re-imagining Islam and Muslim identities.

Theory

Composing a material-semiotic-network practice to re-assemble hidden dis/ability and the everyday performance

Anita Goldschmied Z
(University of Wolverhampton)

My research concentrates on conditions including autism, intellectual disability and mental health. Defining conditions by diagnostic criteria tend to establish fragmentation and separation of professions, policies and services. I reconsider the everyday performances as the enactment of all the actors (humans, non-humans and objects) that constantly not only perForm and reProduce but also disSolve hidden dis/ability.

I applied Actor-Network-Theory, Latour's and Baudrillard's philosophy to develop a novel analytic and theoretical way of seeing everyday performances as assemblages. I constructed the 6D material-semiotic-network practice (details, dimensions, dynamics, dispositions, dislocations, descriptions) for noticing, selecting and ordering the material, abstract and discursive actors, the connections and the actions that might signify and compose hidden dis/ability. 6D practice is a way to see performances with all their makings that form capacities for transformation (the many things, signs and their connections).

I conclude that hidden dis/ability and everyday performances can be considered as in a constant state of transformation which, when actors are left to their own devices, composes capacities for shared cultural practices, one of the benefits giving opportunities to rethink inclusion. 6D practice dismantles long-held ideas about hidden dis/ability as it makes us continually re-evaluate where we are and what future we wish to negotiate. I offer this type of curiosity as an alternative way of seeing, not one truth and one reality but many truths and many realities.

Designing Activity: Re-thinking Teenage Girls Experiences of Physical Education Through New Materialism

Zoe Jeffery, Emma Rich
(University of Bath)

Within the UK and internationally there remains an issue of engaging teenage girls in school PE (Physical Education) lessons. Previous studies have employed critical activist approaches that place girl's voices as central to bringing a lasting change to PE in schools, focusing on the way in which girls navigate neo-liberal healthism discourses within their lessons and other barriers such as relationships with teachers and the PE kits. This paper considers the changes that have occurred over the past year within PE pedagogy due to the 6-month COVID 19 lockdown. It is clear that this is a critical moment for policy makers, teachers and parents to rethink what constitutes PE for teenage girls. In particular the way in which technology has taken a central role in how PE is experienced. Drawing upon affect theory as a framework for rethinking PE, this paper questions the relationships between human and non-human actors within the girl, technology and nature assemblage to reveal new way of thinking within the field. Focusing on the design of an affective methodology that enables the co-production of affective 'data', the paper aims to foreground the possibilities of what creative methods can do within a PE context. It explores how the material discursive practices of co-creation can disrupt existing knowledge and help girls reimagine their PE experiences. Shifting attention from a critical activist perspective, this paper suggests using affect theory to uncover how teenage girls' experiences are entwined in constant intra-action with matter as they move through their PE lessons.

Bugs in the System? Re-making UTI from Different Places

Eleanor Kashouris
(University of Sussex)

UTI is a common, but often not highly visible, condition amongst women. They are made through an array of different practices in different places. However, as the condition has arguably become a target for intervention in tackling anti-microbial resistance, the promise of remaking UTI in the clinical space has taken on additional importance. We know that some women are treated for UTI even where guidelines advise against it, on the basis of diagnostic technology

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and/or patient testimony. Conversely, others feel that they are under-treated when they cannot produce evidence that counts. These experiences represent a significant burden of hidden illness and intervention, where care is often dependent on patient testimony.

Sociology has a long commitment to taking patient testimony seriously but in UTI, different, highly contested, versions exist. New materialist perspectives that pay attention to the socio-materiality of the bladder itself, rather than the more exciting microbial life, help to make sense of these different positions by bringing out how people live with their bladders as a daily ecological practice. Keeping the materiality of the bladder in view even when not subject to medical intervention prevents marginalising experiences of bladder ill-health which may not involve antibiotics, bacteria, or clinicians. However, new materialist approaches have not always been explicit about their relationship to an 'older materialism.' De-centring the human risks leaving 'the human' un-interrogated. Sociological insights into oppressions humans enact upon each other are important where diagnostics are not trusted and it is instead patient testimony that makes microbes legible.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

DOING, UNDOING, REDOING GENDER

Gender norms, performativity and fathers' use of parental leave.

Juliet Allen
(University of Cambridge)

A pathway to addressing gender inequality at work and the gendered division of labour is men's greater sharing of parenting responsibility, starting with parental leave. Yet institutional constellations of social norms, workplace cultures and government policy shape which fathers are able to use leave, when they use it and the types of leave they take. Existing literature exploring fathers' use of leave tends to focus on the consequences of policy design and workplace constraints and is yet to examine the relative impact of policy norms, workplace cultures and social norms as three contributing domains. Drawing on empirical work conducted in UK, Sweden and Portugal, my research theorises parenting as performative (Butler, 1990) and seeks to understand the operation and interrelation of these three spheres of norms in shaping fathers' leave usage.

For many of the fathers I interviewed, workplace cultures were the most salient factor. Explicit and tacit judgements from senior peers were faced in the UK and Portugal, whereas fathers experienced direct encouragement in Sweden. Organisational culture and social capital clearly mediate fathers' access to leave. Furthermore, tensions between some respondents' desires to be 'good fathers' and their ambitions towards success enables conceptualisation of the 'performative breadwinner'.

Given the urgent threat presented by COVID-19 to gender equality, it is imperative to keep highlighting barriers to more equal participation in both work and care. Outlining my findings in detail, this paper argues that performativity offers important insights into work, parenting and constraints to fathers' use of leave entitlements.

How Male Sign Language interpreters (un)do gender.

Paul Michaels
(Durham University)

West and Zimmerman (1987) stated that 'doing gender is unavoidable' and Butlers work encourages us to question the formation of gender identity (1990; reissued 1999) but latterly, Deutsch (2007) requested we consider 'undoing gender'. It is from this perspective that I present initial findings from my current PhD research examining the motivations for men to become Sign Language interpreters (SLIs) and their experience in the profession. There is a growing body of research on men in predominantly female professions such as care workers, nurses and teachers. The split of male and female interpreters who took part in surveys conducted by the Association of Sign Language Interpreters and the National Union for British Sign Language Interpreters was 82% female and 17.9% male. 2017 was the first year that a figure was recorded for transgender interpreters representing 0.1% of the workforce. Therefore, SL interpreting in the UK is a predominantly female profession. However, to date there has been very little research on what it is like to be a man working within the field, hence my current study. I conducted 25 interviews and 12 men took part in a group on Facebook and it is from this data that I speak to the general theme of the conference by presenting some of the ways in which male SLIs physically and verbally adapt when working with female co-interpreters or female Deaf clients, to attempt to undo the male gender stereotype in the workplace.

Blokishness, Socialisation, Masculine Habitus and the Communication Industry in England: Insights from Advertising, Journalism and Public Relations

Martina Topic
(Leeds Beckett University)

Studies on women in journalism have been showing for a while that women have to merge to masculine newsrooms and become blokish to succeed (Mills, 2014; 2017; Topi?, 2018). While some women can embrace masculine identities and merge into man's way of doing things, including engaging in masculine banter and doing things the way the men do, many women are unable to do this and thus fall off the ladder and end up leaving the profession. While blokishness is mentioned in papers on journalism, studies do not usually conceptualise this term, which is what this paper tackles.

I have conceptualised the concept of blokishness as encompassing communication and behaviour that comes naturally to men rather than women due to the socialisation process. I am using Bourdieu's (2007) habitus theory and the Difference Approach in feminism (Tannen, 1995; 1990; 1986; Merchant, 2012; Yule, 2006) to argue that organisations are masculine habitus where women who want to succeed have to embrace characteristics usually ascribed to men such as directness, boldness, lack of empathy, competitiveness, toughness, etc.

While this paper derives from the programme of three different projects I have designed, led and implemented since 2018, and the projects have analysed lived experiences, office culture and leadership, in this paper, I am focusing on lived experiences and masculine habitus across three industries to show how women in three industries negotiate and manage their feminine identities and also how many women have internalised masculine habitus and thus outline masculine characteristics as desirable for success.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

CREATIVE WORK

Understanding the movement of artists across borders

Victoria Durrer, Aoife Mcgrath, Peter Campbell
(University College Dublin)

This paper shares initial findings from Co-Motion, an ongoing project charting the effect of post-conflict territorial borders on dance artists. By mixing data from a survey regarding education and professional practice and 'danced data' - participants' filmed responses to phrases associated with migration (Archibald and Gerber, 2018), we respond to a growing field of scholarship considering how dance can contribute to interdisciplinary, mixed methods research (Archibald and Gerber, 2018) as a source of knowledge itself (De Cesaro and Sharp, 2014).

Research argues that artists cross borders for work in ways that contribute to cultural, social and economic development, transnational ties and divisions, professional networks, and regional identities (Florida, 2002; Yeoh and Willis, 2004; McAndrew & McKimm, 2010). Research regarding artists as migrant workers from many countries (Markusen, 2013; Hautala & Nordström, 2019; Hansen & Niedomysl, 2009) questions the generalisability of experience and effect, indicating artists' cross border mobility varies greatly by artform and region. Research originating in dance scholarship on the topic of migration and borders has centred on the analysis of dance works (Brandstetter and Hartung 2017), the effects of neoliberalism (Burt 2017), operations of interculturalism and transnationalism (Purkayastha 2014), and community dance projects (Migrant Bodies, 2018). Co-Motion aims to contribute by highlighting the affective and embodied nature of this type of movement for work (Gill, 2014) and the policies shaping this labour (Bell & Oakley, 2015). With particular attention paid to policy in a cross border context, analysis of participants' responses raises new questions on understanding cross-border mobility.

Psychic Income: Working for Nothing in the Creative Industries

Irena Grugulis, Dimitrinka Stoyanova-Russell
(University of Leeds)

Psychic income, the intrinsic satisfaction that people get from work, is used as an explanation for low pay and seen only as compensation. There is little understanding of what constitutes psychic reward, nor of how, or whom, it benefits.

This article challenges that. Psychic rewards are positive attributes in their own right. They are also variable, so people can be exploited psychically just as they may be exploited financially. Drawing on detailed qualitative research with 86 interviews and 3 months of ethnographic participant observation, into film and TV production this article combines the idea of psychic reward with the realities of individual bargaining power. Creative and interesting work were important, but it was the established professionals who were most capable of negotiating for creativity. Novices experienced exploitation, those developing skills found work intensified, and established professionals negotiated for earnings and creativity. All were prepared to accept low (or no) pay for a 'good credit', but most of the positive aspects of psychic reward were reserved for established professionals. This is an important finding since it counters traditional economic studies where psychic reward compensates those 'underpaid'. Here it was the established professionals who gained most in terms of both financial and psychic rewards.

Creative placemaking and the cultural projectariat: Artistic work in the wake of Hull City of Culture 2017

Charles Umney
(University of Leeds)

The labour of cultural workers is often used to bolster cities' "placemaking" efforts (i.e. their attempts to rebrand as cultural hubs in order to attract investment). We know that cultural work is often insecure and poorly remunerated. But to date, sociological studies of cultural work feature two limitations. 1) A tendency to apply concepts like "precarity" in a blanket way which neglects variation and class fragmentation within local cultural economies. 2) A tendency to ignore the role of the state in shaping the conditions of cultural work. I address these questions by examining the experience of cultural workers in the wake of Hull City of Culture 2017. I show how the need to rapidly assemble an organisational infrastructure in Hull to absorb a sudden influx of public and private funds led to important shifts in conditions facing the "cultural projectariat" in the city, and their fragmentation into new hierarchies. I chart the emergence of new opportunities for some and intensified competitive pressures on others. These nuances are lost when we focus on stretched terms like precarity as an exercise in classification for the sake of classification. I also argue that the ability of large-scale interventions like City of Culture to lastingly improve working conditions in arts and culture is undermined by the market-facing imperatives embedded in wider UK cultural policy and its notions of cultural value, considering some alternatives.

Precarity and second job holding in the creative economy: evidence from the Labour Force Survey and Understanding Society

Orian Brook, Giuliana Giuliani
(Edinburgh College of Art)

Research on the precarisation of work often overlooks the phenomena of multiple job holding, that is, the case of workers holding more than a job at a time. In this study, we examine the motivations and work trajectories of individuals with second jobs, focusing on the cultural and creative economy. This is a sector that is well known for the high levels of precarity and number of second jobs.

Using data from the Labour Force Survey and Understanding Society in the UK, we first examine the extent of the phenomena, and describe the nature of first and second occupations. Secondly, we identify three ideal career-types for individuals having second jobs, based on the nature of main and second occupations. Thirdly, we analyse and compare the individual and occupation characteristics of people having second jobs and contrast them with individuals with one job, drawing conclusions on the motivations for having second jobs. Finally, using longitudinal data, we show how individuals move between different types of careers over time.

The findings contribute to our knowledge of the phenomena of dual job holding, showing the different motivations and potential consequences for the careers of individuals working second jobs.

Paper Session 7

Thursday, 15 April 2021

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space 1

Remaking Feminist Urban Futures: Craft, Gender, and Alternative Community Formation in the City.

Amy Holmes
(University of York)

As we seek to negotiate the increasingly complex challenges of the pandemic, it is vital to be attentive to the ways in which Coronavirus shapes our relationships with and within cities, and to consider the impact that this has on our imagined urban futures. However, we must look beyond the emerging narrative of the pandemic to acknowledge existing cultural formations, and the elaborate intersections of identity, community, and belonging that transpire within them. Inspired by the evocative image of Lefebvre's Right to the City, contemporary research frequently celebrates a plethora of urban imaginaries without considering the gendered processes of contestation and marginalization that underpin them. In this paper, I will interrogate the relationship between craft, gender, and community in the city, and demonstrate the ways in which emerging craft cultures enable women to establish meaningful identities and forms of belonging in socioeconomic, spatial and political contexts that otherwise exclude them. Through their engagement with dynamic, reflexive, and often ephemeral spaces of craft production, women can generate forms of authentic urban participation that challenge orthodox, consumption-oriented narratives of urban regeneration and make space for alternative ways of inhabiting the city. These subversive forms of citizenship illustrate the need to embrace a diverse range of urban futures, and to make visible women's complex, embodied negotiations with the city and with other urban actors. By bringing forth these stories, I will highlight the flexibility and dynamism of women's engagement with the city and emphasise their place in crafting democratic and inclusive urban futures.

Women's Urban Shells

Marie-Luce Storme
(S.T.O.R.M.E.)

A gendered approach to urban territories.

The research is based on a film – research and filmed interviews. This related paper focuses on how women would like to and could design urban spaces and urban project management. The main question raised is how women develop their own urban territoriality. This takes into account that urban planning has been mostly a man's privilege. Hence, the related question stands for the nature of womanly formed representations and territorialities. Exploring the nature of those can lead us i) to raise awareness of the role women will play in the regeneration of old andro-centered or patriarchal urban models ; ii) to unleash women's confidence in such tasks; iii) to design specific workshops informed by and aiming to gender equality within urban transformation.

Throughout filmed interviews with women practitioners (architects, urbanists, organizational leaders) we address the question of how women develop their own sense of a daily territory in an urban environment? Furthermore, is there a feminine territorial sense that triggers a relationship within spaces and urban planning? Using grounded visualization crossed with visual studies and film geography, the analyses of collected data generate new leads for researchers and practitioners.

Eventually, this is the mental and spatial construction of women's urban shells that would appear within the masculinity of cities designs. Would it reinforce the 21st century women's rights to build cities closer to their image? Women's

territorial performativity --or spaces for performances as expression of their suitable city—is likely to create more resilient cities.

Changing structures of feeling: Or how residents imagine the past, present and future of Russian industrial neighbourhoods

Alexandrina Vanke
(University of Manchester)

In *Marxism and Literature*, Williams distinguishes two types of changes in forms of social life: changes of presence manifesting themselves in experiences being lived and emergent forms, including new experiences, styles and ways of lives (1977: 131-132). Williams defines both types as changes in 'structures of feeling' (Ibid) meaning structures of experiences. In the paper, I redefine and extend the concept of 'structure of feeling'. Drawing on my ethnography of Russian industrial neighbourhoods, I also explain how their residents imagine the past, present and future of their localities and view changes in them. By structures of feeling, I mean emotive principles ordering multiple forms of lives and practical actions occurring within socio-material settings in urban space. I argue that structures of feeling shape the spatial imaginary. My ethnography shows that local infrastructures in both neighbourhoods preserve residual (industrial, Soviet, socialist) and emergent (post-industrial, post-Soviet, neoliberal) values, ethics, and meanings. The spatial imaginary of workers and other residents who had been employed at Soviet plants is structured by an 'industrial structure of feeling' (Byrne, 2002; Morris, 2016; Walker, 2011) underpinning their practical knowledge. Those residents, mainly industrial and service workers, working and spending leisure time inside their neighbourhoods demonstrate a strong sense of place (Bourdieu, 1986) manifesting itself in feelings of local patriotism and pride, and caring about local past, present, and future (Massey, 1995). The paper is based on the analysis of 53 interviews, 150 pages of field notes and 35 drawings of the industrial neighbourhoods made by research participants.

'The future of urban living': constructing the ideology of co-living

Tim White
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

The past five years have seen growing numbers of 'co-living' developments popping up in large expensive European and American cities. This emergent form of real estate - for-profit, privately managed and delivered shared housing aimed at young professionals - represents a new attempt to commercialise and monopolise group renting. It's a phenomenon attracting considerable interest from both institutional and venture capital. But what makes this sector particularly fascinating is the way in which it promises to remake the future.

Building upon interviews with co-living agents (companies, developers, investors), attendance of co-living events and critical analysis of marketing material and media, this paper examines current attempts to construct the ideology of co-living: to attach it to ideas, values and beliefs about the future of cities. It is structured around four recurring promises being made as co-living seeks legitimation: turning space into a service, the density imperative, reclaiming cities for the masses, and re-commoning generation lonely. In line with a critical conception of ideology, I argue that these ideas function to naturalise co-living – making it seem inevitable and apparent, while obscuring its role in reproducing power relations. Social critique is embedded in such a way that frames co-living as the solution to a host of legitimate social issues - harnessing popular dissatisfaction with urban inequality, gentrification, housing unaffordability and social isolation. However, I will tease out the 'directionality' of the ideology co-living – arguing that it tends to work in favour of urban elites and finance.

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space 2

Mobility Future – Future Generations' Visions of Sustainability and Traffic Mobility

Jennifer Bosen
(RWTH Aachen)

Mobility is necessary for social participation and therefore a vital keystone of an inclusive and just future society. With increasing urbanization and the toll densely populated cities take on the environment, a sustainable mobility culture will be essential for reaching a sustainable and inclusive future. To achieve a sustainable form of mobility for the future, it is imperative to understand the wants and needs of adolescents and young adults, whose attitudes will shape future

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mobilities. In current public discourse, issues of sustainability and mobility have been linked sociologically in the context of the climate debate and the youth activism surrounding the Fridays for Future movements. In the context of these youth protests, the question has been posed whether social status and the parents' level of education affect youth attitudes towards sustainability. In addition, the question is raised whether a possible intergenerational shift in traffic mobility attitudes is a singular phenomenon of metropolitan areas and cities, or whether it can also be observed in rural regions. While intragenerational studies initially focused on activists, the question remains which attitudes of sustainability and traffic mobility young non-activists display. The paper seeks to answer these questions through thirty qualitative interviews with the target group of young first-gen students and non-activists from rural Germany which are analyzed using Grounded Theory method. This way, it seeks to provide intersectional insights on visions of future mobility, with an in-depth sociological focus on sustainable mobility.

The air we share: social values and air quality

Helen Roberts, Lucy Natarajan

(UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health)

Academics and clinicians frequently make recommendations for others, but what happens when we are the ones who need to change? How do individuals and institutions balance one set of values—improved air quality and a reduction in respiratory problems - against others - travel for global citizenship or new university or hospital buildings?

Researchers, young people, clinicians and local citizens along with the hospital's sustainability lead are using Great Ormond Street Hospital's Clean Air Framework as a basis for co-produced air quality case studies. As a sociologists, planners and academic lawyers working alongside the university and the hospital heads of sustainability, we have been exploring how lay and specialist knowledge can feed into policy and evidence-informed change.

Our work

- Focuses on co-shaping activities in and of hospitals, universities, and their localities with a view to their clean air credentials.
- Is building 'knowledge communities' around urban spaces and buildings, clean air, and governance practices.
- Considers communicative exchanges as key

COVID-19 affords an unprecedented opportunity to view the world as it could be if air pollution can be reduced. Our work approaches society as a locally situated group with diverse, often conflicting, understandings of a locality, which shape understandings of air quality. One more report thudding onto the desk of policy makers is not the way to get their attention. The response to the current crisis means that rather than shouting from the outside 'let us in, let us in' we are pushing on a door that is ajar.

'Community and climate: building back better'

Ian Sullivan

(University of Leeds)

My research is an immersive study with a social movement community organisation, the Kirkstall Valley Development Trust (KVDT), based in Leeds. Together we are developing a community zero-carbon action plan for the local level. KVDT have ambitious climate sustainability plans and this research is harnessing their expertise to develop a project that furthers their aims, connects with others, and which provides space for people to imagine, collaborate and design activities aimed at achieving community transformation, in line with the latest climate change science. I want to understand how climate change sits alongside other issues that KVDT tackles, from the COVID-19 recovery, austerity and social inequalities. I am interested in how a place-based organisation develops theories of change, the types of political challenges that they pursue and their approaches to transformation. This research builds on a series of workshops that I co-facilitated that considered the challenges and opportunities to increase well-being in the Kirkstall Valley. Participants talked passionately about building connected communities and institutions, engaging with local democracy, imagining an increase in green space, locally produced food and reducing car use in the valley. At the end there was a sense of, "how can we make this happen?" Through co-production, I am designing and implementing projects that begin to answer that question.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

'Temporal Traces Magical Manuscripts'

Sally Annett
(ATELIER MELUSINE)

Working with the universities of Wurzburg and Complutense de Madrid, artist Henderson, musician and singer Calero, poet McMillan, the Coptic Magical Papyri project team, Hernandez and incorporating poets William Blake and S.W. Merwin, Annett created an exhibit connecting marginalized occult and hermetic religious objects and narratives. The exhibition; 'Temporal Traces Magical Manuscripts' used tracings of original, and in some cases previously unpublished Coptic Papyri, copper printing plates, etched by the late Serge Arnoux, after William Blake's Proverbs of Hell, rescued and reprinted by Scottish artist Campbell Henderson. The artworks, artefacts and texts were then expanded, through digital formats, into film, animation, song and real-time performance, which were exhibited the unusual, historic spaces of the ATELIER MELUSINE, France.

The artistic works set up a vivid dialogue which traced, symbol, word and number complemented by musical and healing arts, from its start point, around the C2 and C3 centuries AD, in Greco-Roman Egypt. The project followed these ideas, in their translated and discarded forms and reinventions by mystics and prophetesses in the C17 and C18 centuries. The mixture of works; prints, tracings, photography, film, spoken word and poetry, demonstrated a clear trail of the development, uses of and transmission vectors of hermetic knowledge, through artistic formats, yet also exemplified its wild offshoots, obfuscations and obscurities. The presentation will explore the process of curating the exhibition, present and discuss the expanded media and explain the interpretation, dialogue and new works it has generated.

Re-thinking the way we learn self-care practices

Tamsin Fisher
(Keele University)

This research has been designed to understand how people are crafting time to engage with self-care activities through textile crafts. Craft research focuses heavily on the importance of the community and much less on the individuals' experience of the activity, particularly the pathway of learning the skill. Self-care is often seen as a still activity, one which involves taking time out to passively engage in an activity. I begin to challenge this and argue that self-care is an active and ongoing process requiring an investment of time to learn. I aim to develop the idea that there is a distinction between the practice and the learning process. Through participation and observation of a series of workshops run in collaboration with Keele Students' Union, an understanding of how people learn skills for their well-being and self-care has been developed. This has challenged the normative perceptions of how people achieve well-being and how activities are marketed for self-care. Self-care practices involve a process of learning and well-being is a benefit for some individuals and not a direct or guaranteed outcome of crafting.

Performing the future to reconfigure the present: Possibilities of the aesthetic experience

Josephine Foucher
(University of Edinburgh)

I will explore the artistic use of time travel as an artistic tool for social and political liberation. I look at two distinct performances from Cuba and the U.S. that took place in October 2020. The first is #MiCartelParaElCambioEnCuba, a social media campaign organised by an art-activism collective inviting Cubans to 'imagine' they lived in a country where they had the right to protest (which currently is not the case) and to design their own protest sign: what would it say? The second is Resilience 2032, a social media theatre experience launched by a collective of artists and activists that seeks to "bring to life an interactive fictional future to inspire action today". Both interventions intentionally coincided with key national events: Cuba's Independence Day and the U.S. 2020 presidential campaign.

I explore how the artistic strategy of fast forwarding into the future via social media platforms provides the potential for subjectivities to be called up through the aesthetic experience. I loosely draw from Jacques Rancière's theorisation on the aesthetics of politics to ask about the space that the aesthetic experience provides for an articulation of one's place and community

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What happens when we take away bodily co-presence at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe? Reflecting on meaningful in-person experiences and the future of arts festivals

Katey Warran

(University of Edinburgh)

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about an influx of digital arts engagement, including online arts festivals. These online forms of participating have been reported as providing psychological benefits, such as improved mental wellbeing and sense of connection. However, whilst online events can provide some level of connectivity and accessibility for those who are able to engage in these ways, we need to also reflect sociologically on what we lose when we move arts experiences online, acknowledging that there is still more to be done to re-imagine arts engagement in the context of lockdowns beyond the digital. Drawing on doctoral research collected at the 2019 Edinburgh Festival Fringe, this presentation draws upon Collins' (2004) theory of Interaction Ritual Chains to argue for the importance of bodily co-presence to meaning-making processes in the context of arts festival experiences. It suggests that being physically together in a location that is given 'sacred' importance is fundamental to shared meaning-making processes that construct meaningful group identities and group solidarity. Thus, this presentation is an invitation to collectively reflect on what we lose when we take away in-person festival experiences and to explore together how we might be able to create meaningful arts experiences using hybrid digital/in-person models.

Environment and Society

For a science fictional sociology: speculative epistemologies for Anthropocene futures

Lisa Garforth

(Newcastle University)

The Anthropocene signals a new geological epoch in which human activities have a determining effect on earth systems and processes. In the Anthropocene key sociological concepts and approaches come into question: the social as a separate and coherent object of study; the focus on purely human agency and meaning; an interest in understanding the problems of the present rather than anticipating the future. The Anthropocene then might be a moment of transformation for the sociological imagination - a transformation already well underway, with a renewed emphasis in the discipline on hybrid action and entanglement and a turn towards social futures that focuses not just on prediction but on desire and possibility.

Here I examine what speculative fiction (SF) might bring to those debates. I focus on SF as a broadly sociological way of knowing with a unique capacity to allow us to imaginatively experience living in forms of society that have not (yet) existed. The need to imagine alternative future societies has never been more pressing, and connections between SF and the social sciences have never felt more vivid. But too many social science approaches reduce the richness of the genre and its distinctive reading practices, instead reifying illustrative texts. This paper examines how science fictional texts and their readers might be partners in a newly speculative sociology – interrogating and expanding approaches to space, time and social relations. It challenges sociology to work with rather than on SF texts, making SF a partner for hard environmental times.

People, planet, species: Pushing the boundaries of social inequities in health scholarship

Maya Gislason

(Simon Fraser University)

This paper presents on lessons being learned from social inequities in health scholarship which links human, environmental and animal health and wellness issues. In this presentation, I share lessons derived from my work as a health equity scholar on three research initiatives being conducted in the Canadian context: 1. Research addressing the impacts of intensive resource extraction on environments and health which are conducted in partnership with the First Nations Health Authority and informed by Two-Eyed Seeing approaches; 2. Theoretical collaborations on equity informed approaches to animal health in the Anthropocene; and 3. Knowledge mobilization webinars communicating early lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for planetary health, with a focus on equity, sustainability and futurity. Emerging from these complementary research initiatives are a series of concrete insights and practices around how to 'bounce forward, not back' by building greater sustainability and intergenerational equity through attention to the interplay between human, animal and ecosystem health.

Neo-liberal presents, eco-friendly futures? A sociology of knowledge approach to eco-political documentaries

Mareike Zobel
(University of Cambridge)

Since the success of Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* in 2006, eco-political documentaries have positioned themselves as educators of climate futures, inspirers of environmental action and promoters of sustainable lifestyles. In recent years, with global environmental movements on the rise and wide-reaching streaming services available, 'eco-docs' have become influential voices in discourses that call for radically different futures on the personal and systemic level. Feature films as production sites of discursive knowledge are only just starting to gain sociological attention. Yet to understand the social dynamics by which futures are imagined and created, we must acknowledge how the cultural sphere discursively constructs possible and desirable futures: How can we design different futures when our projections are anchored in present-day orders of knowledge? For while explicitly calling for radical change, the sustainable futures of most eco-documentaries remain deeply rooted in the contemporary neo-liberal imaginary. A sociology of knowledge analysis, based on a data corpus of 20 feature-length documentaries (2006-present), traces how eco-political appeals for change are implicitly mixed with logics of progress and growth. More recent films in particular charge environmental discourse with positive affect: Creating a different future, they postulate, entails increasing one's quality of life, striving for emotional fulfilment and being rewarded with aesthetically enhanced experiences. This paper suggests that this 'cultural neoliberalism' undermines the interpellative potential of popular media to spark fundamental changes. It asks how present-day discourses could nevertheless lead to fundamentally different futures and invites a discussion on the effects of neo-liberal mindsets on environmental movements.

Families and Relationships 1

Rethinking Historical Materialist Feminism and its Psychosocial Conception

Helene Aarseth, Rebecca Lund
(University of Oslo)

This article suggests a rereading of feminist historical materialism that takes seriously the concerns of essentialism and universalism, arguing that the early feminist historical materialism hold a productive potential for current psychosocial thinking. Marx and Freud – and more specifically the ways in which these were brought together in Feminist Historical Materialism (e.g. Nancy Chodorow, Evelyn Fox Keller and Nancy Hartsock) – has been out of fashion for quite some time – critiqued, mainly by proponents of feminist postmodernism, for being universalising, essentialising, and for giving privilege to sameness (e.g. among women) above differences (e.g. those caused by race and class relations). We suggest that the contemporary situation, related to growing gender polarization and remasculinization, calls for a reengagement with what a feminist historical materialism has to offer. We also suggest that the critiques of feminist historical materialism, while to some extent valid, often rest on unfortunate misconceptions, largely caused by the (admittedly) problematic psychoanalytically informed notion of gendered personality structures. We seek to retrieve and further develop what we conceive of as a potentially productive conception of the material, that emphasizes a pre-linguistic (not pre-social!) exchange between subjective and objective structures, in the 'intercourse' between the subject and its' environment. We suggest that this reworked feminist materialist conception offers an orientation towards how differences and relations of power are produced and reproduced in everyday practices, that necessarily will be temporally and contextually particular.

Re-thinking categorical thinking: troubling 'family' in diverse (linguistic) contexts.

Jane McCarthy, Ruth Evans
(Open University / University of Reading)

Family sociology has sought in recent decades to reflect on its most basic assumptions, most notably what it means to be 'a family', leading to a body of work in recent years around the notion of 'troubling' family. While this has led to some productive and challenging debates in affluent Anglophone and Western European contexts, these discussions have not fundamentally re-thought these challenges through Majority world vantage points. Drawing on the work of the philosopher and sinologist François Julienne, and his argument that Western European languages are rooted in an ontology of categorical thinking, we raise the question of what is 'family' in diverse linguistic contexts. We explore the 'troubling' language of 'family' in relation to everyday lives in Senegal, and consider the ways in which processes of

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translation perform a neo-colonial outcome by re-framing the term through categorical thinking, allowing much of the nuances, complexities and fluidity of 'family' meanings to 'slip away'.

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Reimagining Queer Decriminalisation Struggles by Rethinking Colonial Criminalisation

Matthew Waites

(University of Glasgow)

Struggles for decriminalisation of same-sex sexual acts continue in 68 states, of which 35—more than half—are in the Commonwealth of Nations that emerged from the British Empire. However current research on British colonial criminalisation of such acts tends to ignore the existence of customary law within the British Empire, wherein legally same-sex sexual acts were largely a matter for indigenous peoples. This paper will argue that the historical sociology of colonialisms and the sociology of law can contribute to a better understanding of the extent and forms of criminalization affecting different populations. Social theory including governmentality theory deriving from Foucault can be useful in conceptualising the relationship between English criminal law, practised in higher courts to apply to colonizing populations, and customary law practised in what were called 'native tribunals'. The paper uses a case study of Kenya, using systematic archival research to locate colonial reviews of customary law for several different ethnic groups; and interprets these in dialogue with decolonizing methodology. The case of Kenya is used to build a wider argument about the significance of customary law. A review of contemporary research on queer criminalisation and decriminalisation will be used to demonstrate how an over-simplified narrative prevails, about universal colonial criminalisation applying to colonized peoples. Hence it will be argued that to remake the future of global LGBTI and queer politics and queer political sociology, through engaging with decolonial approaches, there is a need to revise narratives about who needs to be decriminalised.

Lifecourse

The possibilities of future research about young transgender and non-binary people's school experiences

Sophie Atherton

(The University of Manchester)

Informed by my doctoral research which aims to investigate young trans people's experiences at secondary school in the UK, this presentation will reflect on the limitations and possibilities of the fieldwork that I conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. The risk of unsupportive parents in young trans people's homes meant that I could not conduct research with those aged 13-15 as originally proposed. This meant that much of my research was informed by trans individuals aged 16 and over, and teachers. As part of this paper, I will reflect on the limitations of this, as well as the possibilities and advantages afforded by research with teachers. Although participatory action research has recently surged in popularity, there are many ethical considerations with this approach (Cullen and Walsh, 2020). In light of this, I will raise the question of whether future research should always involve young people directly, especially during a time of crises. I will also consider how future research needs to attend to multiple aspects of identities in order to understand young people's everyday experiences of school. Although this paper will primarily focus on methodological issues, I will also highlight young trans people's wishes for schools in the future. This will further my argument that more attention needs to be paid to the experiences of young trans people in school and the need to think imaginatively about how this is done, especially in times of crisis.

Framing young LGBT+ people's futures: Contrasting perspectives from England and Sweden

Eleanor Formby, Jo Woodiwiss

(Sheffield Hallam University)

This paper draws on findings from British Academy/Leverhulme funded research in England and Sweden to examine young lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT+) people's experiences of, and access to, support or information about sex(uality) and relationships, in a context where increasing numbers of young people (at least in the UK) are being diagnosed with mental health issues.

Our research, using interviews, discussion groups and vignettes with practitioners and young people, indicates that in England LGBT+ identities are often understood as problematic, vulnerable and/or conflated with mental ill-health. However, this was resisted by many LGBT+ young people themselves, who called instead for more inclusive approaches to schooling and/or youth work in future - that would not necessarily see them as having mental health issues, but which recognise that they might sometimes require additional support. In Sweden, where attitudes towards sex(uality) are often perceived to be more liberal, the level of support on offer was impressive, but young LGBT+ people did still face challenges. Whilst they were less likely to be seen as having a mental health problem, a more general norm-critical and inclusive approach to LGBT+ young people meant the specific needs of LGBT+ young people were not always recognised.

Here we discuss lessons from both England and Sweden, and point to ways in which LGBT+ young people's futures may be supported and re-imagined in more empowering ways.

Re-thinking Generations: Findings from CILIA-LGBTQI+ Lives England

Matthew Hall, Andrew King
(University of Surrey)

Generational groupings and identities (e.g. Gen Xers, Boomers, Millennials) are shaped by historical social and political events. For example, Boomers (b. 1946-64) lived through the Cold War and had access to widespread government subsidies in housing and education, whilst Millennials (b. 1981-96) were raised during the digital revolution. With wide-reaching health, social and political implications, COVID-19 will no doubt be formative in present and future generational identities. However, the discourse of Generations tends to homogenise cohorts and can further silence marginalised voices and experiences.

This paper applies insights from both queer theory and lifecourse interviews with 48 LGBTQI+ respondents from across England, collected as part of the CILIA-LGBTQI+ (Comparing Intersectional Lifecourse Inequalities amongst LGBTQI+ Citizens) project. It demonstrates how LGBTQI+ lives present a challenge to traditional and normative ways of thinking about generations and the historical events understood to define them.

We explore the idea of 'queer generations' and how different significant historical events (e.g. the decriminalisation of homosexuality, Section 28/2a, Gender Recognition Act) shape queer generational experiences that are distinct from their cisgender and heterosexual peers. And, likewise, how different generations of LGBTQI+ people can experience and relate to these same historical events in different ways. We also reflect on how the fluidity of sexual and gender identity over the lifecourse presents issues with defining queer generations simply by birth cohort and transition into adolescence. We consider drawing upon more relevant transitions in the queer lifecourse, such as 'coming out' to self or others, as an alternative approach.

Representations of Gender: Examining the ways that young people (re)curate gender in an urban art gallery

Benjamin Hanckel
(Western Sydney University)

Emerging research points to the increasingly expansive ontologies of gender that young people engage with in contemporary society. This paper examines the representations of gender that emerged in one urban site: a science gallery exhibition in London that sought to de-centre fixed binary gender categories - a site where gender is explicitly being 'redone' (West and Zimmerman, 2009). Drawing on research work on curation (Acord, 2010) we examine data (drawings and text) produced by 519 young people who attended the exhibition, exploring the ways gender is narrativised and (re)curated within the physical and discursive space(s) of the gallery. Our findings show that gender was represented in these (re)curations in three primary ways: 1) Gender and its position in relation to the body - on the bodies surface and/or inside the body; 2) Gender as a social construction, and the capacity for agency/fluidity; and, 3) Gender as an (un)important structure for contemporary society. Across these themes participants reassembled the ideas of gender presented within the gallery, including representations that conflated sex and gender and privileged bio-essentialist narratives, as well as representations that drew on binary models and logics. Where representations of

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gender diversity arose, barriers and stigmas were often absent from these narratives. These (re)curations, we argue, point to the ways that young people are making sense of gender (im)possibilities. We suggest these narratives highlight the ways young people are grappling with discourses of gender as they transition into adulthood in contemporary society.

Medicine, Health and Illness

Giving and Taking Care: Re-imagining care home practice in and for the future

Jane Dickson

(University of Dundee)

Underpaid and under pressure, the care home sector has been devastated by COVID-19. The increased workload from new regulations, practices and protocols has been exacerbated by staff shortages from illness and self-isolation. Staff experience significant personal risk and the often overwhelming emotional effects from COVID-19 related end-of-life care. Older people living in care homes suffer distress and isolation related illness.

This presentation describes how, despite these pressures, care home staff remain dedicated and resilient. The data are taken from non-participant observations and interviews with care staff, residents, families, prescribers and pharmacists across seven care homes in Scotland before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Starting with fieldnote excerpts, illustrating the ways in which care home nurses reacted to COVID-19 as it spread across Scotland, the presentation then describes how staff refocused issues of giving and taking care during the pandemic. In uncertain times, nurses and carers maintain a complex sense of resilience, being able to readily adopt new processes, protocols and regulations and balance risk. They do this by constantly referring and returning to the basics of their training and source of their expertise. This enables them to ground their work in the familiar practices of infection management and the ethics of the everyday to shape their response to caring through global pandemic conditions. As staff reevaluate their roles, they also re-imagine ways in which the care home sector can work in the future. These are presented from the data as opportunities for ways to give and take better care.

Folding time: making futures at the end of life

Annelieke Driessen, Erica Borgstrom, Simon Cohn

(London School of Hygiene and Tropical medicine)

The aim of a curative intervention is to reverse, recover, restore. End-of-life care enacts a different temporality: once there is a point when no further treatment will be done, there is an acknowledgement of a forward trajectory that will end in death that is neither sought to be 'hastened' nor 'postponed'.

Futures are fundamentally different in both temporal orientations. In curative-orientated care, the past is mobilised as a desirable and achievable future. End-of-life care specialists may feel that such a promise is a form of harm in itself: if the promised past-future is unattainable, the patient loses significant time that could otherwise be used to 'bring their affairs in order'. They may anticipate other and multiple futures for their patients. Importantly, not only are certain futures anticipated, in doing so, they are also made.

Based on 14 months of ethnographic fieldwork with two specialist end-of-life care teams in London, this paper explores these efforts of thinking, imagining and making varied futures for and with end-of-life patients and those close to them. We consider how patients and family members may have divergent orientations to these potential futures. We pay particular attention to how meanings of 'withdrawing treatment' and 'not offering any more treatment' - which enact the patient's future as ending, and closing down - are actively negotiated in patient-staff encounters as to open these back up. We outline what this offers patients and family members at the end of life, and what may be learned about futures and temporalities.

Rethinking Social Care Through Interdependency and Embodied Citizenship

Janice McLaughlin

(Newcastle University)

The pandemic has brought to the fore the many problems now embedded in social care due to the prolonged period of welfare austerity, alongside the privatisation of much of its provision. While much of the focus has been on the impact BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
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on older people, there have been significant problems created for disabled people of all ages and their access to key services that support day to day life and independence. The recent history of welfare reform has undermined the politics and values behind the disability movement's advocacy of independent living and the operationalisation of that via Direct Payments and personalisation of welfare organisation. Those who work in social care have also had their working conditions and ability to provide adequate support to those they work with undermined. There is therefore a need to think anew about the values that underpin social care, values that can justify a different approach to its funding, organisation and practices. In this presentation I will draw from across ideas associated with embodied citizenship, interdependency and disability studies to explore different possibilities for how we frame social care, its purpose and those who rely on it and who provide it. I will argue for the need to recognise more expansively those with different embodiments, their rights and their citizenship, and to engage with models of care that go beyond minimalist provision.

Social robotics: perspectives on the future from the care front

Perry Share, John Pender

(Department of Social Sciences, Institute of Technology Sligo, Ireland)

The COVID pandemic has shone a spotlight on the contemporary 'crisis of care', with a particular focus on the care of older people within hospitals, care homes and the community (Comas-Herrera et al. 2020). Issues of under-investment, poor regulation, privatised provision and inadequacies of staffing have come to light.

Technological solutions have been advanced, including apps, monitoring devices, tele-health and social robotics. These reflect increased global interest, which preceded the pandemic, in 'welfare technology'. This is driven by factors that include advances in robotics research; perceptions of a 'demographic timebomb'; barriers to recruitment of carers; shortcomings in the quality of care provision; and moves towards the 'personalisation' of care.

While there is now a considerable body of research (including randomised control trials and systematic reviews) on the efficacy of such interventions; on the development of social robotics technologies and on public attitudes (Share & Pender 2018), there remains a scant literature on the impact of such technologies on care workers in real-world settings.

This paper reports on a qualitative longitudinal study of staff in a dementia-care setting in Ireland that deployed the Paro robot seal as a therapeutic device. The data is interpreted in the light of contrasting approaches to care: an 'ethics of care' (Held 2006; Bunting 2020) and a utilitarian approach (Sætra 2020). Care providers reflect a combination of both: reflective of a pragmatic approach to care practice combined with an ideological conception of 'care' itself. This has implications for the design, deployment and regulation of such technologies.

Methodological Innovations

ETHICS, SELECTION AND SENSITIVITY

Researching sensitive topics with working class youth in urban China: reflections on social distances in doing fieldwork

Jingyu Mao, Chong Liu

(The University of Edinburgh, the University of Leeds)

Relying on two research projects which use lengthy fieldwork to understand working class youth (including young migrant workers in Southwest China and students at a vocational high school in North China)'s experiences of intimacy, relationships and sexuality, this paper reflect on different ways of negotiating social distances when doing fieldwork in China, and what they reveal about the meaning of 'class' in contemporary China. The authors are two urban, middle class, women researchers from UK universities, who are doing research on (mostly) rural, working class young people, with intimacy and sexuality feature the research topics. How would social distances hinder or enable the research on sensitive topics? How would the significantly unbalanced power relations between researchers and informants played out and negotiated in the field? What they reveal about the meaning of 'class' in contemporary China? These are the questions that this paper seeks to address.

Remaking Biographical Futures: Reflections on Risk, Technology and Ethics in an era of Social Distancing

Lyudmila Nurse, Dr Lisa Moran, Prof. Maggie O' Neill

Thursday, 15 April 2021, 09:30 – 10:45

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(Oxford XXI think tank - Lyudmila Nurse; Edge Hill University - Lisa Moran; University College Cork- Maggie O'Neill)

This presentation focuses upon the place of biographical research in remaking novel futures during Covid-19, raising questions about ethics, risks and new technologies in biographical interviewing. New societal circumstances of physical distancing, isolation and touch avoidance, social fragmentation, and increased risks of trauma and vulnerability to populations changed social landscapes beyond recognition challenging how social scientists study biographical aspects of everyday life experiences. Biographical research responds to this new (and multidimensional) 'social present' theoretically, empirically and analytically from perspectives on interconnections, continuities, fragmentations, disjuncture and turning points in past, present and future events. The new social present and future challenges core elements of biographical methods however: the in-depth interview, raising novel questions about trust, responsibility for interviewees' welfare during and after interviewing, social distancing, researcher self-care, and data reliability. In this paper, we consider ethical and practical challenges pertaining to the move to online interviewing while negotiating "immersion" in life worlds, risk and social distancing as a result of the pandemic.

Who is being invited to reimagine the future?

Ana Olea Fernandez

(University of Essex, Department of Sociology)

The current pandemic has made inequalities visible in an unprecedented scale. At the same time, universities are experiencing an increased call to decolonise their curriculums. However, the criticisms towards the content of our epistemology, and its implications to build a new society, must also include a reappraisal of our methods to create such knowledge. We cannot criticise extractive capitalism whilst practising extractive research.

The recruitment process for my PhD research, on the experiences of care expert adults who received a psychiatric diagnosis whilst in care, highlights the need for sociologists to establish research partnerships when proposing to work with 'vulnerable' groups, who also tend to be the ones overexploited in sociological research.

Participatory Action Research (PAR) has grappled with these issues for a long time. The current situation, both social and academic, compels to bring to the forefront of our work the principles of PAR and overcome a history of extraction, appropriation and reframing of the experiences of our research objects. It is not enough to call them 'subjects', we must approach them as such.

My research has been an opportunity to reflect on how purported 'good' intentions still hide power inequalities and the potential for harm. The process of reaching a new non extractive methodology is riddled with dilemmas and contradictions, and the first step is acknowledging and naming them. The second step is the recognition that any new path must be imagined and trodden alongside our experts, the research subjects, becoming a team of research agents.

Noticing affect: Developing a visual methodology to make sense of the body

Tim Butcher

(University of Tasmania)

How do we notice when participants' affective experiences arise in sociological research? What sorts of data can represent the pre-conscious, non-linguistic bodily intensities present yet unspoken and inaudible in research encounters? And how and why might we seek to understand those affects?

As we embrace the affective turn in sociology, our methodological approaches need to adapt, to develop a visual language capable of interpreting momentary bodily movements and feelings that emerge in research encounters - situations that invoke memories, traumas and unintended bodily responses that might create new possibilities in the research. By presenting my development of a novel visual methodology, this paper will address the questions above.

I will discuss my use of photography in interviews with artists to understand their everyday experiences of precarious work as they discuss how they make sense of their life histories that inform their practices and influence their careers. Methodologically, I use the materialities of film photography and darkroom printing to reflexively immerse myself in participants' narratives through a series of encounters, in order to co-curate visual stories of their affective experiences of precarity.

Specifically, by sharing my approach here, I invite discussion of how we can develop sociological methods that sense bodily movements and feelings as particular research situations give rise to participants' and our own unintended affective responses, and potentially become entwined to make sense of what informs those sensations, in order to

develop deeper critical understandings of participants' past experiences and how they influence their present everyday lives.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

Speaking back through a politics of listening: The London Permanent Peoples' Tribunal "The Hostile Environment on Trial"

Leah Bassel

(University of Roehampton)

The Permanent Peoples' Tribunal (PPT) is an international public opinion tribunal established in the 1970s following the Russell Tribunals on Vietnam and Latin America. It acts as a platform to give voice to peoples marginalised in international law (Fraudatario and Tognoni 2018). I focus on the 2018 London Session, one of a series on violations of the rights of migrants and refugees across Europe. It put the UK and Europe-wide policies hostile to migrants on trial.

This paper explores the London PPT as a pathway that listening might provide to holding powerful actors to account, outside of formal spaces such as government consultations. The PPT held the possibility to change roles of speakers and listeners to disrupt power relations. The connections can thus be established between listening in a small, self-selected group (the PPT organisers and participants) and at larger scale, where addressees are the EU, member states and the UK government but also members of the public, trade unions, consumers, parents, healthcare leaders, educators. I analyse what changed during and after the 2018 Tribunal.

Moralisations of the Past - On the Role of Memory Politics in (Pro-)Refugee Protests in Recent German History

Tanita Jill Poeggel

(University of Edinburgh)

In this paper, I bring together current research on the migration-memory nexus with discussions of the political potential of (pro-)Refugee protest by looking at the German example. While most questions relating to Refugees are universally morally loaded in a world organised through nation-states, the ways in which these discussions unfold are highly dependent on their socio-historical context. More specifically, the moral horizon that frames these discussions is to a large degree established through memory-politics as a high diversity of references to and constructions of the national past are made and connected to questions of migration in the present (e.g. Glynn/Kleist 2011). However, the ways in which such references have been influential in (pro-)Refugee protests has rarely been looked at. Contemporary research on Refugees' political action has largely been positioned between a perspective of rightlessness, victimhood, and passivity on the one hand, and one of revolutionary potential on the other. In an attempt to go beyond this apparent opposition, I want to take a closer look at the politics of memory in several episodes of (pro-)Refugee protest in Germany from 1980 until today. Based on original archival work, I outline the specific ways (pro-) Refugee actors have moralised questions of (forced) migration through references to the historical legacies of National-Socialism and colonialism. In doing so, I want to offer a nuanced focus on the relational aspects of political agency in (pro-)Refugee movements.

Immigrant Political Community: The Cause and Consequence of Chinese Immigrant Participation in Social Movements in Hong Kong

Zheng Zhou

(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Migration is a global phenomenon, and Hong Kong, as an international society, has received immigrants from different societies. Previous studies have demonstrated various scenarios of economic and cultural integration and disintegration as well as the strategies to cope with the impediments of integration, while political dimensions received scant attention in migration studies. The research incorporates two distinct streams, migration and social movements, to investigate the dynamic interaction between migration and contentious politics by examining the cause and consequence of immigrant participation in the Anti-Extradition Bill Movement in Hong Kong. Drawing on rich data from in-depth interviews and content analysis, the article strives to answer how Chinese immigrants rationalize their participation in the mainstream social movement in Hong Kong? How social movements shape the group of Chinese immigrants and

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the civil sphere? The article explores how immigrants become politicized, generate reactive collective identities, and come together to mobilize against the domination in the host society. The participation of immigrants in social movements serves as moral incentives at the initial stage, and a catalyst for their transition from an immigrant identity to a more socially-recognized member of the civic community. However, the acceptance is unilaterally determined by people with mainstream status, and the discussion of who meets the qualifications is shaped to exclude others. To address inequality, Chinese immigrants establish an immigrant political community to challenge domination and accumulate political capital.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

Integration Politics: Reconstruction of National Identity in Germany

Johanna Looock

(University of Leeds)

While one might think of nation building as a one-time event located in 19th century Europe, I suggest understanding it as an ongoing project. Concentrating on the German case, I investigate different instances in German history in which the national identity was challenged and reconstructed. A genealogy of the reconstruction of national identity primarily concerns the German post-war period – a time significantly informed by the contestation of a sense of national identity by the aftermath of the Nazi regime and the German Division. Moments to be considered include the absorption of homeland expellees and refugees after World War II, the recruiting and prolonged stay of so-called guest workers from the 1950s onwards, and the German Reunification from 1990.

The main focus of my presentation then lies on the question of which role new social constellations provoked by recent immigration play for processes of the reconstruction of the national identity. Departing from genealogical insights, it is of particular concern how in a contemporary situation the German nation is reconstructed and reaffirmed rather than being redefined acknowledging a post-Western reality. An investigation of German integration politics allows to show how the concept of the nation and an idea of Germanness is defended and transmitted in subtle ways. The analysis of mechanisms supporting the reconstruction of a national identity is an essential basis for developing dissenting, future-oriented concepts for living together in multicultural societies.

Land of Hope and Glory? Re-thinking Whiteness, nationhood and Empire through international sports fandom

Edward Loveman

(Bournemouth University)

Using postcolonial frameworks to interrogate national identity has pushed us to consider 'Englishness' through the contemporary experiences of non-White bodies, highlighting the marginalisation and silencing of identities, both historically and in the present (Olusoga, 2016; Bhabra, 2007). So, have the imperial tropes associated with hegemonic expressions of nationhood – shown to function on simplified boundaries of 'us' vs 'them' - been well documented (Billig, 1995; Kumar, 2003). Yet despite its cultural significance in the (re)production, embodiment, and creation of 'Englishness', sport-fandom during high-profile international sporting events (Olympic Games, Rugby and Football World Cups, etc.) appears to have received little consideration. On these occasions, the manifestations of fans' support for athletes regularly present as nostalgic visions of nationhood, buttressed by accounts of England as a 'land of hope and glory', augmented by romantic recounting of the global hegemony of the English Empire (Black, 2016). This paper, adopts a postcolonial framework to engage with sport-fandom as a physical representation of imperial formations of 'Englishness', that erase the inherent ethnic heterogeneity of the colonial metropole (Carrington, 2015). It explores how a critical engagement with the epistemic claims around sport is required to examine, illuminate and advance our understanding on the interplay of Whiteness, nationhood and Empire in the moments of sport-fandom. Furthermore, it highlights sport-fandom as a unique and unexplored opportunity to understand the social processes that allow people to convene behind imperialist pseudo-authoritarian sentiment when navigating themes of race, religion, sexuality, gender and so forth.

Bargaining with migrants: The Rhetoric of Economic Nationalism

Gordana Uzelac

(London Metropolitan University)

Is Britain experiencing a shift of its dominant ideology? This paper poses a question of whether political narratives of main political actors in the UK indicate an ideological shift from neo-liberalism to economic nationalism. It asks to which extent immigration can be seen as the main bargaining chip in that process. This paper presents the results of a comparative analysis of Boris Johnson's writings and Nicola Sturgeon's speeches around the EU referendum of 2016. While the analysis expected to identify well-known differences in views on immigration between these two politicians, a qualitative and quantitative discourse analysis revealed significant similarities between them. However diverse these ideological narratives seem to be on their normative level – the level of prescribed morality and values – these are much closer on their operative level – the level of prescribed social action. The rhetoric of these pro- and anti-immigration narratives indicates the formation of a common discourse on immigration that is characterised by the language of cost/benefit, economisation and rationalisation of the issue. The paper further reveals the way these narratives utilize created immigration discourse to form a critique of the neoliberal economy and form ideologies of economic nationalism where a runaway economy is sought to be re-embedded into the national frame. This rhetoric is about the liberation of the economy from the constraints of supranational control and overregulation. It is an ideology of sovereignty, independence, and control of national borders. Are we looking at the first signs of the Balkanisation of Britain?

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

Testing society: Why we may need a new sociology of testing in an age of computational innovation

Noortje Marres
(University of Warwick)

In an age defined by computational innovation, testing has become ubiquitous, as tests are routinely deployed as a form of governance, a marketing device, an instrument for political intervention, and an everyday practice to evaluate the self. Elaborating on the arguments presented in Marres and Stark (2020), this talk will explore the implications of this for the “laboratization thesis”. This thesis, advanced by actor-network theory in the 1980s, states that experiments present powerful instruments for transforming society insofar as they reproduce the controlled conditions of the laboratory in social environments (Callon, 1986; Latour, 1988). However, the tests that proliferate across society today - in the form of living labs (Engels et al., 2019), pilots in crime control (Gromme, 2019) and test drives in intelligent vehicles (Marres, 2020) – arguably present a different type of phenomenon. Here, tests are introduced into distinctively social spaces - the city square, a shopping street, the road – and in such a way that the social attributes of these spaces - open-endedness, complexity, stranger relationality – are preserved, and indeed deployed, within the framework of the test. Indeed, these tests may enable the extension of engineering logics into distinctively social phenomena –trust, collective behaviour, identity. The challenge that a new sociology of testing must address is that the very relation between science, engineering and sociology is changing: it is not that the tests of 21st Century engineering occur within a social context: the very fabric of the social is being put to the test.

Configuring Evidence in Digital Forensics

Dana Wilson-Kovacs
(University of Exeter)

Data obtained from digital devices can map a suspect's movement, actions and intent and help determine sequences of events, patterns of behaviour and/or alibis. While in the beginning such data was regarded as ‘fact-based evidence’ (Casey 2019), the subsequent development of the digital forensics field has refined its understanding through standards, quality assurance processes and method testing. Building on ongoing ethnographic work on the application of DF in four police forces in England and Wales, this paper explores how the production of digital evidence is transforming in light of technological advances on one hand, and the pressures of operational speed, range and number of devices submitted for analysis as well as the volume of data examined, on the other hand.

The analysis concentrates mainly on ‘dead box forensics’ practices (rather than live-networks analysis), i.e. conventional computer investigations that collect, preserve and analyse media and devices where exact copies of the hard drives of the systems examined are obtained. In this context it discusses the uptake and integration of DF expertise within existing knowledge structures and practices. The paper draws on observations of everyday activities, interviews with DF practitioners, forensic managers and police officers to map how digital evidence is practically accomplished and to scrutinize the socio-epistemic configurations that enable its production.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

The Power to Care: LGBTQ+ Player Resistance to Heteronormative Video Game Design and Culture.

Lee McDougall
(University of Salford)

This paper examines the social and cultural impact video games have on those who identify as LGBTQ+. It addresses an existing knowledge gap by contributing toward efforts to build a theory of LGBTQ+ resistance within video game environments. The paper's core argument is that participants operate within a self-sustaining heteronormative framework of power; where they are constrained in expressing and utilising, what I refer to as, their 'power to care' regarding heteronormative design and culture. Three key findings underpin this core argument. First, participants often 'feign ambivalence' regarding LGBTQ+ representation and inclusion, effectively 'putting-up' with heteronormative design and culture, since they feel powerless to effect any change. Second, those who do risk speaking out face punishment from others within the gaming community, which can be regarded as an attempt to preserve the heteronormative status quo. Third, and in distinct contrast, there is evidence in the actions of certain players of substantive means to resist heteronormativity, through using technical know-how to use or create so-called 'queer mods' – LGBTQ+ inclusive modifications of the original heteronormative design. The paper concludes that, in order to have the 'power to care', one must have the power to resist. Ironically, whilst technology can afford the means to reinforce heteronormativity, it also provides – an albeit significantly contingent – means to challenging it. This paper holds a social constructivist ontology and interpretivist epistemology, employing a grounded theory approach supported by reflexivity. It draws evidence from online in-depth semi-structured interviews held with LGBTQ+ video game players.

Re-Imagining the Intersex Body: The social structuring of sex variance, and the possibilities posed by intersex citizenship

Surya Monro, Daniela Crocetti, Tray Yeadon-Lee
(University of Huddersfield)

Intersex people and those with variant sex characteristics face a range of human rights abuses, including non-consensual cosmetic genital surgeries. Widely condemned at the UN and European Commission levels, these practices continue, legitimised by normative notions of embodiment, gender, sex and sexuality. Sex variations are still heavily pathologized, despite broader social shifts towards challenging binary notions of gender, and the issues that intersex people experience are fundamentally different to those of transgender people despite some shared areas of concern such as bodily integrity. People with variations of sex characteristics number approximately 1% of the population, yet their issues remain largely hidden and there is a dearth of legal and policy provision to support them. Intersex people require social, intimate, children's and health citizenship. Citizenship studies is highly relevant to understanding intersex, variations of sex characteristics and Disorders of Sex Development (DSD), yet little scholarship exists to date about intersex citizenship. This paper outlines and develops the foundations for a distinctive intersex citizenship studies, addressing health citizenship, children's citizenship, legal rights, and breaches of human rights experienced by intersex people and those with DSD. The paper presents original qualitative data from research in the UK, Italy and Switzerland with intersex people and their advocates, medics, and policy stakeholders. The research was funded by a European Commission Marie Skłodowska Curie grant number 703352. The paper also introduces 10 new early-stage research projects taking place to support intersex people's citizenship, human rights and wellbeing which is current and funded by the European Commission.

Biographical Disruption and the Repositioning of Sexual Stories

Katy Pilcher, Pam Lowe, Sarah-Jane Page, Geraldine Brady
(Aston University)

This paper repurposes the concept of 'biographical disruption' to explore the construction and silencing of sexual stories across the boundary of consensual and non-consensual sexual encounters. To embed the broader applicability of the concept, we draw upon three different contexts in which sexual stories are told: young people's understandings of sexual consent and child sexual exploitation in the UK; historic child sexual abuse cases within the Church of England; and the practice of 'orgasmic meditation' in the UK and USA. We discuss the tensions of discursive governance operating through the different organisational contexts where sexual stories are constructed and repositioned. We also examine the silencing that occurs, and what may get 'left out' or not able to be told in the repositioned sexual self narrative. The

paper critiques constructions of the 'real' victim and analyses what alternative vocabularies are available when the 'victim' label is rejected. We argue that repositioning is an important element of these biographical journeys, allowing fractured trajectories to be reconstituted. Through comparing the different contexts in which sexual stories are told, we theoretically develop the relationship between the structuring impressions of available sexual stories and the biographical journeys of people within and through sexual vulnerability.

Non-binary Identity in Sustainable Communities

Emma Procter, Caroline Lohmann-Hancock
(None)

'Harmony is an expression of wholeness, a way of looking at ourselves...It's about connections and relationships.' David Cadman, 23 May 2017 (University of Wales Trinity Saint David). This paper will assert that acknowledging the validity of self-identified non-binary genders positively contributes to sustainability in the community. As David Cadman said 'Harmony asks questions about relationship, justice, fairness and respect in economic, social and political relationships.' (University of Wales Trinity Saint David, 2020). The environment of our communities is a result of human direction and control. We know that intensive agriculture imposes strains on nature. As Linda Lear wrote in the afterword to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring*

'She [Rachel Carson] deplored the increasing exploitation of resources and...the natural world as little more than an aggregate of...commodities, rather than an integrated, organic and living whole' (Carson, 2000, p. 264).

Moreover, 'Silent Spring translated the central truth of ecology: that everything in nature is related to everything else.' (Carson, p. 258). Our environment is not just the physical, the built and the natural, but also the interpersonal environment. As the United Nations 2015 report said

'We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature (United Nations General Assembly, 2015) (The Harmony Institute, 2017)

Social Divisions/Social Identities 2

What are the experiences of people diagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) on accessing and participating with frontline services in England in relation to stigma, prejudice and inclusivity.

Donna Bradbury
(University of Gloucestershire)

Background: Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) is one of the most stigmatised and socially excluded psychiatric conditions. Stigma is extremely common from frontline services and professionals despite the ever-increasing push for mental health awareness and education within their respected fields.

Research aims: Investigate experiences of people with BPD in accessing and participating with frontline services in England to determine attitudes and behaviour of professionals/services towards this diagnostic group.

Method: This qualitative study used narrative interviews to explore experiences of 12 participants. Responses were analysed via inductive analysis within a grounded theory methodology.

Findings: Culture of professional dominance and discriminatory belief in working practice was evident in participants' experiences before diagnosis and during involvement with services. A minority of participants were not informed of a diagnosis until some years later. Changes in attitude/stigmatisation from professionals during diagnostic assessment. Assessments varied from 20 mins to over 1 hour with minimal/no life history accounts or information of BPD. Stigmatisation experience responses were directed towards mental health services (crisis team, community psychiatric nurses), A&E and psychiatrists. Despite negative experiences positive ones were recalled but these were minimal. Loss of identity and identification resulted in some withholding diagnosis when accessing services due to awareness of potential stigmatisation based on BPD label. Reclaiming power, identity, peer support, educating and challenging perceptions of professionals by experience led training, research, activism to promote self-empowerment and inclusion.

Conclusions: Institutionalised stigmatisation in working practice of services is still evident surrounding this diagnosis resulting in individuals being stigmatised and excluded from services.

Becoming Ourselves Online: Intersectional Trans Disabled Futures through Social Media

Christian Harrison
(University of Leeds)

Transgender and disabled identities share an insightful intersection of lived experiences in passing and coming out, alongside societal control over bodies through the processes of hegemony and medicalisation. These communities are often isolated due to geography and accessibility. Online spaces, such as social media, provide an avenue for the blurring of the physical and virtual creating counterpublics, where one can explore, connect and contribute to a thriving community (which has become even more vital during the Covid-19 pandemic). This space allows trans disabled people to exist beyond the binaries and boundaries of dominant hegemony and disciplinary segregation. Utilising this cross-discipline knowledge allows us to work in solidarity against dominant thinking that often places disabled and transgender people in contradiction to one another and allows us to create new futures for understanding.

Using preliminary research and existing literature ESRC funded Postgraduate Researcher Christian J. Harrison from the University of Leeds (Centre for Disability Studies and Centre for Interdisciplinary Gender Studies) invites attendees to examine:

1. The points of connection between transgender and disabled identities and how these can be used to better support both communities.
2. Where the tensions between the disabled and transgender community leave disabled transgender people.
3. How social media can be used to unite these communities to disrupt hegemonic perceptions of normality that are destructive to our bodies.
4. The ways that Covid-19 and consequential policy, healthcare and societal changes have exacerbated these issues and their impacts on trans disabled futures.

Caring about carers? Re-imagining social care and social citizenship in a post COVID welfare state

Kirstein Rummary
(University of Stirling)

Care has always been contested territory, with theoretical and experiential tensions between providers and receivers being evident in research, policy and practice. The pandemic has highlighted these tensions, exposing previously hidden fragilities of relationships, formal and informal provision of care, and policy attitudes towards those needing care.

This paper draws on previous theoretical and conceptual work on 'care' from feminist and critical disability studies perspectives to critically examine the policy response to COVID19. It draws on a wide range of data to explore what happened to caring relationships, both formal and informal, and the impact of public health measures to suppress the virus on carers, disabled and older people.

Developing theoretical frameworks from feminism and disability studies, the author then develops new ways to conceptualise care, and examines what this means in policy and practice. She focuses particularly on the issue of formal social care and its relationship to family and kinship care as well as social citizenship and participation.

The final part of the paper explores the policy options available in social care from international comparative research, and discusses which options could support the social citizenship of carers and disabled people in a post-COVID19 welfare state.

Considering the findings of the global COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor from the perspective of disability studies

Teodor Mladenov
(University of Dundee)

The report of the global COVID-19 Disability Rights Monitor (www.covid-drm.org), launched in October 2020, has revealed major injustices suffered by disabled people during the pandemic. The report has resulted from a concerted effort of seven disability rights organisations to assess the impact of the national governments' responses to COVID-19

on disabled people over the world. Data collection has taken place in April-August 2020 and has included the testimonies of 2,152 respondents (mostly disabled people) from 134 countries.

The report has highlighted the widespread failure of the governments to secure the rights of disabled people in their responses to the pandemic in four areas: (1) undermining of the lives, rights and dignity of disabled people in residential institutions; (2) breakdown of essential services in the community such as personal assistance; (3) disproportionate harms experienced by underrepresented groups such as disabled children, women and homeless persons; (4) denial of access to basic and emergency healthcare due to disability-based discrimination in allocation of medical resources.

In this talk, I will consider these findings from the perspective of concepts and debates prominent in contemporary disability studies literature. Finding (1) will be explored in the context of analyses of present-day de/institutionalisation; finding (2) – in relation to research on independent living and personal assistance; finding (3) – in relation to intersectionality research in disability studies; and finding (4) – in relation to analyses of biopower and its manifestations during the pandemic. On this basis, suggestions will be made regarding the future directions of disability policy.

Sociology of Education 1

Transnational Habitus: Immigrant Parents' Engagement in Their Children's Education in Canada

Max Antony-Newman
(University of Toronto)

Parental engagement has long been seen as a factor that shapes children's well-being and educational achievement (Goodall, 2017; Lareau, 2015). Immigrant parents and host-country teachers often have different beliefs about curricula, pedagogy, roles of parents and schools, and interactions between parents and educators (Nesteruk, Marks, & Garrison 2009). The purpose of this study was to understand the complexities of immigrant parents' engagement in their children's education. The study uses Pierre Bourdieu's concept of habitus as its theoretical underpinning. Habitus is a subconscious set of predispositions that define our perceptions of and actions in the world as a result of our exposure to social structures (Wacquant, 2008).

Immigrant parents' views are shaped by their schooling experiences at home; the study therefore uses the lens of transnational habitus to analyze their understanding of parental engagement in children's education after immigration (Kelly & Lusic, 2006). The study is based on semi-structured interviews with 19 Eastern European immigrant parents whose children attended elementary schools in Ontario, Canada. The key finding was that participants see their role in children's education mostly at home, emphasize academic achievement and extracurricular activities, without the school-centered involvement traditionally expected by Canadian teachers. Due to their transnational habitus, parents were guided by their beliefs in the strict separation of parental and school roles in children's education, showed preference for the academic curriculum orientations, and communicated with teachers only when called upon. As a result, many parents engaged in their children's education differently compared to normative expectations in the Canadian context.

Documenting The Hidden: Uncovering The Lived Experience Of Young People In Post-COVID 19 Essex

Andrew Hammond, Ruth Lowry, Nic Blower, Giulia Poerio, Rick O'Gorman, Faith Chiu, Gemma Warsap
(University of Essex)

Mental health has declined since the onset of the pandemic (Institute of Fiscal Studies, 2020). This decline has been steepest amongst young people, aged 16-24. With this, Essex County Council (ECC) have identified an immediate need for further evidence to inform policy and practice related to mental health and young people. This paper will report preliminary findings between ECC and university researchers that documented the return to school of four young people in Essex, England. This paper reports preliminary findings from a participatory action research project that utilized self-shot filming methods to capture the lived experience of young people transitioning back to education after the COVID 19 lockdown and presenting the resulting documentary to ECC stakeholders. 4 school-aged pupils (2 who identified as male and female; 1 in year 10 and three in year 11) were recruited and trained to film their lives in the week prior to returning to school and for one week after. Pre and post interviews conducted with the young people were thematically analysed. Theoretical insights from both phenomenology and Bourdieu's practice theory-guided our interpretation of the data. Preliminary findings indicate that the return to school was welcome for some but a cause of significant distress for many. Given the substantial decline in childhood mental health documented even before COVID 19, our study provides fresh in-depth qualitative evidence to enhance understandings of the well-being of young people in the pandemic.

Who's resilient now? The effect of austerity on educational attainment for disadvantaged young people

Neil Kaye
(University College London)

Young people at the lower end of the socioeconomic scale are more likely to face significant barriers to educational attainment than their peers (Sacket et al., 2002), and this is likely to be the case whether in times of relative prosperity or downturn. Nevertheless, despite facing adverse circumstances, many achieve well at school, experiencing 'resilient outcomes' (Olsson et al., 2003; Kaye, 2019).

This paper draws on data collected as part of longitudinal studies conducted with two age cohorts – 'Next Steps' and the Millennium Cohort Study – linked to administrative data from the National Pupil Dataset to provide a unique opportunity for examining cohort differences in educational attainment for disadvantaged young people.

Whilst separated in age by only 11 years, the macroeconomic and policy environments in which these two cohorts undertook their formal education has undergone significant changes in this time. The older cohort, entering the education system in the mid-1990s, undertook almost their entire schooling during the Labour governments of Blair and Brown against a backdrop of relative macroeconomic prosperity. In contrast, the younger cohort entered secondary school shortly after the 2007/08 financial crisis and have faced the effects of sustained reductions in public spending implemented since 2010.

This preliminary analysis identifies trends in the prevalence of socioeconomic disadvantage between students at school before the financial crisis and those facing the effects of government austerity. It examines differences in levels of educational attainment amongst disadvantaged students and identifies changes in the profile of those experiencing resilient outcomes.

Delighted, disappointed and disillusioned: A Bourdieusian analysis of students' reactions to GCSE and A Level exam cancellation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Francesca McCarthy
(UCL Institute of Education)

In the UK, the cancellation of the Summer 2020 exam series as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in thousands of secondary school students not sitting GCSE and A Level exams. This presentation reports on data collected from interviews with three GCSE and A Level students conducted immediately after the exam cancellation announcement on the 18th March 2020. Bourdieu's 'thinking tools' of field, habitus and capital are used to analyse participants' personal reactions to exam cancellation and their wider reflections on the role that public examinations currently play within education in England. This analysis reveals the extent to which 'exam-taking' is part of the students' habitus and their understanding of exam results as a form of capital which positions them within the field of education. Although exam cancellation was in some ways regarded in the short-term as a positive, participants also demonstrated a reflexive understanding of how it could potentially impact their future positioning within the field.

This presentation provides a unique 'snapshot' of one particular moment within the much wider-ranging turmoil that the COVID-19 pandemic has created within education. It explores how a macro-level government decision was experienced at the micro-level by exam students. In doing so it also offers an opportunity to hear voices which, although directly effected by such decisions, would otherwise not be heard. It will demonstrate how a sociological approach which engages in such listening can facilitate social justice and should therefore be recognised as an essential element of a re-imagined future.

Sociology of Education 2

Private Schools and Women's Elite Formation in Britain since Late Nineteenth-Century

Eve Worth, Aaron Reeves, Sam Friedman
(University of Oxford)

Private schools have played a crucial role in male elite formation in Britain since the mid nineteenth-century but it is unclear whether private schools have been as influential for women. In this paper, we take an historical approach to BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
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girls' schools and the role they have played in processes of elite formation. We start by interrogating the turning point for women's education in the late nineteenth-century and demonstrate how some of the seemingly most prestigious girls' schools were not founded with the intention of propelling students into elite positions but were rather geared toward preparing their alumni to become the spouses of those in these positions. This difference in intention suggests that commonly used educational categories, such as 'Clarendon' schools, do not help us understand the role of women's schooling in elite formation because there is no longstanding group of girls' schools equivalent to the Public schools. Indeed, we show how, when examining data from Who's Who – a catalogue of the British elite, female elites are far less likely to attend private schools than male elites and that there is no strong evidence of a 'Clarendon-like' cluster of girls' schools. We then consider how girls' schooling evolved during the twentieth century and argue that we need a different typology of girls' schools- and their trajectories- in order to understand women's elite formation. Our data stress the importance of historical contingency and chance when exploring female elite trajectories and raise new questions regarding the channels of elite recruitment for women.

Working-Class Students' Experiences of Education across Generations

Kaidong Yu

(The University of Manchester)

This study considers working-class people's experiences and perceptions of educational opportunities between different age cohorts in the UK. In literature, British scholars highlight today working-class students' difficulties in fitting in university. It is argued that the legitimated middle-class value in higher education creates barriers for the working-class students, transforming their 'person-value' into deficiency. Yet, it remains under-researched for the working-class students who went to university before the expansion of HE when participation rates generally were much lower than today. The research thus focuses on the different social contexts in which working-class students manage to end up in HE by overcoming structural and institutional barriers from school to home in their way. The study used qualitative life-story approach. There were 31 participants born between the 40s to the 90s who self-identified as working-class HE students involved in the research. Drawing upon interviewing data, the study highlights the differences in the experiences and perceptions of working-class students in HE shaped by different social contexts. The findings show that the younger generation of working-class students is more likely to aware of structural barriers and class differences than the older generation in university settings. This generational difference can be explained by the experiences of home and school before going to university. It is more broadly associated with radical social transformation of increasing educational opportunity structure. Whilst in the past university is often perceived as a way of changing their disadvantaged social locations, today people find it hard to generate their value through university.

School types and institutional stratification: The youth experiences with sexuality education through schooling in China

Chong Liu

(University of Leeds)

From March to September 2019, I had conducted my fieldwork at a vocational high school and an academic high school in China for understanding youth's sexuality education experiences and social stratification. Specifically, I examine how class and gender impact youth experience with sexuality education. Sexuality education has a significant impact on its subjects' sexuality identity, practice and relationships. In my research, I re-define sexuality education to be both an input and an output of China's social context and its social construction. In this presentation, I first give an overview of how youth can obtain sexuality-related knowledge and information in China. I then discuss the differences and similarities between my two research sites and unpack the institutional stratifications as well as the deep-rooted stereotypes. I next highlight the institutional challenges of the implementation of sexuality education in schools. Lastly, I conclude by examining school types and the youth sexuality education experience through schooling. I argue that the differentiated school-type-driven expectation is a crucial determinant of experience with this education.

European higher education students: contested constructions

Rachel Brooks

(University of Surrey)

There are currently over 35 million students within Europe and yet, to date, we have no clear understanding of the extent to which understandings of 'the student' are shared across the continent. Thus, a central aim of this paper is to

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investigate how the contemporary higher education student understands their own role, and the extent to which this differs both within nation-states and across them. This is significant in terms of assumptions that are made about common understandings of 'the student' across Europe – underpinning, for example, initiatives to increase cross-border educational mobility and the wider development of a European Higher Education Area. Drawing on data from 295 students across Europe, we argue that, in many cases, there is an important disconnect between the ways in which students are constructed within policy, and how they understand themselves. Participants typically foregrounded learning and hard work rather than more instrumental concerns commonly emphasised within policy. This brings into question assertions made in the academic literature that recent reforms have had a direct effect on the subjectivities of students, encouraging them to be more consumerist in their outlook. Nevertheless, we also show that student conceptualisations differ, to some extent, by nation-state and institution. These differences suggest that, despite the 'policy convergence' manifest in the creation of a European Higher Education Area, understandings of what it means to be a student in Europe today remain contested.

Theory

A Relational Sociology of Morality in Everyday Practice

Owen Abbott

(University of Manchester)

In this talk, I argue that an interactionist relational sociology provides sociologists of morality with a basis for a coherent theory of how morality is done in everyday practice. I argue firstly that applying a relational perspective of action points towards viewing morality as something that is principally engaged with and enacted in relationally-entangled and intersubjectively emergent practice. This resonates with claims made within contemporary sociologies of morality for centring morality as being primarily engaged with in everyday practice. The talk then moves to argue that how morality is engaged with in practice by individuals indicates the variety of relationalism that is best placed to accurately account for such practice. Drawing upon recent empirical research, it will be argued that ordinary moral practice is carried out at varying levels of consciousness, from habituated embodied comportment, to mundane reflexivity in interaction, and to the more occasional level of dialogic deliberation of perspectives and circumstances. This proves to be key to the brand of relationalism that I seek to extend, because accurately accounting for how morality is done in practice requires a greater degree of mundane and deliberative reflexivity than Bourdieu's relationalism tends to allow. I thus argue that a Meadian-based interactional relationalism is better equipped to this task. This talk will use examples of everyday moral practice in the Covid pandemic, and draws on *The Self, Relational Sociology, and Morality in Practice*, which was awarded the Philip Abrams Prize 2020.

The Invention and Politicisation of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement in the UK, 1960s-1980s

Jose Tomas Labarca

(School of Social and Political Science, The University of Edinburgh)

What are the politics of macroeconomic indicators? Why do certain economic statistics become more salient and consequential for policy than others? This paper studies the UK's Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR). While it is well-known that the PSBR was at the forefront of British economic policy during the 1976 IMF crisis, we know less about the history of the PSBR as a macroeconomic indicator. Scholars tend to take it for granted. This overlooks that it was a relatively new statistic, on whose meaning, relevance and operationalisation there was no agreement. Drawing on archival evidence, I argue that different concepts and operationalisations of fiscal deficit reflected and influenced economic policymaking and debate. The PSBR had only been created in the late 1960s. Treasury officials held recurrent discussions over its significance and operationalisation before and after 1976. The discussion was initially motivated by "practical considerations," but after 1974 it became politically driven (e.g., how to change the PSBR's presentation to avoid unfavourable international comparisons). The PSBR continued to be a major subject of argument and a yardstick for policy during the 1980s. Thus, the story of the PSBR helps us understand why and how some statistics become salient and consequential for policy and debate. Macroeconomic indicators can gain prominence quickly and against policymakers' will. Even when initially elaborated by nonstrategic rationale, economic statistics are critical mediating devices, potentially much more consequential than initially intended. Once in use, they are open to strategic struggles over their meaning, operationalisation and importance for economic policy.

Towards Historical Reflexivity: Reading History and Social Theory through the writings of W.E.B. Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar*Kumud Ranjan**(Jawaharlal Nehru University)*

The paper offers a Pragmatist-inspired reading of the history of the 'canon' in social theory, focusing on the writings of W.E.B. Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar. Both were contemporaries and influenced by Boasian anthropology and philosophical school of pragmatism, primarily by the writings of John Dewey and William James respectively. Their reading of both 'self' and 'history' deeply resonated with the ideas of significant thinkers like G.H. Mead during the heyday of Pragmatism. Though these influences and formation of ideas are more of 'dialogical' in nature as this realm of 'dialogical' has been considered to be the essential virtue of any democratic society as argued by pragmatists themselves. Their reading of race and caste context along with different intersectionalities in the early decades of the twentieth century did shape not only the framework of the area of the study but also the disciplinary concerns and boundaries. How do their historical projects have serious implications for a critical and reflexive understanding of/towards the history of sociology vis-à-vis social theory?

The purpose of this paper is to understand the history of social theory through the writings and lives of W.E.B. Du Bois and B.R. Ambedkar, with an emphasis on how social theory in present attempts to reflect upon its historical constructions. This historical project further attempts to think of an emancipating moment in our contemporary trajectories of social theory and how social theory, in turn, shall attempt to think of emancipation through its constructions of the contemporary world.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

TRANSNATIONAL WORKING**Stay or go? What keeps temporary labour migrants committed to the firm?***Mariella Falkenhain, Miriam Raab**(Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nuremberg, Germany)*

In a competitive world, committed employees are key resources for firms. The management literature generally assumes that organizational commitment grows where employers invest in their workers. Despite growing ethnic diversity of the workforce in Western Europe, we know surprisingly little about investments in and commitment of migrant workers. Given the particularities of temporary labour migration (central role of employers, limited rights of workers), we ask how employers try to retain these workers, and what keeps migrants attached to the firm. To answer these questions, we draw on 105 qualitative interviews with German employers and migrant workers from the Western Balkan countries who have all been employed in the context of the same temporary labour migration scheme. We find that some workers stay in the firm because they feel morally committed to their (socially investing) superior. Others do not want to endanger future perspectives (e.g. family reunification, career advancement) and consider the costs of leaving high. Both forms, normative and continuance commitment (Allan & Meyer 1990), can lead to an entrapment and increase the risk of exploitation. But we also observe turning points (inter alia in the Covid-19 crisis) at which migrants leave the firm because cost-benefit calculations change and reasons to stay lose relevance. Our findings suggest the importance of a longitudinal approach to study pathways of commitment that remain poorly understood. The findings also confirm that vulnerable migrant workers can exercise agency (Alberti 2014). Finally, they call for a better integration of migration and labour studies.

Chasing the chimera: re-examining the concept of career through a study of skilled migrants in Australia*Khalida Malik**(Western Sydney University)*

In the past decades, the scholarship on career has been conceptualised in disparate ways. Battered by technological changes, globalisation and the neo-liberal agenda, the world of work and the notion of career has become increasingly fragmented. Newer types of work are shaped by changes underpinned by market principles leading to precarious work. What has received less attention is questioning this 'parasitic metaphor' of career as it feeds off the hopes and aspirations of people and whether it promotes inequalities in society. It continues to mask the reality of immutable

structural and other life changing events experienced in the world of work beyond an individual's control. Career is an idealised outcome of employment premised on economic necessity. Using Bourdieu's concept of cultural capital, this paper explores career as a product of Western epistemologies and its influence on a group of Kenyan Asian skilled migrants. Applying this theoretical lens also reveals the potential diversity and unevenness of career experiences. Many skilled migrants, with normatively successful careers in their countries of origin may find their overseas experiences and skills devalued to the point they are unable to pursue their chosen careers. This paper puts forward a relational perspective to understand the challenges of these participants together with some insights into the unresolved tensions between work, employability, and career. Beyond these narratives it is about finding meaning in life and potentially dispensing with the romanticised notion of career.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

NEW WORK PATTERNS

Disabled workers: will they be winners or losers in the post-Covid19 labour market?

Paula Holland
(Lancaster University)

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic there were already marked inequalities in employment rates between disabled people and those without disabilities: in 2019, the UK's disability employment gap stood at 28 percentage points. Workplace inflexibility and discriminatory attitudes of employers contribute to the higher rates of job loss and unemployment experienced by disabled people and people with long-term health conditions. The COVID-19 pandemic, however, has magnified existing health and social inequalities and it may lead to more severe employment disadvantage for disabled people and people with long-term conditions.

On one hand, the pandemic has led to a global economic recession which, based on evidence from previous recessions, will have a greater and longer-lasting impact on the employment prospects of disabled workers and those with long-term conditions than other groups, leading to widening socioeconomic inequality. Conversely, the pandemic initiated a cultural shift in working arrangements that may prove beneficial to groups of workers who have been excluded from full participation in the labour market. Homeworking increases the accessibility of paid employment and supports work retention for disabled workers and people with long-term conditions, yet prior to the pandemic many employers withheld it due to an organisational culture of visibility and control. The pandemic, however, forced many organisations to operate remotely for the first time and impose compulsory homeworking for desk-based workers. If sustained, and embedded within organisational culture, flexibility around homeworking offers a more sustainable and inclusive way of working which will help address the employment inequality experienced by disabled workers.

The Hidden Cost of Work

Lila Skountridaki, Oliver Mallett, Abigail Marks, Danny Zschomler
(University of Edinburgh, University of Stirling)

This paper explores 79 interviews with people working from home during lockdown across a range of jobs and sectors in the UK, to tease out the lived experience of home-based work and the new perspectives gained on working from the office. Our findings highlight the significance of 'work-related' activities and expenses, which are part of employees' non-work time, space and personal income, and have so far been underplayed in work-life balance (WLB) debates. We make a distinction between work-related costs related to working at home as opposed to the office, to reflect on the novel perspectives gained from our participants' narratives. Despite the hardships of physical/social distancing and adjusting their home-office, most of our interviewees have enjoyed the benefits of home-based work, often discussed in the WLB literature (e.g. flexible working hours, less commute, increased productivity). Yet, retrospectively, their reflections highlight the hidden costs of working from the office, including the cost of commuting, work-related clothing, lunch and coffees, alongside the time people spent on commuting and their professional appearance. These widely normalised work-related costs are of increased importance in the current debates about the future location of work. With organisations increasingly considering a shift to full or partial remote work, the hidden costs of homeworking (e.g. electricity, heating, home refurbishments for home offices) must be acknowledged. As the post COVID working arrangements begin to be negotiated, there is likely to be significant contestation around rights and responsibilities, including for the hidden costs of working at home and the office.

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Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Vélo-mobilities: thinking transport beyond the car

Peter Cox
(University of Chester)

created for a mobile imaginary that paved the way for automobility. Through the course of the twentieth century, growth and decline of cycling mobilities was inseparably entangled with the rise of a range of motor-mobilities (two and four wheeled). Yet cycling persists and is championed widely as a contender for future mobility post-growth societies. However, the hegemonic position reached by automobility as a dominant system has led to closure of political non-car mobility imaginaries.

This paper explores the possibilities and problems inherent in formulating vélomobility as a system, not merely as a vehicular substitution within continued patterns of spatial and economic inequality perpetuated by existing automobilities. It pays special attention to how a mobility system might be aligned with the need for degrowth as a way to think and act beyond the unsustainable carbon economy. To do so, it first it examines the challenges of imagining vélomobility not just as a set of practices but cognitively, through its conceptual construction not as an inverse of automobility but as a system that also challenges to the political underpinnings of automobility. Second, it considers vélomobility through a set of propositions and briefly explores in example the complexities involved in reimagining mobility regimes as well as the resources from social theory that may be important to it.

Towards a Post-Automobility Future

Richard Randell, Robert Braun
(Webster University Geneva, and Institute for Higher Studies, Vienna)

This paper addresses the question of what a post-automobility future might be and how we might move toward such a future. Whatever its theoretical and empirical merits and strengths, to the degree the automobility studies literature possesses, or implies, a political program of moving towards a post-automobility future, we need to recognize that it has been a failure: automobility continues to rhizomatically expand across the planet; global road injury and death rates continue to rise; the number of automobiles built each year (100 million) is close to the global increase in population (120 million); automobile greenhouse gas emissions are increasing. How we conceptualize “post-automobility” depends on what we already understand automobility to be. New intellectual tools are required beyond the systems theory and Foucauldian paradigms that are currently dominant in the field of automobility studies. Transitioning to a post-automobility world will require not just the development of alternative modes of transportation or the expansion of already existing modes of transportation, it will require a discursive deconstruction and practical dismantling of automobility. Moreover, an alternative future that would replace the technological artefact we today recognize as “an automobile” with some other technological artefact equally embedded in the spatiality and imaginary of currently existing automobility, while it might not be an automobile, would be a post-automobility future in name only. What, then, is automobility? “Automobility,” we argue, is both a word and an ill-named thing. The very term “automobility” needs to be questioned and placed under erasure.

Pokémon Go and COVID-19: Changing Approaches to Locative play

Michael Saker, Leighton Evans
(City, University of London)

Pokémon Go is a hybrid reality game (HRG) that effectively allows players to turn their concrete environments into playful spaces by combining physical and digital information. While Pokémon Go has often been presented as a novel experience, in reality, this game builds upon a rich lineage of locative media. What notably separates Pokémon Go from the majority of earlier locative games is its use of augmented reality. Here, players do not just physically ambulate space and place to play the game but are presented with the digital image of Pokémon overlaying their physical environments through the displays on their smartphone. Likewise, another distinguishing factor is the sheer popularity of this HRG. Launched in July 2019, Pokémon GO has been downloaded more than one billion times, and was, up until very recently, played by roughly 5 million players on a daily basis. In short, this is the most successful HRG to date that has seen large numbers of people playing together. While a substantial body of work has developed around Pokémon Go in the context of space, place, and social interactions, limited research has examined how this HRG has sought to accommodate the reduced sociality of COVID-19 and the implications this pandemic has for large groups of people physically pursuing Pokémon. Drawing on an original study of this HRG, our paper will examine how Pokémon Go has adapted to the unfolding restrictions placed upon sociality, and what the experience of the game might suggest about our changing relationship with locative play.

'I have to know where I can go': mundane mobilities and everyday public toilet access for people with irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)

Lauren White
(University of Sheffield)

'Public' toilets are crucial to our social and geographical landscape, and access to them has become prominent in recent public and academic debates. Drawing on a qualitative study based on 25 daily diaries and follow up interviews with people living with the common health condition irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), this paper reimagines toilet access through the lens of mundane mobilities (Binnie et al., 2007). Planning journeys, mapping toilets, a reliance on commercial toilets and intersections with travel were key themes emerging from the study. Through the lens of IBS, we see how navigations of seemingly everyday mobilities are problematised through the availability, comfort and knowledge of 'public' toilets. This paper works at demonstrating how everyday mobilities are inseparable and interconnected with toilet access. IBS offers a particularly useful lens in which the common but often hidden nature of the condition demonstrates the multiplicities of 'public' toilet access and how the unpredictability of access meets with, and is embodied, by those with the condition. This paper offers a contribution to sociological understandings of toilets by acknowledging mobilities as intertwined with toilet access. It offers a further contribution to understandings of everyday public toilet access for a diversity of social groups.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 1

Vegatopia? The counterfactual construction of human-animal futures

Matthew Adams
(University of Brighton)

Counterfactual futures refers to the idea that counterfactual analysis may be used not only for building alternative scenarios of the past (alternative histories) but also as a methodology for exploring possible futures. This presentation considers the possibilities of counterfactual futures analysis and utopian narratives as a method for understanding the dynamics involved in human-animal relations, animal agriculture and the consumption of meat. The increase in the number of people adopting vegetarianism and veganism reflects growing environmental, ethical and health concerns attached to eating meat; whilst at the same time, meat consumption continues to rise. As it becomes clear that a genuinely sustainable global future will depend, amongst other changes, on the mass reform and even abolition of the animal agriculture industry and the factory farming of animals, social scientific attention is being paid to what a meat-free future might look like, and how we might make the steps to get there. The paper considers the sociological potential of recent counterfactual constructions of the future found in the arts and the media, to radically reframe the human-animal relationships at the core of 'meat culture'; and as a potential qualitative methodology. The presentation focuses in particular on the BBC 'mockumentary' *Carnage* (2017) and its attempt to depict a vegan utopia in 2067. *Carnage* is considered as a fascinating, imperfect, deceptively sophisticated example of a counterfactual future narrative with lessons for the way researchers, practitioners, NGOs and campaign groups might approach highlighting the environmental, health and ethical dimensions of eating animals.

Food support provision in COVID-19 times: A mixed method study based in Greater Manchester

Filippo Oncini
(University of Manchester)

COVID-19 has brought to light the severity of economic inequalities by testing the capacity of the poorest families to make their ends meet. Food insecurity has in fact soared all over the UK, with many people forced to rely on food support providers. This paper uses a unique dataset on 55 food support organizations active in Greater Manchester during the COVID-19 lockdown and on 41 semi-structured interviews with food aid spokespersons and stakeholders to shed light on the overcomings, the complications and the problems emerged immediately after the COVID-19 peak. The results indicate that food aid organizations that remained open during the crisis were surprisingly effective despite the growth of users' requests and the decrease in volunteers. However, the necessity to maintain the supply of food in place at all costs came with important drawbacks. In fact, the lockdown measures that followed COVID-19 not only affected the financial stability, the food availability, and the management of the organizations, but actually undermined the very ways in which food support providers used to operate. In fact, due to physical distance measures and to the increasing number of users, more or less intangible forms of support such as financial advice, empathic listening and human warmth were partially or totally lost, probably when they were likely to be needed the most.

The impact of COVID-19 on household food shopping practices in the East of England

Claire Thompson, Laura Hamilton, Angela Dickinson, Rosalind Fallaize, Elspeth Mathie, Samantha Rogers, Wendy Wills
(University of Hertfordshire)

Measures to control the spread of Covid-19 are impacting food systems. 'Panic buying', an increased need for emergency food aid, income-crises, and the demands of social distancing have disrupted household food provisioning and had a disproportionate effect on marginalised groups. The way we shop for food is changing. This qualitative study explores how Covid-19 is shaping food shopping and provisioning practices at the household level in the East of England, a diverse region including coastal, urban and rural settings. We are conducting remote in-depth interviews with 80-100 households and 40–60 professionals and volunteers supporting dietary health. This study has been ongoing since May 2020.

The findings document a range of strategies to cope with the changing food landscape. Higher income households tell us that they are shopping online more, having more food delivered and trying to purchase from and support local fresh food businesses, such as farm shops. Often this involves deliberately spending more on food shopping. Disadvantaged households are less able to engage with their local food environments as consumers and are increasingly reliant on donated food. Shopping strategies such as bulk buying and stock piling are not an option for those with limited funds or food storage capacity – especially those with insecure or poor-quality accommodation. Shopping instore has been difficult and sometimes impossible for people with health needs. Managing with a lower-income, less healthy food, and reduced opportunities to shop for food in a socially acceptable way could serve to amplify existing dietary health inequalities.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 2

Fieldnotes from a week at butler school: A window into the hidden labour of elite distinction

Bryan Boyle
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

The 'butler' occupation is undergoing a revival. Butlers and high-end domestic employment agencies report an increase in butler demand over the last thirty years as butlers find employment working for the emergent, global 'super-rich' and their traditional, aristocratic employers. This paper presents some findings from the beginning of an 'enactive ethnography' (Wacquant, 2015) which involved the author actually enrolling at a butler school and training in the basics of butlering in the UK. A number of vignettes from one week of training are presented. These include: (1) how to present an employer a pen, as this usually mundane practice is emphasised as non-mundane to amplify the 'level of service'; (2) how to 'meet and greet' employers' guests, a practice that facilitates elite persons' movement through physical spaces, such as airports, in a way that is most pleasurable, care-free, and devoid of encounters with the 'vulgar'; and

(3) butler students' induction into the world of luxury consumption, wherein how to recognise and handle distinct products (such as fine cheese, hunting attire and handmade shoes) are introduced, as well as how to simply 'behave' within elite shopping spaces. The analyses of these thick descriptions are informed by and in turn inform a relatively novel concept: 'labour of distinction'. This highlights how the ability of economically dominant groups to implement a distinct lifestyle (Bourdieu, 1984) may often depend upon the purchasing of specialised labour power. This adds to and challenges conventional studies of elite distinction which often overlook the significance of labour process.

'You've got a baby, and you can't do this' Parenting, sexism, and creative careers

Orian Brook, Dave O'brien, Mark Taylor
(University of Edinburgh)

Precarity is a key feature of creative work - short term contracts which offer little job security and few benefits such as maternity pay. The creative economy is exceptionally clustered in London, which is increasingly unaffordable. It is also a highly competitive sector where networking is key and, and late nights and weekend work are often the norm. In this paper we explore how these factors intersect in the

creative careers of parents - especially, mothers. We use a mixed methods approach: analysis of the ONS Longitudinal Study shows us the different extent to which women and men leave creative work at critical points for family formation. We also analyse 237 semi-structured interviews with creative workers to explore by whom parenting was spontaneously mentioned, and the gendered and classed differences in how the twin demands of creative careers and parenthood are experienced. Men were less likely to experience problems with combining parenting and work, and women from more privileged origins or with well-paid partners were less likely to struggle. But the disappearance of women from senior posts, as they turn to part time or freelance work to accommodate childcare, the loss of access to networks if they left London in for affordable family housing, and the personal responsibility that many women took for the structural problems they encountered were common themes. The expectation that a creative career is an all-consuming commitment makes it all but impossible to access for those without resources to make their external responsibilities invisible.

Hollywood experts: A habitus analysis of social and political consultants in the American entertainment television industry

Arsenii Khitrov
(University of Cambridge)

If we take a look at the rolling credits following the end of many contemporary American TV series and feature films, we see the names of technical advisors and consultants cropping up. Who are these experts, how do they come to Hollywood, what does Hollywood expect from them, and what is the nature of their work? These are the questions I answer in this paper. The analysis is based on data I collected over 10 months of fieldwork in Los Angeles in 2017–2019, which includes 150 interviews, observation, and archival materials. I conceptualise Hollywood as a field (in Bourdieu's sense of the term), identify its connections with other social fields, and focus on the habitus of consultants, advisors, and other professionals, whose role is to work with Hollywood TV makers and to contribute their knowledge of social and political issues that the TV makers do not know about. I analyse cognitive, affective, and bodily elements of their habitus, how their habitus synchronises or conflicts with the field of Hollywood, and what kinds of capital are they able to generate in the field.

"Work from my culture doesn't sell" - Inequalities, expertise and cultural value in UK craft

Karen Patel
(Birmingham City University)

This paper contributes to sociological work on inequalities in the creative and cultural industries (CCIs), focusing on the UK craft sector. It explores the politics of expertise in UK craft, particularly how value judgements of craft expertise are predicated on aesthetic codes and classifications which are historically racialised, gendered and classed. Based on interviews with 21 women makers of colour in the UK, I explore how for them, getting their craft skills recognised and valued as expertise hinders their ability to establish a full-time career in craft. While the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement in the summer of 2020 ignited increased conversation and awareness around racism in craft, there is a danger that the COVID-19 pandemic will restrict creative organisations' ability to facilitate meaningful change, and even exacerbate existing inequalities. How can the future of the UK professional craft be more inclusive in these difficult

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circumstances? I argue that craft expertise - the practical skills of production and the capacities of the maker - should be more central to evaluative judgements. I draw on work on the sociology of art by Janet Woolf to discuss how evaluative judgements of craft expertise should be located within specific communities and cultures. A consideration of craft expertise can help inform contextualised evaluative judgements, which could be possible even within the current challenging climate. The paper illustrates how sociological work can help us think through how inequalities in the CCIs could be addressed, to remake a more inclusive future in the sector.

Environment and Society

Experiencing Everyday Life with Multiple Disasters in the Towering Indo-Tibetan Borderlands of Ladakh, India

Vibha Arora, Padma Rigzin
(Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)

The summer and winter of 2020 in the towering highlands of Ladakh has challenged the resilience of the fragile Himalayan communities. Since May 2020, these Indo-Tibetan border highlands have become the cartographic zone of geopolitical disputes between India and China. Huge amounts of military personnel, expansion of infrastructure, and military equipment have been deployed on both sides of the border in an existing national disaster context ushered by the Covid pandemic of 2020. Undoubtedly these communities are experiencing multiple disasters in 2020 (economic, public health, and national security) and peace eludes the border. Following the theories of Ulrich Beck, we aim to understand the reflexive perception and community responses to the disruptive impact of multiple disasters on their banal everyday life.

What is everyday life in these Indo-Tibetan borderland areas of Ladakh facing multiple disasters? How are locals responding to geo-political tensions and ethnic-nationalist concerns in micro-settings? The tumultuous challenges of 2020 have aggravated the persisting uncertainty of local communities over the political upheaval unleashed by the abrogation of Article 370 by the national government and transformation of this borderland into a Union Territory administered by the government and partition of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir. Our study highlights the extreme challenge of re-creating resilient communities and how they forge their social future in a geo-politically strategic contested terrain. Our paper combines insights based on review of relevant secondary literature and media reports, primary data gathered through immersive fieldwork, interviews, and lived experience of one of the researcher's during 2020.

Imagining Sustainable Futures: Meditations from an experiment in transformative learning in India

Zareen Bharucha, Alison Greig, Aled Jones
(Anglia Ruskin University)

'Imagining Sustainable Futures' was a recent experiment in transformative education for sustainability. Our participants were young (<35 years of age), urbane, English-speaking Indians who gathered for three online meetings to explore three questions: What does the 'good life' mean to me; What is my personal experience of environmental (un)sustainabilities, and What has been my relationship with environmental action? Participatory and deeply experiential activities were designed to catalyse transformative learning: defined as reflection on tacit understandings of the world and their role in determining action (Mezirow 2009; Peters and Wals 2016).

In the first part of the paper, we reflect on what participants narratives indicate about how urban, middle-class Indians are currently encountering the 'unsustainabilities' that mark everyday urban life in India. Do these personal encounters provoke ecological grief, ambivalence about current models of development or a re-evaluation of materially focused cultures of consumption? In exploring these questions we respond to longstanding calls for deeper engagement with Indian middle class 'environmentalisms' (Mawdsley 2004), but go beyond descriptive accounts of what people do, delving into the inner terrain animating (or hindering) action (Lertzman 2015).

We then reflect on the role and potential of transformative learning within middle-class urban life in India. We review the evolving literature on transformative learning for sustainability, reflecting on its applicability within an Indian context. We end the paper with a call to action for greater attention to the role of reflective and experiential methods in further work exploring Indian visions on sustainable futures and the good life.

Understanding energy demand: from practice to precarity

BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
70th Anniversary

Catherine Butler
(University of Exeter)

A significant amount of energy demand research has examined problems of reducing energy demand by focusing on the importance of reshaping and shifting practices. An equally large body of work has examined issues of fuel poverty by taking forward concepts of energy precarity and vulnerability. These two major focuses form an important part of the literature on energy demand but are rarely brought into conversation with one another. This paper uses in-depth qualitative interviews (n=42) to develop an analysis that reveals how novel insights can be made visible through combining and applying these different areas of energy demand research. It presents a distinctive approach to examining energy demand issues that places inequalities at the heart of debates about the advancing energy intensity of contemporary societies. In doing so, it responds to critiques of practice-informed analyses of energy demand that highlight the limited attention given to inequalities within such work.

The future of sustainable consumption practices in healthcare: examples, co-benefits and competing priorities

Yulia Omer
(University of Surrey / Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust)

Healthcare is responsible for 5% of carbon emissions globally. In the UK NHS contributes to 20% of the overall public sector emissions. Two thirds of these emissions is attributed to energy use and procurement of goods and services with demand projected to rise leading to further increase in the use of resources. However, NHS has also committed to achieving Net Zero emissions by 2040. A service orientation of the sector means that much of the future carbon savings will come from reducing and changing patterns of consumption (as oppose to production), such as alternative models of care and everyday working practices. My research examines the process of facilitating sustainable consumption in acute hospitals using Social Practice Theory based framework applied to everyday working practices of hospital employees. The first stage of the project involves investigating opportunities for reducing waste and energy use across four types of clinical areas: acute, inpatient, outpatient wards and theatres. The second stage is action research, which examines ways of facilitating change. I discuss which tools, skills and meanings are needed for establishing sustainable practices. Based on the initial findings, I also reflect on what the future transition to sustainable consumption may look like in the context of competing priorities, such as increasing demand for single use items as a result of the pandemic. I also note how reducing environmental impacts of consumption can help mitigate future risks in a form of more local procurement, reducing waste and the use of renewable resources.

Families and Relationships

Gender Equality during COVID 19

SURBHI DAYAL
(Indian Institute of Management Indore)

In 2020, a previously unseen virus, COVID-19 caused a global pandemic. Around 213 countries and territories were reported to be affected by COVID-19. Infectious disease made countries adopt preventive measures and restrict the mobility of citizens. Every country had unveiled its own rules and regulations. India is the second-most populous and COVID affected country in the world, declared a nation-wide lockdown on 24th March 2020. The lockdown went on for sixty-eight days. Its restricted people from stepping out of their homes and so, all working adults and children have been confined to their homes. Due to the absence of household workers, the burden of housework came on the shoulders of family members and relationship dynamics also changed due to families being together 24/7. The number of reported cases indicates an increase in child abuse and domestic violence due to various reasons. This paper explores how COVID-19 lockdown changed the division of work in families, family dynamics, and violence against women and children. Paper further delves into the usages of helplines for victim assistance. This paper is an exploratory paper and is based on the primary data collected from various participants. A combination of methods used for this study in a particular survey and telephonic interview method.

Repertoires of illegitimacy: the role of marginality and stoicism in new fathers' mental health struggles

Paul Hodkinson, Ranjana Das
(University of Surrey)

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The prevalence and implications of paternal mental health difficulties are an increasingly visible subject for academic research and wider discourse (Paulson and Bazeltmore 2010; Mayers 2018). Drawing on qualitative research with new fathers who experienced mental health difficulties after having a baby, this paper explores the challenges such fathers had in making sense of and seeking help for what they were going through.

We illustrate how fathers' accounts typically displayed what we term 'repertoires of illegitimacy', whereby, for significant periods of time, they struggled to recognise their difficulties at such a moment as valid or deserving of support. While the role of masculinities as part of the difficulties men can have communicating about mental health issues has been widely discussed (O'Brien et al 2017), our explanation explores how such discourses can manifest themselves in quite particular ways amidst the distinct ways fathers can be positioned during the perinatal period. Specifically, we suggest, fathers often find themselves occupying a peripheral support role during pregnancy, birth and the early months of babies' lives, and afforded limited preparation for the biographical disruptions (Bury 1982) having a baby is liable to involve for them. A sense that their role, experience and feelings are of marginal importance at this time, alongside the internalisation of expectations to provide rock-like, one-directional support for their partners, we argue, can make it challenging to see paternal struggles as legitimate, or to seek support from partners, friends or family.

'If he sounds okay, I'm okay, if he doesn't sound okay, I'm worried': mothering, autism, and care beyond the crime

Chrissie Rogers
(University of Kent)

During 2016 and 2017, funded by Leverhulme, I carried out life-story interviews (in some cases two or more), with offenders who were diagnosed with a learning disability (LD) and/or autism, mothers with sons who have a LD and/or autism, and professionals who work or have worked in forensic/education settings. I carried out further interviews in 2020, with mothers to discuss their ongoing experiences of secondary incarceration during a global pandemic – COVID19. This presentation is drawn from the mother's life-stories. As described, mothering a son who is incarcerated is undeniably challenging. Whatever the reasons for a custodial sentence or submission to an assessment and treatment unit, mothers reveal, experiences of emotional and physical harm and systemic abuse, as well as evidence unconditional love and care work, before, during and after incarceration. The suffering, disquiet, reflection, and resilience talked about in these narratives suggest a socio-politically, practical, and emotional breakdown based on poor legal and moral positions, highlighting care-less spaces. Yet the strength and tenacity demonstrated is palpable underlining care-full spaces exist against all the odds. Critically care-full spaces ought not to be simply positioned as the practical day-to-day aspects of caring (although these are important) but about how that practical caring work and emotional labour co-exist within the socio-political sphere. Significantly bureaucratic processes, in for example the criminal justice system and prisons, struggle to manage emotions, and therefore enable socio-political death, something that we must mitigate.

The Potential of Friendship: A Case for Social Resilience

Roberto Kulpa, Katherine Ludwin
(University of Plymouth (RK), Bradford Institute for Health Research (KL))

The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic mark a crisis of neoliberal ideologies of entrepreneurial individualism underpinning global precarity globally, nationally, and at the level of personal and community networks and relation(ship)s. In Poland and the UK, our two cases, 'pandemic discourses' and support systems have been heavily skewed towards economic consequences and relief for 'families'. At the same time, friendship practices of mutual support were occasionally marked as non-essential in comparison to family support.

In this presentation, we call for greater recognition of friendship as a basic social relation that should play a pivotal role in re-imagining social resilience if it is to be future-proof in the face of social upheaval such as the current pandemic. We draw on existing research reports and publications from two different, yet surprisingly similar in some respect, geo-cultural examples, furthermore supported by an early scoping of emergent data about the impact of the Covid-19. We suggest that friendship is an important component of heterogenic social realities of pandemic that must not be overlooked. We scrutinise current, narrowly focused policy decision-making that marginalises already disenfranchised groups to suggest that thinking with/about friendships opens up imagination towards strategies with greater potential for building socially resilient communities.

We will argue that strengthening societal resilience will not be effective or pro-active enough without a political revalidation of other social relations beyond family. Recognising (e.g. politically) friendship as such a fundamental social

relation helps in nuanced understandings of (individual and group) resilience and, consequently, more effective pandemic responses.

Lifecourse

Learning to navigate 'unsettlement': three stories of how refugee youth in Greece re-imagine and re-make their futures through education

Lucy Hunt
(University of Oxford)

In recent years, Greece has seen a steady flow of young forced migrants arriving at its hardening borders. Having often left conflict-affected or impoverished areas, their dream of life in Europe is one of safety and possibility: whether educational, social or financial. However, despite having family or hopes in Northern or Western Europe, they find themselves caught in Greece behind both physical and administrative borders. They do not know if or when they will be permitted to leave these conditions of 'unsettlement', which forces them to readjust their plans; whilst simultaneously navigating marginalisation and the uncertainty of the 'here and now'. As they do so, educational spaces become implicated in various ways.

This presentation thus explores the role of education in young refugees' navigation of their new and unsettled social 'seascape' (cf Vigh), as they re-imagine and re-make their futures. It draws from ethnographic data generated over nine months of fieldwork in Thessaloniki - involving interviews, focus group discussions and participant observation as a volunteer teacher - for a DPhil project which explores the challenges and meaning of learning spaces for forcibly displaced youth (aged 15-25). The presentation is based around three young people's stories, and as such follows Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot's portraiture technique. Overall, it aims to demonstrate how rather than being passive victims of circumstance or under-achievers, refugee youth are, in fact, active and strategic navigators of their constantly shifting environment.

Workplace pension saving in emerging adulthood after automatic enrolment

Hayley James
(University of Manchester)

Changes in workplace pension structures mean that young adults must save more than previous cohorts to achieve an adequate income for later life, yet despite a new system of automatic enrolment, many young adults are not saving enough. It is estimated that up to 36% of younger cohorts are currently under-saving for their retirement. However, we know little about how young adults make decisions about workplace pensions, especially how experiences of 'emerging adulthood' influence their saving.

The paper draws on qualitative research interviews with 42 employees working for large companies with established auto-enrolment schemes and matched contributions above the minimum levels. This relatively privileged group (in stable, full-time jobs with employer matching contributions above minimum levels) provided an opportunity to consider the least constrained approaches to pension saving in the context of emerging adulthood, recognising that many young people face additional barriers to workplace pensions such as job precarity, low incomes and high living costs.

The findings of this research demonstrate that young adults limit their pension participation in order to focus on establishing themselves as adults, guided by social and cultural norms of adulthood. This adds nuance to how saving behaviours of young adults are understood. However, some young adults will be better able to achieve established adulthood, and thus start saving, than others, embedding structural inequalities around employment and income into later life. This raises the need for provision for later life which does not rely on the ability of individuals to save.

Pressure now and pressure to come: The COVID-19 pandemic, inequality and young people in the North East of England

Robert MacDonald, Hannah King, Emma Murphy, Wendy Gill, Simon Bees
(University of Huddersfield)

The pandemic has presented young people with immediate pressures and crises (e.g. worsening mental health, disruption to exams and educational pathways, isolation from friends and partners). It has also accentuated pressures

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for the future - in young people's transitions into, and through, the labour market (e.g. wage and job insecurity, poverty, unemployment).

The disproportionate impact of austerity on the North East, subsequent cuts to welfare and youth services, long-standing socio-economic inequalities, and entrenched poverty and health inequalities are just part of the sociological backdrop to young people's experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic may magnify these inequalities and threaten the longer-term social, educational, economic and psychological welfare of young people. Of course, we know as well that there are inequalities between young people in the North East. The pandemic has drawn attention to aspects of inequality that are less frequently discussed in youth sociology (e.g. overcrowded housing, disparities in educational provision, lack of access to outside space).

In this paper, we draw on recent research and media coverage as well as our own study of the experiences of young adults (aged 14 to 30 years) in the North East (an on-line survey of nearly 1,000 respondents and qualitative interviews with 30+ young people). We reflect on the immediate and coming problems that the COVID-19 pandemic poses for young people and the commonalities as well as the inequalities that are revealed.

Medicine, Health and Illness

The Trouble of Long Covid - Deconstructing the Illness Narrative

Alex Rushforth

(University of Oxford)

Callard and Perego have argued that long Covid might well be the first illness defined by patients in the age of social media (Callard and Perego 2020). Since May 2020, testimonies about long Covid have sprung-up across numerous online, print, radio and television media outlets in the English-speaking world, seeking to bring attention to the chaotic nature of this new illness and the initial weakness of many healthcare professionals in acknowledging or dealing with it. Responding to Callard and Perego's call to address how and why patients were so effective in making long Covid so visible, so quickly, we turn to narrative inquiry, the field of research that investigates how stories achieve unique effects as forms of human narrative. We analysed a large qualitative dataset including 48 narrative interviews and focus groups with 60 sufferers using Arthur Frank's socio-narratology framework. We describe how prominent storytelling devices from this framework (including character development, suspense and imagination) were threaded throughout long Covid illness stories, creating compelling testimonies about a frightening and bewildering new condition, beset with setbacks, characters who heroically assisted the narrators and characters who failed them. As well as compelling listeners to empathise with the chaotic effects long Covid has on bodies and selves of individual sufferers, the powers of these stories come about also through issuing stark and urgent warnings: as an indiscriminate and debilitating new disease, governments, scientists, healthcare professionals, and the general public should act now to protect society from this grave new threat.

"It's not a big deal." Gay men's reframing of serodiscordant intimacy in the era of treatment as prevention

Tom Witney

(Open University)

Mixed HIV status (serodiscordant) relationships have been constructed by public health discourses as key sites of viral transmission and risk. With the advent of 'treatment as prevention' (TasP), in which antiretroviral treatments have been shown to prevent HIV transmission, focus has shifted from regulation of intimate behaviours to biomedical prevention. As well as a public health project, TasP is currently at the centre of an HIV community led campaign to tackle stigma and reimagine HIV positive people on treatment as uninfected. In the midst of these biomedical and social transformations, serodiscordant couples are engaged in realising new forms of serodiscordant intimacy. This paper will discuss the findings of a qualitative study of the lived experience of gay men in same-sex serodiscordant relationships in the UK. Individual (n=28) and couple interviews (n=6) generated data which were analysed with a particular focus on the everyday and practices of intimacy. It will examine how participants engaged with the concept of TasP to reimagine the role of HIV in their relationship, in particular how they incorporated the biomedical into their everyday intimacies. It will also consider how they used TasP and the relationality of serodiscordancy to resist individualised, condom-centric public health discourses of 'safer sex' and redraw boundaries of safety and (ir)responsibility. Finally, it will examine how, despite the reimagined absence of HIV in their everyday intimacies, stigma continued to play an important role in shaping participants' experiences of serodiscordancy.

'Don't Lose it on the Bus!': Casting normative PrEP biosexual citizenship

Ingrid Young, Nicola Boydell
(University of Edinburgh)

Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) – a pill that prevents HIV – was first offered through NHS sexual health services in Scotland in July 2017. This new service began amidst wider politics of NHS provision across the UK, ongoing community activism and concerns about high costs in an already stretched health system. In this paper we consider how clinical providers and community workers anticipated and responded to NHS PrEP users. We examine the role these figures played in enabling access to and shaping PrEP, and their part in casting normative PrEP biosexual citizenship (Epstein 2018). We draw on qualitative analysis of individual and group interviews with staff from community organisations and clinical settings – who work with gay and bisexual men and/or African men and women - who were involved in PrEP provision, conducted in the run up to, and the first few months of, Scottish PrEP provision. We found that, firstly, participants were concerned about and organised their care and efforts around PrEP – and related – costs, perceived burdens on other patients and responsible use of resources. Secondly, drawing on specific understandings of risk, practitioners expected and/or sought to shape appropriate PrEP narratives within this public health system. Finally, we consider how intersectional inequalities contributed to and shaped who PrEP users could and ought to be, with particular attention to gender, race and sexual practice. We conclude by reflecting on how normative biosexual citizenship is cast in and around health services and consider the implications for PrEP access and provision.

The labour process of illness work: the hard work of chronic illness in austerity

Chris Yuill
(Robert Gordon University)

This paper focuses on the invisibilised, hidden and deleted forms of work undertaken by unemployed people with long-term chronic illnesses who are in receipt of state support. We lay out what Pritlove et al (2019) term the 'hard work' of being ill. Rather than seeking to analyse chronic illness from the perspective of disrupted biography we employ perspectives from the sociology of work: labour process theory and Hatton' (2017, 2019) theorization of invisibilised labour. We adopt this approach as means of countering prevailing discourses that social agents who are supported by benefits are work-shy, lazy and feckless.

The empirical basis of this paper is provided by 20 semi-structured interviews with participants who are both long-term unemployed and have a chronic illness. We identify the extent of the labour they perform in their daily lives, which involves labour related to care of others, their medication and poverty. We firstly discuss how and why that labour becomes invisibilised and seen as hidden or deleted. We then secondly analyse how each form of labour necessitates its own labour process. Doing so brings out issues of power, exploitation and control. It also brings out the density of work required to be unemployed with a chronic illness.

Our work therefore provides a counter narrative to negative discourses of illness and employment and indicates an alternative approach to analysing chronic illness.

Methodological Innovations

METHODS, ARTS & CREATIVITY

Painting with Data: Aesthetics of Qualitative Research

Andrew Balmer
(University of Manchester)

In this presentation I outline an original creative method for qualitative research, namely the painting with data technique. This is a participatory methodology which brings creativity and participation through to the analytical phase of qualitative research. Crucially, I acknowledge but also challenge the dominant aesthetic that currently shapes qualitative research and renders life in a monochromatic palette. The painting with data method evidences an alternative aesthetic to the predominant one and I argue that we can understand this methodology by adapting Jennifer Mason's concept of 'layering' to conceptualise how different aesthetics help us to see the different shapes, forms and moulds that make us, our relationships and our worlds. The process moves away from traditional ways of treating transcribed data, and

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prioritises addition above extraction; juxtaposition over thematization; and collaging rather than ordering. This alternative aesthetic for qualitative research offers an evocative form and a conceptual schema through which to interpret the world, providing a route to novel insights, that enlivens the interpretative work of the analyst and offers opportunities to make and witness potent connections.

Embracing and Promoting Creative and Collaborative Method/ologies for Change

Gayle Letherby

(University of Plymouth)

Over the last few years I have been experimenting, both within my academic work and in other non-academic activities (including personal publications and political activism), with different ways of working/representing my work. This has included memoir, fiction writing, collage and zine making. Although my memoir and fiction writing began following personal losses and were separate from my academic work, this way of writing is now embedded in my scholarly pieces. Throughout my career I have enjoyed and learnt a lot from collaborative working and newer, creative arts-based collaborations, including with friends and colleagues, are especially joyful and enriching.

Recently I began to wonder why it took me so long to realise the importance and possibilities of such work; to explore, be untidy, get messy, be creative in one's own academic labour and in collaborative endeavours. This is especially odd given that I have long been concerned to encourage those I have had the privilege to teach and mentor to not be frightened of play (as in playing with research data, with method, with theory and with the words we use to write up such endeavours). Such endeavours also have the potential to make an impact, beyond and besides, the academy and is therefore fundamental to a public sociology and to sociology's place in remaking the future. I explore these issues here and offer some examples of such work.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration

Contingent past, uncertain future: Postsocialist migrant narratives as resources for dealing with open-ended futures

Špela Drnovšek Zorko

(University of Warwick)

Drawing on ethnographic research conducted in the UK with families from former Yugoslavia as well as interviews with individual migrants from across the Central-East European region, the paper explores the potential of migrant narratives to act as a cultural resource for dealing with uncertain futures. Across Central-East Europe, seismic transformations in the political order during the post-war, state socialist, and postsocialist periods not only transformed people's lives in the present, but also radically re-organised their possibilities for imagining the future (Jansen 2015). Positioned at the intersection of the sociology of risk and uncertainty (Curran 2016) and migration and memory studies (Bloch and Hirsch 2018; Kitzmann and Creet 2011), the paper explores correlations that migrant interlocutors from the region draw between their consciousness of historical contingency and their ability to deal with the uncertain present and future. It further demonstrates some of the ways in which Central-East European migrant narratives draw on collective stories of historical upheaval in relation – or outright contrast – to non-migrant positionalities, combining the perceived specificity of the postsocialist region with individual or family experiences of migration. The paper argues that whether or not such historical consciousness actually bestows greater resilience in the face of unknown futures, postsocialist migrants in the UK can contribute valuable interpretive resources for dealing with the radical open-endedness that has become the defining feature of all our lives.

The molding of irregular citizens: bureaucratic quagmire, welfare shaming and internalised inferiority

Polina Manolova

(University of Tuebingen)

In 2014 the last remaining restrictions to intra-EU labour mobility for Bulgarians and Romanians have been dropped, an act that has been perceived as marking the full incorporation of new member states' citizens as legal and moral equals in an integrated union. The stark discrepancy between the formal economic, social and political rights granted by EU citizenship and their enactment in everyday practices has signalled the existence of more and less tangible barriers to welfare and labour market incorporation affecting these particular groups of EU migrants. This paper explores the range

of institutionalised and informal mechanisms of exclusion deployed by the UK state in the molding of a group of Bulgarian 'free-movers' with permanent settlement plans into a precarious and super-mobile labour force. I demonstrate how upon their arrival Bulgarian would-be 'settlers' are implicated in a socio-political and legal process of irregularisation that precludes their access to welfare protection and service provision by directing them into 'illegal' forms of employment and housing arrangements, as well as to an encapsulation in the 'migrant economy'. The adoption of an 'ethnographic regime approach' (Hess and Tsianos 2010) to irregularisation allows me to recognize such multiscalar 'tactics' of governing (De Genova 2004) not just as deliberate state control mechanisms but as also stemming from migrants' practices, perceptions and positionings within discursive frameworks, such as welfare shaming and ideas of entrepreneurial citizenship.

Politics and activism among young European citizens in Brexit Britain: Insecurities, denied citizenship and precarious futures

Daniela Sime

(University of Strathclyde)

Since the Brexit referendum, intra-EU migrants have been forced to think differently about their futures. For young people who migrated to the UK as children, Brexit is a major threat to their citizenship rights and creates a rupture to their identity formation, including national identity, and sense of belonging. It also has key implications for their opportunities to engage in citizenship, given their increasingly denied rights.

This paper reports on a UK-wide study with over 1,000 young people, EU 27 citizens aged 12-18, which examined their experiences of citizenship and plans for future. It uses data from a survey, focus groups and postcards young people wrote to UK politicians. Drawing on Giddens's ontological security (1991), I examine how young people's sense of belonging and plans for future have been unsettled by Brexit. These plans are currently shaped by the increasing levels of xenophobia and racism they experience and the ongoing pandemic crisis.

Using Yuval-Davis' (2011) understanding of citizenship as multi-layered, transcending local, national and transnational communities, I examine young people's engagement with 'acts of citizenship' and how they think of their everyday political and civic practices. There are connections between civic participation, such as volunteering, and political participation, such as voting (Barrett and Brunton-Smith, 2014) and both are conditioned by one's sense of belonging. My analysis shows that young people were interested in politics, volunteering and activism, yet they did not feel they could shape government policies or influence change; these were important determinants of their future migration intentions.

Rights, Violence and Crime

Governing through 'problems': public policies as discursive practices

Anukriti Dixit

(Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad)

Policies produce 'problems' in specific ways. This is largely the analytical claim of this paper. Policies, for the purpose of this research, are thus approached and analysed not as 'objective' units for the efficient implementation of rules, but as sets of discursive practices; as statements articulated with specific 'problem' declarations, 'solutions' and particular ways of meaning making. The study engages the exploration of how 'problems' are constituted or brought into being, an approach known as problematization. I investigate how 'problems', as articulated specifically within India's anti-Sexual Harassment at Workplaces (SHW) policies, have come to be in their present form. The paper illustrates the problematizations and their underlying assumptions, through observations and analysis of:

1. State High Court and Supreme Court verdicts in cases of SHW
2. Allied policy documents (such as Justice JS Verma committee report, Rajya Sabha deliberations, Handbook on anti-SHW policy by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Department of Personnel and Training instructions on conducting enquiries)
3. Interviews with private consultants, trainers, independent members on enquiry committees, state commission for women, labour commission,

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4. Allied anti-SHW training related documents - on the websites of trainers and by participation in webinar training conducted by the consultant firms.

The analysis further proceeds to discuss what is not considered as a 'problem'. In other words, what exclusions are produced, in and through the assumptions and presuppositions of existing 'problem' statements. How do 'solutions' indicate a policy's proposed 'problem', and how are manners and technologies of governing, co-constructed through policy problematizations?

Right to food in Scotland: can it be achieved?

John Mckenzie, David Watts

(Rowett Institute, University of Aberdeen)

The Scottish parliament recently held a consultation on MSP Elaine Smith's proposed right to food bill. The aims of the proposal include enshrining a right to food in Scots law and setting targets for it to be met. Based on findings from in-depth qualitative interviews with fifty-five food insecure adults across Scotland, this paper identifies the needs that would have to be met, such as ensuring that all people have access to sufficient supplies of culturally appropriate, healthy and nutritious food in socially acceptable ways) and the hurdles, (such as providing financial and social support to those that need it), that would have to be overcome if the right to food in Scotland is to be realised.

We contend that the right to food underpins the broader rights of citizenship and personhood in Scotland and that a series of measures at the individual and structural level would need to be put in place if a food secure future for Scotland is to be achieved. However, it will also be pointed out that, whilst the Scottish parliament may have the devolved power to enact the right of food into its laws and to set targets for achieving food security, the measures required to eradicate food insecurity may be incompatible with some of the policies implemented at the UK Governmental level, such as those related to sanctioning benefits. These UK government policies may therefore present the greatest obstacle for realising the right to food in Scotland should the proposal be approved.

Surveillance Capitalism and Metadata: Advanced Technology Delivering A New Era of Privacy Violation

Celina Van De Kamp

(Celina Van De Kamp, University of Saskatchewan)

Personal data collection violates an individual's privacy by connecting metadata to their identity as a form of surveillance capitalism. Mass surveillance in a capitalist-dominated society gives metadata the power to shape social lives through commodification. The Canadian Government does not regulate the collection of metadata in the private sector because it argues that metadata is not an invasion of privacy because it does not reveal the actual content of our communications. However, metadata can reveal accurate sensitive information about an individual. This is because metadata is data about what we actually do, making it easily inferable to sensitive information. Canadian law categorizes call content and metadata differently, allowing government agencies to obtain metadata under the assumption that specific personal details cannot be inferred through it. This is problematic because data collection is frequently done without our knowledge or consent. The literature shows a lack of consistency of people's concerns about privacy because it has not considered that people do not have a clear understanding of what metadata can reveal about their personal lives. This paper concentrates on policy implementation as well as what the general public expects the laws should be concerning metadata and privacy. This research uses a Foucaultian perspective on discourse, and understanding the content of discourses concerning metadata collection. A Canadian attitudes survey will be administered regarding metadata collection, aiming to expose the sensitive data that is being collected and stored with and without our consent.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

Seeing Violations as Events: Technologies of Cutting in the Making of Human Rights Information

Josh Bowsher

(Brunel University, London)

Recent debates have considered how digital technologies are redefining human rights practices. In emphasising the novelty of digital technologies, however, these discussions often elide the historical ways technology has shaped human

rights activism. Addressing this issue, this paper traces the creation of Events Standard Formats, a standardised data model for recording human rights violations developed by the NGO network, Huridocs, across the 1980s-90s. Designed to subvert computerised databases, the 'Events Model' provided by Events Standard Formats comprehensively defines and arranges the informational elements required to construct facts about violations. Though the Events Model has not been universally adopted, it nevertheless represents a kind of 'boundary object' realised through the combined efforts of many organisations and still widely used today. The Events Model is thus interesting because it crystallises a crucial way that NGOs 'see' human rights abuses across diverse contexts. Following Karen Barad's suggestion that seeing 'is not a matter of simply looking [...] but an achievement that requires a complex set of practices to accomplish,' I argue that the mode of seeing violations made available by the Events Model is an accomplishment forged through complex – and resourceful – sociotechnical work. Through a close reading of the Events Standard Formats, I conceptualise the Events Model as a technology of 'cutting' that constitutes human rights facts by cutting them away from a more complex social totality. I conclude by critically considering what is included and excluded in the process of cutting and how this shapes the movement's way of seeing.

Meso-level social forces for the stability of a national scientific community

Alejandro Espinosa-Rada
(The University of Manchester)

Scientific networks of researchers and their institutional affiliations are interdependent processes that affect each other having consequences in the strategic decisions of actors on forming scientific relationships. Yet, there is less understanding of how the cross-level effects, as meso-level social forces, have similar constraints within different organisations affecting the decisions of the researchers on citing others in a scientific community. In the following research, we use the Microsoft Academic database to collect the data, and a novel methodological strategy using a meta-analysis stationary stochastic actor-oriented model to analyse a sample of the personal communities of organisations (astronomical observatories, research centres, and universities) in a national scientific network. The cross-level effects indicate that the multilevel interdependency allows identifying the tendency of the researchers to maintain the endogamy or multi-connectivity of scientific recognition among organisations.

Visions of Unification and Integration: Building Brains and Communities in the European Human Brain Project

Tara Mahfoud
(University of Essex)

The Human Brain Project (HBP) was launched in October 2013 by the European Commission to build an information and communication technology infrastructure that would support large-scale brain modelling and simulation. Less than a year after its launch, more than 800 neuroscientists signed a letter that claimed the HBP 'would fail to meet its goals'. Based on multi-sited ethnographic fieldwork conducted between February 2014 and January 2017 in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the HBP headquarters in Switzerland, and over 40 interviews with scientists, engineers and project administrators, this paper traces how competing visions over how brain models should be built became tied into debates over how scientific communities should be governed. Articulations of these different kinds of models and communities appealed to competing imaginaries of Europe itself – of Europe and European science as unified or pluralistic. This paper argues that scientific models are sites of contestation over social and political futures. The tensions between visions of scientific unification and pluralism in the HBP mirrored the tensions between imaginaries of European political unification and pluralism.

User experience research and the production of actionable social knowledge

Seweryn Rudnicki
(AGH University of Science and Technology)

The production of practically relevant knowledge about the social life has been both an aspiration and a challenge for social sciences since their beginnings. Now, given the essential role of social aspects in many of the civilizational problems, the need for actionable social knowledge seems more urging than ever. In this presentation I will employ the practice-theoretical approach and empirical data to reinterpret and develop the notion of actionability of social knowledge.

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This presentation draws on empirical exploration of the field of user experience research and design – now a major trend in developing (mostly digital) products and services in order to maximize the amount of positive reactions and experiences of its users. Though business- and technology-oriented, the field of user experience research produces and puts to use considerable amounts of mostly qualitative social knowledge.

This study will draw on the fieldwork including 50 in-depth interviews, 3 non-participant observations in user experience research departments and extensive expert literature analysis. I will propose that the actionability is not a constant or inherent characteristic of a certain piece of knowledge, but a dynamic and relational aspect, emerging from the relationship between the knowledge produced and the receiving practices. The exploration of the field of user experience research shows that regardless of the 'quality' of knowledge, it is the 'goodness of fit' between the knowledge produced and the materials, meanings and competences embedded in the receiving practices that seriously impacts whether and how knowledge is adopted.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

Ritual and Social Movement in Northern Ireland: The Evolution of LGBTQ+ Pride in a Divided Society

Eilish Boschert
(Ulster University)

This paper examines the intersection of ritual and social movement theories, looking specifically at the evolution of the LGBTQ+ Pride festivals in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland exists as a highly ritualised society with a distinct culture of commemoration that highlights their recent history of violent conflict. A two-community identity model defines socio-political and cultural realms of identity and monopolizes ritual performances, such as parades, memorials, and protests. Yet, with the rise of cosmopolitanism, Northern Ireland's homogenous identities face cultural competition. The international LGBTQ+ Pride festival has emerged as an alternative identity phenomenon that pushes against the traditional binary, forcing a multitudinous perspective – what Alberto Melucci calls a 'global interdependence' (1996). Pride speaks to a wider international phenomenon by embracing social and political identities that subvert the dominant ethnonational binary in their inability to fit neatly within the prescribed categories. The adoption, and subsequent traction, of LGBTQ+ Pride across Northern Ireland over the last 30 years indicates a shift in the country's socio-political and cultural composition. This research aims to address what the evolution of LGBTQ+ Pride implies about the structure of contemporary Northern Ireland and what this evolution might tell us about our existing understandings of social movements.

“Asexy and we know it:” Asexual activism, possible futures, and Pride identity politics

Joseph De Lappe
(Open University)

Social movement actors have been conceptualised as imagining “possible futures” (Giddens, 1991) that their collective activism is a partial realisation of (Melucci, 1990). This sustains hope that the social change they seek, the tomorrow they dream, will happen but it frequently commits them to present-day-compromise to bring it about. What possible futures do asexual activists dream for themselves? What compromises are required to reconcile these with the wider dreams of Pride politics? These typically imagine all LGBTQ+ communities sharing a common future under a rainbow umbrella.

Drawing on interviews conducted with asexuals about their collective politics, this paper addresses the ‘asexy’ future they partially realise through activism. It considers what is distinctive about ‘A-Pride’ through their dreams of community building, public visibility, and empowerment. These were contentious, and activists often made compromises with each other's politics to partially realise them. Nevertheless, they were steadfast that their particular dream of A-Pride would one day be accepted by all. To this is added participation observation of activists' engagement with Pride politics; their involvement in WorldPride Toronto 2014 where the goal of a common rainbow future dominated, “paint the town rainbow,” (CBC, 2014). At WorldPride Toronto this aspiration frequently broke down, both for asexual activists and others. The paper concludes considering the implications for asexual activists and Pride politics of imagining possible futures that must be shared, if they are to be realised, but are not dreamt together.

Re-thinking transnational queer and feminist solidarities: Gendered inequalities in the LGBTI+ movement in Nepal

Kumud Rana
(University of Glasgow)

Feminist critiques of NGO-isation as depoliticisation and neo-liberal co-optation of feminist activism (Lang 1997, Alvarez 1998, 1999) have evolved since the 1990s to acknowledge that the 'NGO form' (Brenal and Grewal 2014) has also been a crucial site of feminist interventions in the global South (Alvarez 2014, Hodzic 2014). This is true for places with limited resources crucial for social justice movements. My paper analyses such exchange of feminist solidarity and support by taking a case study of three lesbian NGOs within the LGBTI+ movement in Nepal. I map out national & international networks of these NGOs, juxtaposing this onto the resources available to each. I argue that differential access of organisations to resources are governed by their organisational identities and the exclusive nature of transnational feminist/queer solidarity networks. Furthermore, I contrast the delimitations of subjectivities embedded within activist networks with those only loosely tied to such networks to discuss some of the limitations of postcolonial recuperative approaches to queer feminist analysis. By doing so, I emphasise the need to re-think and re-imagine transnational feminist/queer solidarities in contexts where such solidarities might collude with neo-imperial projects of development as in the case of Nepal.

My analysis is drawn from the first extensive sociological study of the LGBTI+ movement in Nepal which included seven months of fieldwork in the country comprising participant observation, document analysis & interviews with 41 Nepali LGBTI+ activists, 20 trans/national human rights/feminist/queer allies & six donors including feminist philanthropic organisations.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 2

Louisiana Creole People of Color: A Race or Ethnicity

Andrea Cooke
(University of Illinois at Chicago)

American Louisiana Creole people of color are the descendants of people of French, and/or Spanish, and/or Native American descent and of free and enslaved Black people. With qualitative methods and a grounded theory approach, I explore how Louisiana Creole people of color form their racial identity. Many of the participants in a pilot study I conducted reported experiencing racial stress caused by pressure from both White people and Black people to racially identify as Black. Dominguez (1986) communicated that the Supreme Court of Louisiana ruled in 1810 that all Negroes are people of color, but not all people of color are Negroes. My participants viewed themselves as people of color who are multiracial. Multiracial people are situated in more than one racial group.

Creoles of color are a unique multiracial group. When administered Phinney's and Robert's Multigroup Ethnic Identity Measure (MEIM), that measures ethnic identification, they scored on average higher than any other group. Black/White multiracial groups, who scored on average much lower (2.94) than any other group. Creoles of color also scored higher than a traditionally high scoring group - African Americans (3.07). Creoles' mean score was 3.35, among the highest. Therefore one can make the case that Creoles possess a unique racial/ethnic identity and maybe even their own census category. This supports Creoles' wish not to be counted as African Americans nor Black/White multiracial, but as a group unto themselves, re-envisioning the country's of race/ethnicity.

Legal Discrimination within Integration Policies? The Paradigm of Activation and Educational and Work Experiences of Female Refugees in Germany

Franziska Schreyer, Tanja Fendel
(Institute for Employment Research (IAB) Germany)

Activating integration policies with the paradigm of being challenging but also supportive have been enforced in several European countries. The Integration Act for forced migrants, introduced in Germany in 2016, is based on this principle. Before the law came into force, accepted refugees in Germany received a residence permit for three years and afterwards a permanent permit. Due to the paradigm of activation, today a permanent residence permit is only granted if refugees have sufficient German language skills and are able to secure most of their own livelihood.

The study addresses the question whether for female compared to male refugees it is on average more challenging to meet the new requirements. We give empirical evidence about gender differences in educational and employment participation as well as in language skills. The used data is based on quantitative interviews with 6.905 and qualitative

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interviews with 123 adult forced migrants. Theoretically, we refer to concepts of legal discrimination and civic stratification.

Female refugees have often been excluded from education or paid work in their home countries. In Germany, their labor market participation is on average lower than the male one's and working conditions are more often precarious. Thus, we argue that female refugees have a higher risk to fulfill the new requirements for a permanent residence permit only together with a partner, only later or not at all. Their chances to move up within the hierarchy of the civic stratification are lower. Thus, the danger of a legal discrimination of female refugees occurs.

Sociology of Education 1

Paradise lost or created? How higher-education staff perceive the impact of policy on students

Sazana Jayadeva
(University of Surrey)

This paper explores how university staff in Denmark, Germany, and England perceived higher education (HE) policy as impacting the experience of being a student in their respective countries. It draws on interviews conducted with 36 staff members and 12 policymakers, as well as an analysis of 48 relevant policy documents. We discuss how in each nation, staff identified different policy mechanisms as having triggered transformations in the experience of being a student. Staff in England made reference to market-informed national policies; German staff pinpointed the Bologna Process Reforms; and Danish staff referred to the Danish Study Progress reforms. Nevertheless, the transformations themselves were described in a strikingly similar manner across all three countries: staff stressed that students had become more instrumental in their approach to learning; that the student experience had become more circumscribed; and that students were under greater stress. We analyse how staff's narratives about the impact of policy on the experience of being a student were mediated by their own ideas about what constituted 'good education', which in turn were strongly rooted in national traditions. Furthermore, in each country, staff's assessment of the impact of specific policies on HE differed sharply from those of policy actors. Our findings contribute to scholarship on the marketisation of HE, through drawing attention to how the rationality underpinning policy does not determine how it is engaged with by key stakeholders on the ground, and by demonstrating how the neoliberalisation of HE can unfold in different formats, some more explicit than others.

Diversity Policy in Japan and the UK - Towards the prevention of harassment against women in education

Tomoko Kawabata
(Tokyo Metropolitan University)

The objectives of this presentation is to discuss how to prevent the discrimination against women in higher education in Japan. In this presentation, I will raise the issues of harassment prevention policy in education.

According to Gender Equality Bureau Cabinet Office, the percentage of female researchers in 2020 is 16.6% in Japan. It has remained significantly low compared to other countries for more than a decade. This issue has been discussed in the field of child care and some measures have been taken, but it has not been changed so much from 11.2% in 2003. Nowadays, the issues of gender bias and micro aggression against women has been raised in STEM fields among female researchers and it has been said that there may be the relationship between those issues and the low percentage of female researchers. However, the research that investigates the relationship between them has not been done yet in Japan.

This research focuses on the laws and social policies related to harassment prevention in higher education in Japan by comparing with those in the UK. In Japan, there is no law that prohibits harassment, so there is no common definitions of harassment in Japanese universities. The responsibility of harassment prevention depends on the employers' consideration and obligation. This research will suggest what makes Japan difficult to establish the law that prohibits harassment in Japan and what should be done to change this situation.

What would a 'care-full' university look like?

Marie-Pierre Moreau
(Anglia Ruskin University)

BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
70th Anniversary

Those with caring responsibilities represent a significant presence in academia, both among students and staff. This is the case in the UK and in many other countries across the Global North and the Global South (Hook, Moreau and Brooks, forthcoming). Research on the topic highlights the multiple challenges faced by carers, including how they are often rendered invisible by the care-free norms of academia and misrecognised as they navigate the competing demands of two greedy institutions (higher education and 'the family', understood broadly). Covid-19 has disturbed the construction of the academic as 'care-free', enabling care to invade academic spaces (and vice-versa) in unprecedented ways. While there is growing awareness of the issues faced by carers, there has been limited reflection regarding what a care-full university would look like.

In this presentation, I want to temporarily move away from identifying the issues faced by carers and engage with definitions of 'care-fullness' and of the pathways leading to a more carer-inclusive academic future. In particular, drawing on my research conducted with various HE groups, I will argue that we need to favour an intervention informed by recent theoretical and empirical developments in the field. This intervention should be 1) multi-dimensional, as it simultaneously engage with matters of redistribution, recognition, representation and affective equality (Fraser, 1997; Lynch, 2016), 2) multi-level, as it understands that HE policy-making works in rhizomatic ways (Deleuze and Guattari, 1980; 3) structurally-focused and collectively-oriented (Moreau and Robertson, 2019); and 4) considerate of the intersectionalities of carers' identities (ibid.).

The Mismanagement of Critical Thinking in Higher Education

Nathan Rousseau

(Indiana University Purdue University Columbus (IUPUC))

This paper critically examines the neoliberal movement in higher education. Quality Management (QM) proposes that learning can be more efficiently achieved through its methods. Examining QM and having gone through the training, this paper shows that its approach to make learning easier redefines the meaning of "quality" for customer satisfaction, but impedes the process of developing critical thinking skills. It is argued that students acquire the ability to develop critical thinking by having to work through deductive and inductive reasoning. QM does the work for students and uses metrics that give the appearance of greater learning outcomes. The advancement of programs like QM represents an ideology of neoliberalism rather than a system of learning that produces responsible citizenship. Re-thinking the current trajectory in education is important for imagining a brighter future.

Theory

The Experience of Crisis and the Search for 'Excentric' Sociology

Dariusz Gafijczuk

(Newcastle University)

The paper is an exploration of the role of crisis in the construction decentered or 'excentric' experience. The discussion focuses on the creative and generative role of crisis in its role as a de-centering tool that generates a specific type of communicative arrangement that always reaches out, beyond itself. After considering the relationship between crisis, critique, reflexivity and temporality, the analysis moves to a detailed discussion of the notion of experience as a specific type of communication, or 'xeno-communication' with the world based on active engagement with the alien and the estranged environments. The paper flips the standard modern narrative of the crisis of experience on its head, arguing that what we have been experiencing and what is again crucial is the full investment in the experience of crisis. Such deployment of a nexus of crises as emergence not an emergency, has the potential to lead to a social science that not only acknowledges the crisis of various forms of centralized reality and identity (the anthropocentric, the Eurocentric, etc.) that in itself is always a confining and distorting space of suppressed potentiality, but is able to use the generative potential of crisis to extend and enlarge experience, in a bid for something like an 'excentric Sociology' – one that works with the fundamental imbalance 'that generates the shared world and guarantees its reality' (Plessner).

Outline of a Sociology of Free Speech

John Roberts

(Brunel University)

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While sociology has contributed towards theories of rights, such as human rights, it has spent considerably less time on how sociology in the present or future might contribute towards a theory of free speech. By drawing on the work of Mikhail Bakhtin, Pierre Bourdieu, Judith Butler, and Stanley Fish, my paper therefore maps out three interrelated areas in which sociology might ground free speech. First, sociology can ground free speech within structured historical social relations and processes. Structured historical social relations gain their identity, in part, through historically distinct contradictions, power relations, social divisions, and relations of exploitation and oppression. By putting free speech in its proper historical and structured place, sociology can overcome the ahistorical and often depoliticised accounts of free speech found in many liberal theories. Second, sociology can show how concrete social contexts, or social fields, help to construct and draw boundaries about who has the 'correct' social and cultural dispositions for their 'opinions' to be 'legitimately' heard in social fields. Third, sociology can ground free speech in an ethics of empathy and responsibility towards the speech of 'the Other', but simultaneously place this ethical standpoint within a broader struggle between dialogic speech that seeks to create conditions of 'structural', or 'real', equality that then allows empathy and responsibility to flourish, and monologic speech that seeks to constrain and limit conditions of 'real' equality. These three points are then used to criticise two liberal schools of thought on free speech: an absolutist approach and a deliberative approach.

'Civilised' Right-Wing Populism? – A critical application of figurational Sociology

Tim Winzler

(University of Glasgow)

The social theory of Norbert Elias, most comprehensively developed in his *Process of Civilisation* (1939/1945), implies a specific, relational and long-term explanation of morality. Through a gradually growing, mutual interdependence of social groups (especially elites), power is enhanced geographically and socially on the one hand, but must, on the other hand, be increasingly shared with deputies and surrogates. While processes of state formation and bureaucratisation develop, a complementary development of a unification of morals and norms sets in, eventually trickling down to broader society through mass education and media provision. Psychologically, this process is described as the development and differentiation of a 'good taste', a specific feeling for what is 'right' or 'appropriate' at a given time and place. This 'good taste' tends to push out violence from the realm of permissible human interaction with the progress of history.

I will apply this theory to the complex of right-wing populist thought in Germany. Through a comparison of rhetoric of 1920's and 1930's NSDAP speeches compared with what might be called their 'structural equivalent' - AfD-speeches in the second decade of this millennium - one may, at least to some degree, test the Eliasian framework. And indeed, the changed rhetoric indicates a more polite, disciplined and 'civilised' struggle with political opponents. However, that does not mean that this struggle is necessarily any less violent than earlier struggles. Surprisingly perhaps, it is through specifically intellectual channels via which new forms of violence are merged with political mobilisation and the (re-)definition of morality.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

POVERTY AND REFORM

"Reimagining and Revaluating Universal Credit: Using longitudinal data to assess the lived experience of claiming UC".

Robyn Fawcett

(Robyn Fawcett)

The roll-out of Universal Credit has been surrounded in controversy. Using an in-depth longitudinal qualitative framework, this paper will demonstrate the early findings from a study following recipients of UC (n=13) over one year (February 2020- February 2021). Specifically, three questions shall be considered (1) to what extent does UC create social harms and what are they? (2) What long-term impact do these harms have on the affected individuals and their dependents? (3) How can we re-evaluate, rethink and reimagine UC to create a fairer benefit? The study period includes the Covid-19 Lockdown when recipients did not have to repay legacy debts, the standard allowance increased by £80.00 a month, and jobcentre appointments were temporarily suspended. As a consequence, the preliminary results suggest those claiming during the pandemic had a more positive experience of the system than they did prior to lockdown. Before March 2020, participants typically experienced a complex intersection of financial, housing and employment insecurities, whilst others encountered severe psychological distress. The contrast before and after the pandemic

highlights the impact of Universal Credit commitments and the lack of liveable income and associated stressors. These findings provide a novel insight into the positive (albeit temporary) effects that policy changes have had on Universal Credit claimants, against the harms encountered by those for whom the policy was originally intended. In so doing it is possible to reflect empirically on how this welfare resource can be deployed more equitably in the future.

Credit card instalments: A non-exploitative way to raise global economy?

M Fatih Karakaya
(Istanbul University)

The history of Turkish credit card instalments can be traced back to the late 1990s when certain nonprocedural –if not fraudulent– point-of-sale level transactions forced banks to launch an instalment feature for their credit cards. Paying in instalments is the most popular form of credit card purchase in Turkey. Forty per cent of total transactions are for instalment purchases. As a consumer makes a purchase in instalments by their credit card, the price is split into multiple payments, or instalments. Those instalments are charged to the consumer's credit card automatically every 30 days until the full price has been covered. While the MasterCard Instalments program, which launched in 2016, enables consumers to split transactions across equal monthly instalments with an interest, the Turkish credit cards offer no interest point-of-sale instalment options. This makes higher-priced purchases, such as white goods, electronics, airline tickets, schooling fees and so on, more attainable and manageable for consumers. The Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey (CBRT) according to its macroprudential policies restricted the number of maximum instalments for credit card purchases in 2015. Yet, CBRT had to loosen those restrictions after the economic collapse caused by the pandemic. The increasing number of instalments for credit card purchases has enabled consumers to access to the big-ticket items, which in turn has paved the way for a multiplier effect in the Turkish economy. This paper seeks for an alternative, yet a non-exploitative way to raise global economy by an interest-free credit facility, i.e. credit card instalments.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

EMBODIED WORK AND SKILLS

Typing: Analysis of socially invisible embodied skill

Rachel Cohen, Jessica Simpson, Gabriella Caminotto
(City, University of London)

Keyboard use is integral to occupations as diverse as medicine and sales. Yet the embodied skill involved in typing is socially invisible. Perhaps more curiously, many workers, who daily interact with a keyboard cannot type at speed.

Typing is an under-researched area, with few academic contributions beyond practitioner papers in education journals from the early years of mass computing (McKinnon and Nolan, 1990; Rogers, 1997); or analyses of keyboard-related RSI as occupational health or 'pain epidemic' (MacEachen, 2005). Similarly, the invisibility of typing as an 'embodied' skill (Harris, 2011; Wolkowitz, 2006) is evident in academic surveys of workplace activity. For instance, the Skills Survey (Felstead et al., 2007, 2013), includes questions on computing, but nothing about keyboard use.

We analyse job advertisements, asking when work is seen to require typing (embodied skill), as opposed to computing (knowledge set). We suggest that the history of typing, especially its associations with the feminized and classed mid-twentieth century 'secretarial pool' (England and Boyer, 2009; Strom, 1994), continue to mark social expectations about keyboard skill in the digital age.

Findings speak to debates about the gendered valuation of work and what counts as skill (England et al., 1994; Grugulis and Vincent, 2009; Horrell et al., 1990; Wajcman, 1991). We suggest that to understand the ways in which different social groups become proficient with computing technologies (Ross, 2005; Tatnall and Lepa, 2003) or are excluded (Hicks, 2017) we must also account for barriers produced by the remarkably 'sticky' ways that embodied skills are socially encoded.

Abolish Audit Culture? A Feminist Institutional Ethnography of UK University Audit Processes

Órla Meadhbh Murray

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(Imperial College London)

This paper explores how academics negotiate UK university audit processes, based on a five year feminist institutional ethnography focusing on the National Student Survey (NSS), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) funding application processes, and the Research Excellence Framework (REF). Drawing on extensive text analysis, interviews, and autoethnographic reflections, I explore how much interpretative leeway academics have when negotiating these three national audit processes at a local level. I investigate how much agency front-line workers have when reading, writing, and speaking about audit processes, specifically how academics translate their work into textual forms for evaluation purposes. From this research I consider how to respond to audit processes from a feminist perspective, including considering whether or not to abolish them.

Rethinking the physiotherapy profession in an era of austerity.

Rachael Tucker

(University of Nottingham)

The physiotherapy profession has been an integral part of the National Health Service (NHS) since its inception. Since then, alongside the wider healthcare workforce, the profession has been required to accommodate numerous health policy reforms, the rise of neoliberalism, managerialism, marketisation, rising consumerist behaviour, and financial hardship; culminating in the imposition of widespread austerity measures across the public sector following the 2008 global financial crisis. How larger professions such as medicine have responded to such challenges has been explored to an extent; however, how smaller healthcare professions have been able to reconcile these challenges is less clear. Recent workforce position statements from the UK physiotherapists' professional body (the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy) and from national NHS bodies, such as NHS England, have recognised challenges with the recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals, addressing rising vacancies and the sustainability of the current workforce; whilst taking into consideration the ageing population, changes in technology, rising demand on services and the need to deliver cost efficiency savings. As a result, there has been suggestion of methods which could arguably be viewed as restratification and reprofessionalisation, both within and outside of the physiotherapy profession. This includes changes in the division of labour, delegation, labour substitution and crossing of inter-professional boundaries; inevitably affecting the wider healthcare professional workforce and hierarchy. This paper will explore these concepts in light of a qualitative exploration of the physiotherapy profession in an era of austerity, rethinking this role, present and future, and its situation within the healthcare ecology.

Sociology Journal Special Session

THE PUBLIC ROLE OF SOCIOLOGISTS – PANEL DISCUSSION

Panellists:

Professor Breno Bringel, Professor Nandini Sundar and Professor Sirpa Wrede

Chairs: Vanessa May, Co-Editor and Simin Fadaee, Co-Editor-in-Chief, Sociology

For sociology as a discipline to play a role in the remaking of the future – the theme of this year's BSA conference – it is critical for sociologists to engage in various forms of public sociology. In this conference special event, the journal Sociology hosts a panel discussion with members of the journal's International Advisory Board to discuss what the public role of sociologists is and could be. The three panellists – Breno Bringel, Nandini Sundar and Sirpa Wrede – offer insight into a range of local, national and regional contexts in which sociologists operate, and into the political and institutional opportunities and challenges that face the discipline in its attempts to engage with audiences outside academia. Issues that the panellists consider include the boundaries between universities and 'the public(s)'; different types of public sociology and their benefits and drawbacks; the relationship between knowledge production and what is conventionally understood as 'dissemination' of research; and the threat posed to the integrity of the discipline by an increasingly authoritarian and populist political climate in many countries.

Breno Bringel is Professor of Sociology at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He has been a visiting professor at more than a dozen universities in Latin America and Europe and was a founder member of the Latin American Activist-Research Group. Founder editor, with Geoffrey Pleyers, of *Open Movements*, a public sociology editorial project published by Open Democracy in partnership with the International Sociological Association (ISA). He

is currently director of the Latin American Sociological Association (ALAS) and president of the ISA Research Committee on Social Classes and Social Movements (RC47). Author of 10 books and a hundred articles in eight languages on social movements, social theory, Latin American thought, and critical geopolitics. Recent edited books in English: *Social Movements and Politics in a Global Pandemics* (Bristol University Press, 2021) and *Critical Geopolitics and Regional Re-Configurations* (Routledge, 2019).

Nandini Sundar is Professor of Sociology at the Delhi School of Economics, Delhi University, India. Her recent publications include, *The Burning Forest: India's War against Maoists* (Verso 2019), which has been translated into Gujarati, Tamil and Telugu; and four edited volumes, *Reading India: Selections from Economic and Political Weekly 1991-2017* (co-edited, Orient Blackswan, 2019); *The Scheduled Tribes and their India* (OUP, 2016); *Civil Wars in South Asia: State, Sovereignty, Development* (co-edited, Sage 2014); and *Inequality and Social Mobility in Post-Reform India, Special Issue of Contemporary South Asia* (co-edited, 2016), as well as journal articles on democracy, authoritarianism and academic freedom. She was awarded the M.N. Srinivas Memorial Prize, 2003, the Infosys Prize for Social Sciences (Social Anthropology) in 2010, the Ester Boserup Prize for Development Research, 2016 and the Malcolm Adiseshiah Prize for Distinguished Contributions to Development Studies, 2017. Her media articles are available at <http://nandinisundar.blogspot.com>

Sirpa Wrede, D. Soc.Sc., is a Professor of Sociology at University of Helsinki, Finland. Her research interests deal with the dynamics of inequality in the social organisation of social service professionalism and social citizenship. Her current work focuses on ageing and social ties in the context of migration and on professional groups in the context of neoliberal globalisation. She leads a research team within the Centre of Excellence in Research on Ageing and Care of which she is Vice Director.

Paper Session 9

Thursday, 15 April 2021

14:30 -15:45

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Location Matter: Experiencing COVID-19 Differently as Higher Education Student

Yahya Aydın, Mustafa Köse
(Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University and Afyon Kocatepe University)

To avoid generalize all members of the society; this study intensely focuses on higher education students to examine the effects of coronavirus in Turkey. According to official statistics, there are about eight million higher education students in Turkey. In other words, one in ten population in Turkey continues to their higher education in Turkey. This study considers how living in urban and rural area affects experiencing COVID-19 regarding higher education students. When the first COVID-19 cases recorded in Turkey in the second week of March 2020, the universities closed immediately. Then, a few weeks later, online (distance) education started. This paper focusses on undergraduate and postgraduate students from Ankara Yıldırım Beyazıt University in Turkey to compare the function of living in the urban area or rural area within COVID-19 pandemic. For this aim, thirty-four phone and Skype interviews contacted those groups. According to our primary findings, students living in the city centre are lived more difficulties both psychologically, socially, and economically to overcome this pandemic. While the internet allows students to access some educational materials and opportunities, the students living in the rural area felt more independent, safe and productive during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Reconstruction of The Public Service Spaces and Commercial Spaces in Cities Amid the Post-COVID19 Era

Zhe Chen, Zhining He
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Cities have been the epicentres for the spreading of the new coronavirus. City spaces have been severely altered owing to the pandemic. Public service spaces and commercial spaces are main parts among all kinds of spaces within a city. They are also the mostly affected by the lockdowns and economic recessions. The reconstruction of city spaces, especially public service spaces and commercial spaces, are closely related to the control of pandemic and economic recovery after it. Under the theories of risk society and space reproduction, the research aims at the reconstruction of city spaces under the situation of great public health crisis, to explore the temporal and spatial mechanisms of the recovery of public service and commercial spaces. China has successfully controlled the pandemic within its borders and started the reconstruction of city spaces ahead of other countries. We would conduct field research in several big cities in China, especially Wuhan, the first and most effected city in China by the pandemic. Since there are few lockdowns at present in China, we could start working in the selected cities in a short time, and finish the field study by the Lunar New Year (Mid-February). The experiences learned from China's cities could be expanded to other cities globally. The research results would renovate the theories of space reconstruction under the new normal, and benefit the public policies' making for cities' revival in other areas around the world.

Managing passenger etiquette on public transport: disciplinary effort or technology of customer service?

Christoph Schimkowsky
(University of Sheffield)

This paper examines transport company efforts to improve passenger etiquette on urban transit. As places where people 'move with others' (Bissell, 2016), public transportation is always potentially a space of friction. Journeys can be disrupted by a wide array of deviances ranging from anti-social behaviour (Moore 2011) to mere rudeness (Smith et al 2010). In a time of new viral mobilities, even mundane behaviours such as sneezing can threaten the vitality of the commuter collective and become a source of anxiety. Public transport providers employ various strategies to prevent moments of friction between passengers. Next to patrols and technological solutions, transport providers frequently utilise media such as posters and overhead announcements to promote 'good' passenger conduct and discourage behaviour deemed dangerous or undesirable (Moore 2011). Attempting to anticipate potential transgressions and shape passenger conduct, these efforts are ostensibly about (imagined) futures.

Taking up the case of 'manner improvement' poster campaigns on urban transit in Tokyo, this paper will challenge previous conceptualizations of company interventions in passenger conduct as 'disciplinary devices' (Ureta 2012) or means of 'mundane governance' (Bissell 2018). Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork and 22 expert interviews with individuals in the Japanese railway industry, this paper instead discusses manner improvement initiatives as a technology of customer service. Examining the content and design of manner posters, it argues that company efforts to manage conduct on public transport are not driven by normative conceptions of 'good' and 'bad' passenger behaviour, but are primarily shaped by concerns about customer sensibilities and satisfaction.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 1

Dystopia as Method: Remaking Society Through Speculative Dreaming

Jade Hinchliffe

(The University of Hull)

In her monographs *The Concept of Utopia* (1990) and *Utopia as Method* (2013), Ruth Levitas outlines the multidisciplinary field of utopian studies, which includes literature, cultural studies and sociology, and puts forward her idea of utopian methodology. Levitas argues that the utopian method consists of three main steps: archeology, ontology and architecture. The archeological mode requires us to investigate underlying issues, the ontological mode makes us consider who we are as a species and what values are important to us, and the architectural mode involves the remaking of society. In my research, I build on Levitas' work by considering how the dystopian genre can help us to rebuild our world. We often speak of dystopian fiction but not of dystopian studies or dystopian methodology. In this paper, I outline my vision for dystopian studies and put forward the argument that authors, readers and researchers of dystopian fiction engage with dystopian methodology through gaining awareness and participating in activism. Throughout this paper I will discuss some of the twenty-first-century dystopian novels from the global north and global south that I analyse in my PhD thesis, which examines the portrayal of surveillance and social sorting in these novels. Then I will explain how reading, writing and researching dystopian fiction can make us aware of real-life issues and help us to find ways to overcome these problems in reference to my work in surveillance studies.

Apocalypse, Revolution, Utopia: Imaginaries to cultivate alternative futures

Esther Priyadharshini

(University of East Anglia)

One way of making alternative futures that do not succumb to the inevitability of the old teleologies of capitalism, colonialism or humanism, is to begin in the realms of imagination, to learn 'to desire otherwise' (Abensour, 1999). Imaginaries evoke different sets of affect that orient us towards the future, and prompt us to act (or not act) in particular ways. The presentation will explore lessons from the imaginaries of apocalypse, revolution and utopia, drawing on research that connects these to youth(ful) perspectives in a context when the narrative of 'youth despair' about the future is becoming persistent. It will explore how the imaginary of 'Apocalypse' can act as a frame of intelligibility, a way of making sense of the monstrosities of the present which evoke fear, anxiety, anger and also a desire to act. Studying the School Climate Strikes of 2019 as 'Revolution' can move us away from the teleologies of capitalist consumption and endless growth. It directs us towards more austere futures but ones where all beings can thrive rather than the few, in contrast to the conceptions of austerity proposed by neo-liberal states. Finally, it will explore how the Utopias of Afrofuturism provides us with a believable kind of utopia because the starting point is in racial, economic and ecological injustice. If the Apocalypse teaches us to recognize what needs to go, and Revolution accepts that living with 'less than' is necessary, then this kind of Utopia shows us how becoming 'more than' human may be the future.

Futuristic Birth: Octavia Butler's Bloodchild

Francesca Sanders
(De Montfort University)

In this paper, I assess how Octavia Butler uses the lens of futurist spaces and alien lifeforms to proffer a message of hope within a society bound by racism, sexism and medical control. In *Bloodchild*, her “pregnant man story” she evaluates what humanity must do to “pay rent”; to compensate for the things they take from the planet. The narrative is allegorical, using male impregnation as a metaphor for medicalised birth and increasing abortion restrictions. The horrific imagery highlights the need for change, campaigning for birthing bodies to have autonomy and highlighting the cruelty of a society that denies individuals this right. Using Foucault's *The Birth of The Clinic* as a critical lens, I will assess how the story depicts the realities of a world in which “medicine has successfully laid claim to birthing power” (Newnham, 2014).

By looking forward, using the genre of speculative fiction, Butler emphasises the need for intersectionality and cohabitation, stating that – in the future – we must overcome greed and selfishness if we are to survive. In the wake of the Black Lives Matter protests; of Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court; climate change, Butler's message remains relevant. We must change how we think about birth, gender, autonomy and ecology to reshape the future.

Butler, O.E., 2012. *Bloodchild: and other stories*. Open Road Media.

Foucault, M., 2012. *The Birth of the Clinic*. Routledge.

Newnham, E.C., 2014. Birth control: Power/knowledge in the politics of birth. *Health Sociology Review*, 23(3), pp.254-268.

Towards a sociological theory of elite subculture: Forms of capital, social position and symbolic struggle within and beyond the subcultural field

Chi-Chung Wang
(National Sun Yat-sen University)

One of the recent developments in youth culture studies is the adaptation of Bourdieu's field analysis to the studies of youth subcultures. These theoretical attempts extend the main research foci from subcultural deviance/resistance to the aspects of status struggle within particular subcultures. Responding to this development, my paper aims to construct a more comprehensive Bourdieusian analysis of subculture by comparing the subcultures of participants from different social positions. I first argue that the existing literature tends to equate recognized subcultural resources as useful currencies for obtaining status “within the subculture,” while there is a theoretical gap in exploring how specific subcultural resources may be useful for accruing broader social recognition beyond the subcultural field. Drawing on Bourdieu's concepts of disinterestedness and symbolic capital, I propose that high-status actors usually have acquired an excess of recognized capital, which allows them to secure the profit of distinction through engaging in nonconformist subcultures. On the contrary, the usefulness of the low-status youth group's subcultural resources is usually limited to their subcultural world, due to their lack of widely recognized forms of capital and legitimate status. Therefore, their subculture could only be no more than an alternative for their status frustration in the broader society. The implication of this proposed framework is twofold: while it offers a more suitable model for understanding the subculture of elite youth groups, it also allows us to revisit youth culture and inequality by examining the relationship between field positions, forms of capital, and patterns of subcultural engagement.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 2

The Culture Of Stigma Still Favours Him: community policing, stigmatisation and ability to report crime in Nigeria

Aminu Musa Audu
(Institute Of Community Policing)

Nigeria is a multi-cultural country, comprising of about two hundred million people, with an increased perception of various forms of crime such as kidnapping, armed robbery, cultism, rape, domestic violence, corruption, inter-communal
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and intra-communal crisis. The UK-DFID, between 2002 and 2010 helped to oversee community policing initiative in Nigeria with funding support to the tune of thirty million Pound Sterling, in collaboration with the Security, Justice, and Growth and managed by the British Council. But, despite this community safety effort, empirical findings suggested that there is a wide communication gap between the police and community, with negative implications on sense of community safety and security. This is partly occasioned by negative influence of the prevailing socio-cultural factors such as community stigmatisation thereby affecting the ability and willingness of the community members to report some aspects of crime such as rape offending to the police. This paper is focussed on examining the impact of stigma on the community's ability to report rape crime in Nigeria. This paper qualitatively adopted phenomenological interpretative perspective and individual in-depth interviews and focus group discussions methods to engage the police and community participants in Nigeria. The empirical data collected from fieldwork have been analysed in the context of Ochamalienwu(Squirrel whining) Theory of Community Policing. This paper recommends drastic socio-cultural re-orientation through advocacy with the community and security providers, then a critical review of the related social regulations and laws for an improved rape crime reporting activities in Nigeria.

Movement of the People: Reading the "End Sars" movement in Nigeria through Fela Anikulapo Kuti's ideology

Osabuohien Clifford Uwuoruya
(Nelson Mandela University)

This purpose of this paper is to address the recent wave of protest on police and military brutality in Nigeria, through the ideology of the Nigerian intellectual, Fela Anikulapo Kuti. The End Special Anti-Robbery Squad (End Sars) movement is a campaign that started on twitter sometime in 2017, under the #EndSars. The campaign recently escalated on October 2020, after several reports of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) alleged killings of innocent Nigerian citizens. Using Akinsola Akiwowo's Orunmilaist perspective as a theoretical framework, and Grant Farred's vernacular intellectual classification, my current study argues for Fela's inclusion in the growing body of works on African intellectual heritage, which he has been excluded from due to his means of ideological dissemination, which was done mainly through his music. This paper analyses the End Sars movement through the narratives of two Fela's songs: Movement of the People (M.O.P) recorded in 1984, and Confusion Break Bone, recorded in 1990.

By positioning the lyrics of both Fela's songs within the context of the End Sars movement in Nigeria, an understanding of his exposition on the breakdown of sociational life in Nigeria is made manifest. This breakdown, which Akiwowo argues is a shift from Ajobi (consanguinity) to Ajobe (co-existence), is reflected in the police brutality, corruption, bad governance, and several other social problems in Nigeria.

Turning the tide: 'From disaster to triumph', story-telling of covid-19 by the Chinese party-state and its political implications

Kailing Xie
(University of Warwick)

While the rest of the world is still battling the second wave of Covid-19 and implementing lockdown measures to combat the spread of the virus at the end of 2020, China has been celebrating its 'victory' over the pandemic since March. Most cities in China have since declared 'virus free' and the party-state has announced its 'steady economic recovery' on state media. State news channels are filled with daily reports about the failure of Western democratic state of putting the virus under control as a contrast to China's seeming victory. However, the beginning of the story in China was far from victorious, with many criticizing the party-state's secrecy over the initial outbreak in Wuhan. The perceived mismanagement led to the loss of many innocent lives and countless human tragedies, which generated widespread public resentment peaked at Dr Li's Death, a widely perceived whistle-blower who died of the virus in February 2020. This paper examines the state's propaganda efforts of the pandemic since March 2020 to illustrate the narratives used to transform a disaster into a story of national triumph, It pays particular attention to the affective realm of the story-telling to reveal both continuities and changes of Chinese nationalism under Xi. By comparing the disaster politics used to manage the 2008 earthquake, it discusses the political implications of such story telling against the background of China's rise on the global stage.

Environment and Society

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Risk and class in the time of coronavirus

Harriet Bradley
(University of the West of England)

Ulrich Beck's influential theory of 'risk society' posited that in the contemporary world anthropogenic risks, such as pollution or nuclear hazards were becoming more impactful than natural risks like famine or drought, and that such risks were less class-specific and more universally distributed: 'poverty is hierarchical, smog is democratic.' Prima facie the coronavirus pandemic seems a prime exemplar of Beck's thesis: a biohazard with global and universal reach. However, as scientists quickly demonstrated, the risk of infection from COVID-19 was not equally experienced. Older people, men and members of certain ethnic communities were the most 'at risk' of catching the disease and of dying. The other risks associated with the pandemic-unemployment, isolation, penury-were also unevenly distributed, especially on axes of class and gender. The risks have also been unequally perceived: younger people reverted to group activities once lockdown eased, while a minority denies the existence of Covid-19

This paper will employ an intersectional approach, sensitive to varying inequalities, to explore how risks play out in the pandemic. Adams distinguishes between formal regimes of risk- as handled by governments and enterprises - and informal negotiation of risk by individuals. The formal regime in the U.K. has sought to reconcile the risk to public health with the risk to the economy, while the resultant fluctuating policies force individuals to negotiate their way through a minefield of risk.

While Beck believed that risk was now replacing class as the driver of social relations, I suggest that class divisions have been deepened by the pandemic.

Donor Interests, Development Aid, and the Political Economy of Low Carbon Energy Future in Bangladesh

M. Omar Faruque
(Queen's University)

The global climate crisis has triggered scholarly interest in the transition to a low carbon energy regime. Although the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda has laid out a policy framework for moving towards low carbon development by 2030, many climate-vulnerable countries like Bangladesh face substantive barriers to sustainable energy transition. There is also a growing concern among scholars about the effects of Covid-19 on low carbon energy transition. Bangladesh's climate change strategy and action plan adopted in 2008 outlined its path towards a low carbon development by increasing the use of renewable energy. This policy has remained purely rhetorical, however; there is a large gap between the target and the actual achievement, and the gap is growing. The scholarship on energy transition and climate-resilient development in the developing world underscores the role of endogenous forces (behaviour, underlying interests and incentives, and partisan politics of political and bureaucratic elites) in shaping the policy agenda on low carbon development. A significant gap in this scholarship is that entrenched donor interests, a critical force in the policymaking processes, receives little attention. By drawing on recent scholarship on critical international political economy of energy and environmental sociology, this paper will analyze exogenous factors influencing Bangladesh's current energy regime characterized by a fossil fuel 'lock-in' – a dominant energy policy perspective premised on the inevitability of fossil fuel use in power generation because of its low cost, abundance, and reliability.

Post Covid-19 Modernities

Vincenzo Luise, Adam Erik Arvidsson
(University of Milan)

In a famous essay published in late March 2020, French sociologist and philosopher Bruno Latour suggested that we see the Covid pandemic as a sort of preliminary exercise in what is coming. The widespread of Covid-19 virus is accentuating the collapse of modern rationality in at least two ways. First, the Covid-19 manifests itself as a hyper-object which is too large to be directly perceived. Its abstract nature leads to ever more people losing faith in the official narrative. Second, the absence of a frame of interpretation makes the pandemic generate events that are marked by fundamental insecurity. The pandemic seems to exceed institutionalised capacities of rational management. Various policy answers, like lockdowns, social distancing, requiring people to wear masks or to use tracing apps often reveal themselves to have little or no effects or to be impossible to implement. By exploring three possible future modernities that we call 'latex modernity', 'communitarian modernity' and 'porous modernity', this paper looks into possible economic and social scenarios that we might see unfolding as we go deeper into the Anthropocene, confronting new pandemics and other unpredictable disasters on the way. This work combines qualitative interviews with members of 'anti-mask'

movements, middle class knowledge workers who have the possibility to work from the home and different actors of the informal economy such as microentrepreneurs, informal wage workers, and industrial outworkers. This research contributes to the discussion on future existential condition of post-modern society in the Anthropocene.

The exclusive community: students' perceptions of dangerous others

Nicola Roberts
(University of Sunderland)

The political neoliberal ideology of enhancing competition so markets thrive, creates inequalities (del Cerro Santamaria 2020). This has marketised Higher Education (Maisura and Cole 2017) arguably altering the ethos/role of universities as providing a 'public good' or 'community' (see Martinez and Garcia 2000: unpaginated), and subsequently, has altered the way individuals relate to others (Bauman 1993). Under this ideology, individuals are viewed as responsible for providing solutions to their own problems (Martinez and Garcia 2000), are driven to gaining competitive advantage over others, rather than developing civic and social responsibility for others (del Cerro Santamaria 2020). Through this lens, this paper, using data from an online survey about students' perceptions of on-campus safety at a university in the north of England, shows how some students view 'others' as dangerous, rather than view them as (potentially) vulnerable groups on the margins of an inequitable neoliberal society. The porous borders of the university campuses amplify students' perceptions of dangerous others and students' suggestions to 'keep out' such others arguably serve to aggravate rather than relieve their perceptions of unsafety. If the university continues to lock-down its campuses, as it has during the global pandemic, closing its doors to 'unauthorised' others, the upshot is entrenching further an exclusive community of the privileged unless universities can reclaim their ethos/role as institutions with the power to educate about and influence social issues (Giroux 2014), and to ultimately triumph over the political and corporate interests of the capitalist elite (del Cerro Santamaria 2020).

Families and Relationships

Caring from a distance

Rachel Bencheekroun
(UCL IOE Social Research Institute)

Covid-19 and lockdown measures have disrupted the ways we interact with and care for family members beyond the household. Between April and July 2020, I conducted a small-scale qualitative study to explore how individuals' interactions with family members, friends and colleagues changed, and the impact of these changes on access to social support and subjective wellbeing. Eleven public sector professionals living in London took part; they created sociograms, kept reflective diaries and engaged in a series of online, in-depth interviews over three months. In this presentation, I draw on my narrative analysis and thematic analysis of empirical data to show how communication by phone and online was perceived by participants as both enabling and problematic in caring practices for extended family. Building on analytical frameworks of 'ethics of care' (Tronto 1998, 2005), emotion work (Hochschild 1979) and everyday family and intimacy practices (Morgan 2011, Jamieson 2011), I argue that a shift to 'caring through a screen' has disrupted the physicality of everyday micro-acts of care, and has shone a light on ambivalence in adult kin relationships. I reflect on the implications for caring for family from a distance: how might everyday caring practices continue to evolve in the context of Covid-19 and lockdown, and how might this affect feelings about family relationships and individual wellbeing?

"It gives you the possibility of immediacy": digital intimacies, temporalities and their social significance for gay and bisexual men in the United Kingdom

James Cummings, Ingrid Young
(University of East Anglia and University of Edinburgh)

This paper explores time and intimacy within gay and bisexual men's use of smartphones, in particular how technologically mediated temporalities figure in discussions around the pursuit, maintenance and valuation of intimate relationships. We draw on 40 in-depth interviews with men in London and Edinburgh, conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, as part of our interdisciplinary ESRC Digital Intimacies project.

The capacities of digital technologies to transform the rhythms of life have been the subject of sociological debate. Technologies of temporal measurement produce time as a tangible resource, while those that facilitate communication

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and information sharing accelerate social processes at the levels of everyday interaction and broad societal change. These dynamics were highlighted by men in our study, who spoke of the increasing pace with which intimacies can be established and practiced through smartphone use. However, technology-driven changes in the nature of time do not occur in isolation from, but as intertwined with, other social and material dynamics. The concerns of gay and bisexual men for the role of their phones in the rhythms of intimacy are inseparable from their concerns over what they see as desirable and appropriate forms of intimacy, how these 'should' play out and the wider contexts within which they are situated – including the upheavals of the COVID-19 pandemic. We unpack the complex dynamics at play in practices around time, intimacy and digital technology, offering insights into the forms of normativity by which they are regulated and how they unfold as nexuses of discursive and technological-material processes.

Deception in the Temporal Order: Living with Untruth in the Context of Dementia Care

James Hodgson, Andrew Balmer
(University of Manchester)

Although deception is often used widely by professional and home carers of people living with dementia, most scholarship on the issue views such activities in negative terms because deception is supposed to deprive people living with dementia of agency and autonomy. In order to better understand how deception and lies figure within caring relationships such as these, we need to better understand what it is that leads to deception and lying. In this paper we draw on qualitative interview data from a larger project on everyday experiences of living with dementia, to explore the accounts carers make about the lies they tell and the deceptions they carry out. We find that carers frequently explain their use of deception by way of reference to a problem with time and the temporal landscape in which they find themselves. Equally, we show that carers' orientation in time impacts substantially on their particular practices of deception, whether in terms of the historical, biographical past or their view of the future. In demonstrating the entanglement between time and deception, we thus also contribute to the sociology of lying, which has only marginally considered time as a factor in how lies figure in everyday life.

Queering lives under COVID-19, Dismantling Binary Oppositions: Chinese one-child generation queers in London under COVID-19 pandemic

Scarlett Yee Man Ng
(University of Oxford)

This paper is an interdisciplinary research exploring how being in London under COVID-19 constructs Chinese one-child generation queers' identity. My empirical data is gleaned from semi-structured interviews with 5 queer-identified Chinese one-child generation individuals who stayed in London from January to May in 2020. Queer in this paper not only represents an umbrella term incorporating non-normative sexual and gender subjects, and a theoretical framework, but also a critical, analytical and political practice challenging normative discourse production, and deconstructing identity essentialism and binary oppositions. Through the practice of queering, I argue for the hybridities, complexities and fragmentation of Chinese one-child generation queers' identities in London under COVID-19 on three levels, which are national, community and individual so as to disrupt the homogenisation of the identity, and to dismantle the dichotomies between the West and the East, online and offline space, and "in" and "out" of the closet respectively. In particular, I highlight that the queers consciously and constantly transform themselves for survival and transgression in this particular space and time. This research is the first empirical study on Chinese one-child generation queers' identity formation in London and the UK. In addition to this, it is also an experimental, exploratory and political queer intervention in the chaotic time under COVID- 19.

Frontiers 1

Plants, Vegetables, Lawn. Pandemic diaries of more than human solidarities

Giulia Carabelli
(Queen's University Belfast)

This paper draws on a project I started in May 2020 to explore the roles played by houseplants during the pandemic. When it started, I was curious to learn what was behind the spike of social media posts about plants and plant care and how this phenomenon could be related to the covid-19 global crisis. This paper engages with the data I collected – photographs and interviews - to explore homemaking practices in times of forced social isolation and extreme
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vulnerability. It focuses on the roles of more than human beings – and specifically plants – in building worlds. I introduce the experience of indoor plant carers, gardeners, and vegetable-growers to illuminate the meanings of care as a means of survival in pandemic times. I attend to plant care as the activity of building hope, assigning meaning, and placating anxieties. Overall, this paper argues for the need to imagine radical solidarities as inclusive of multi-species experiences and knowledges. Empirically, it reflects on the politics of more than human affective entanglements by looking at homemaking practices with plants that centre on the provision and reception of care. Theoretically, it builds on conversations in the environmental humanities that challenge the anthropocentrism of western imagination to de-centre human agency in future building projects.

“Because it’s you, it’s fine”: Taking an Autoethnographic Approach to Evaluate and Learn from Community-Based Participatory Research Before and During the COVID Pandemic

Michael Petch
(LGBT Foundation)

There are many benefits to Community-Based Participatory Research, the most discussed of these being the ability to remove or reduce the inherent power imbalance between researchers and research populations. By taking an autoethnographic approach to evaluate my own experiences as a community-based researcher I intend to reflect on the benefits and limitations of Community-Based Participatory Research. I have found so far that the biggest benefit so far has been the immediate sense of trust established within interviews. This has continued through lockdown, despite no longer sharing a space, and the established benefits of interviewing within a charity building. By reflecting on the limitations of Community-Based Participatory Research and the hurdles I have encountered, I intend to work towards possible solutions to improve both the quality of the research and the experience of the community-based researcher. By thinking on my experiences before and during the COVID pandemic and associated lockdown and restrictions, I will consider how Community-Based Participatory Research has had to change, and how we have found new ways to engage participants and audiences with research and webinars. Lastly, I will reflect on how all these learnings can be applied in an academic setting to better collaborate with the communities they research.

Coping in Crisis - Using Oral History to explore the role of feelings and emotions in the construction of responses to Covid-19 pandemic.

Esther Hitchen, Jolanta Shields, Stephanie Snow, Angela Whitecross
(The University of Manchester)

Drawing on a rich archive of over 500 personal testimonies collected from NHS staff across the UK from 2017 and continuing through the Covid-19 pandemic, this paper explores the specificity of coping mechanisms mediated by different social groups to better understand the wider societal dimensions of the recent global health crisis. We pay close attention to the feelings and emotions of NHS staff (working and retired), to identify the different responses they adopt and reveal unevenness in the lived experiences. The analysis is situated in the historical and institutional memory of the NHS that grants healthcare workers implicit heroic qualities. Simultaneously the conjunctural temporalities of Covid-19 exposes the multiple roles and identities these workers occupy and how these are shaped by wider social, spatial, political and economic conditions. Oral history is a powerful tool with which to map the contradictory trajectories of resilience and vulnerability and provides intimate and nuanced insights to the current health crisis. In this respect, we see our contribution as twofold. First, we offer rich new empirical data that we have collected, and which will enhance our future memory of the Covid-19 pandemic as well as deepening the present understanding of health crisis beyond the narrow conception of physical health. Second, by locating the role of feelings in a wider institutional and social framework we suggest an important nudge in the direction of health policy cognisant of intimate feelings and emotions as predictors of people behaviours and wellbeing that are currently underexplored in policy craft making.

A methodological ‘bricolage’ for our times: Walking interviews, group tours and outdoor performance

Aled Singleton
(Swansea University)

This paper presents a methodological approach suited to future demands for social distancing and making research outside. I choose the French word ‘bricolage’ because it translates into English as ‘do it yourself’; or rather taking major components which already exist and having scope to modify according to the specific and local context.

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This work stems from my PhD research in 2019 which developed a biographical approach that engages with the body's potential to reveal deeply-held emotions, memory and affect. The methodology mixes one-to-one walking interviews (Evans & Jones, 2011) with group walking tours and an artist collaboration to create site-specific performances which playfully interpret and assemble the social. Narrative meaning and focus is found through two cycles of walking interviews, with corresponding group walks and public performances.

The methodology enables research relationships between people from different stages of the lifecourse. Specifically we follow the advice of human geographer Doreen Massey's (2005) to put time to one side and consider space as '... the sphere of the possibility of the existence of multiplicity.' Using space as the mediator, particularly the everyday and the mundane, gives both parties a common frame of reference. Although my PhD focused on the historical side of biography, there is equal potential to engage with the present day; digital walks are also possible using online mapping technologies.

More than just a response to Covid-19, this approach is an interdisciplinary bridge into the sociological imagination from elements of environmental psychology, human geography and performance. See 3-minute film <https://vimeo.com/373090583>.

Frontiers 2

Ava goes to AMEE

Margaret Simmons
(Monash University)

In a COVID world where restrictions to travel and interaction are now the norm, many conferences have shifted to online modes of delivery. This presentation highlights the challenges, dangers and opportunities of attending conferences in virtual worlds where the creation of avatars is a requirement. From my Antipodean lounge room, I attended the 2020 AMEE (International Association for Medical Education) conference in Glasgow as an avatar (Ava) and this presentation is the story of my/her (mis)adventures in that space. While virtual worlds may avoid social interaction (which is useful in a pandemic) and be more cost effective in terms of the environment and the university's 'bottom-line' (both of which are useful in a global climate-change emergency and in tertiary institutions facing COVID-related financial crises); they are not a panacea. Using Erving Goffman's notion of performativity, this presentation argues that performing in the virtual world as an avatar has the potential to connect, disrupt and, paradoxically, be both liberating and constraining.

The Lake District in a Post-Covid-19 Period

Basak Tanulku
(Independent)

COVID-19 has changed some ordinary but essential things taken for granted. First, it locked almost one-third of the world population to their homes, to some degree (Buchholz, 2020). It has led to "social distancing" which almost ceased physical contact among people in public and private lives. Education has stopped in almost every stage, while non-essential businesses closed and a significant amount of the population has lost their jobs. It has also strengthened various inequalities across identities (class, race, gender). However, it has shown some positive side effects, such as cleaner air in cities, while green spaces have gained more importance (Moore, 2020). Also, crime rates have declined due to the lockdown measures (Jacoby, Stucka and Phillips, 2020).

During the pandemic, cities have received attention, due to their density, size and role in the economy. However, the rural realm has been a lesser focus of attention, despite experiencing various issues, which are related to a lack of services, infrastructure, as well as people escaping from cities to the rural realm, perceived healthier and safer (Phillipson et al., 2020). This process has also deepened some of the existing problems and inequalities across the rural realm. More broadly, the problems in the rural have been associated with those in the urban. This paper focuses on the Lake District, which has been an important destination of tourists, as well as public and academic debates. By looking at the region during the pandemic, the paper discusses what it could face in a post-pandemic period.

Lifecourse

Keep Calm! Moral Panics over Childhood in the 1980s and 1990s

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Deniz Arzuk
(University College London, Social Research Institute)

In the last quarter of the 20th Century, the news coverage about children in the mass media was marked by a series of moral panics, which ranged from children growing up too fast to not being mature enough. Everything children did or did not became a source of concern, including what they ate, what they wore, where they spent their time, what they played with, and even which music they preferred. As in the example of the simultaneous moral panics about children's safety and overprotection, echoed also by the moral panics about controlling, governing and protecting children during Covid-19 lockdown, some of these panics both complemented and contradicted each other, and often resulted in disregarding major societal factors that lie beneath. Based on a comparative reading of news texts published in mainstream newspapers in Turkey and Britain, this paper will discuss how these pieces defined appropriate and idealised versions of "ordinary" childhood, and at the same time, reflected a vague and often unfocused, unarticulated, unacknowledged anxiety about wider social change and a fear of the unknown, and it will raise questions about the potential of turning back to the past as we remake the future.

The paper is an output of the European Commission funded MSCA project CHIBRIT "Is There No Such Thing As Childhood? New Childhoods in Britain and Turkey between 1976 and 1997" (www.changingchildhoods.com) which investigates the changing ideas about children and childhood that emerged in response to the shared global processes of the period.

Rethinking Concerted Cultivation as a Classed and Racial Project

Utsa Mukherjee
(University of Southampton)

The notion of 'concerted cultivation', first coined by the American sociology Annette Lareau (2000), has achieved immense popularity among sociologists of childhood and parenting culture studies. It names a cultural logic of child-rearing prevalent among middle-class parents wherein parents enact strategies to develop the talents and skills of their children in a concerted fashion. Within this classed logic of 'concerted cultivations', parents conceive of their school-age children as 'projects' to be developed, thereby investing a great deal of their time, money and energy in scheduling their children's after-school hours with a plethora of organised leisure activities that equip children with a range of skills that resonate with the demands of the education system and the professional jobs market. While Lareau (2000, 2011) formulated 'concerted cultivation' as an exclusively classed ideology which has little to do with race and ethnicity, in this paper I draw on recent works on racialised middle-class families to call for a rethinking of this concept. While the notion of 'concerted cultivation' is useful in capturing the shifts currently underway within parenting ideologies and children's time-use patterns, its operation on the ground cannot be reduced to class processes alone. Exploring the intersection of race and class within middle-class parents' 'concerted cultivation' strategies can offer a more nuanced picture of contemporary childhoods and parenthoods. I also emphasise the need for harnessing children's lived experiences of concerted cultivation alongside parental narratives to unpack these processes at a more granular level.

Creative methods for engaging with children in the classroom - exploring children, food and friendship

Marianne O'kane Boal
(Institute of Technology Sligo, Ireland)

This paper proposes a reimagining through arts-based methodologies of the importance of children's school food and friendship practices in their life worlds. I am in the final stage of a PhD in Social Research (2017-2021) examining; 'the significance of school food practices in the conduct and experience of peer relationships of children aged 4-12 in contemporary Irish society'. The qualitative project focuses on what leads children to engage with friends on school food practices and how this shapes their peer relationships. The methods for engaging with children in the classroom have been selected according to my considerable experience of facilitation of children's workshops. Creative interactive methods, particularly arts-based (Kara, 2015), have been employed to conduct fieldwork and build knowledge. These methods include thematic discussion of children's picture books, drawing, modelling with clay, story games, creative writing, journals, concept mapping and discussion. I have carried out observation during school break and lunch. The research was conducted with three schools in the classroom environment with children aged between 4-12 years old in a period lasting six weeks in each school. Children participated collectively and individually with the researcher working as facilitator on activities in the presence of their class teacher. There were considerable ethics protocols involved in delivering the fieldwork. The paper includes a discussion of the project, fieldwork context, the methods selected for

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engaging with children in the classroom, attendant ethics protocols, and potential outcomes of the project (Helen Kara, *Creative Research Methods in the Social Sciences*, Bristol: Policy Press, 2015).

Observing the End of the School Year Shows: A Preliminary Analysis of the Stage as an Exceptional Place for Children's Agency

Ayşe Yılmaz

(Bahçeşehir University)

This work aims to understand how the stage becomes an exceptional place for children's agency at the end of the school year shows.

Based on my ongoing Ph.D. research on first graders, I will argue that schools are the areas where children are constrained, guided, even shaped, and formed in various ways; however, children can find some opportunities for exerting agency in order to escape from these constraints. When it comes to the preparations of the end of the school year shows, which is considered in this research as a process starting with the beginning of the first semester and finishing towards the end of the second semester with shows staged by students, children are treated as passive actors with no permission to take part of the decisions that concern them; their agency becomes visible only when they are at the stage during the showtime. Except for these, they undergo what is imposed on them by their adult counterparts during this process.

The data on which the argument is built is collected through observations in field research on the first-grade children's experiences with respect to the end of the school year shows in public primary schools in Istanbul's middle-class districts since 2017. In this presentation, focusing on the shows performed on the stage by first graders, I will discuss the ways through which the stage provides children exert agency with space for a certain degree of emancipation from constraints despite the expectations on them.

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

Retention of doctors in emergency medicine: an ethnographic study

Daniel Darbyshire

(Lancaster Medical School)

The emergency department is a challenging place to work, it is in constant flux, patients are in pain and distress, and the physical environment is often crowded and dilapidated. It is therefore no surprise that emergency medicine has a staffing problem. Who would want to work in such a place? With the added burden of frequent out-of-hours working and a consistently high intensity of work being used to explain the high turnover of staff from all professions. Yet many manage to work in this setting for decades, not only surviving but thriving. This study focuses on emergency medicine doctors of all levels of experience and tries to understand how they manage this.

This study looks at doctors in two departments in the northwest of England, utilising a combination of ethnographic observation and semi-structured interviews, to build an in-depth understanding of the day-to-day practices, often mundane in nature, that emergency physicians employ to enable them to have a sustainable career. This is contextualised in the changing nature of work for the emergency physician by incorporating policy documents into the ethnography along with interviews with people from key organisations charged with making and implementing said policy.

An ethnomethodological lens on the micro-materialities of multidisciplinary work in the emergency department reveals how emergency physicians build multiple connection with the people they work with, with objects that facilitate care and with the work they do. This is constantly eroded, and emergency physicians are necessitated into portfolio careers earlier in their working lives.

'Taking care of oneself' in the narratives of psychiatric survivors and users during the lockdown: a digital ethnography of the #NSUNCovidLife initiative

Sandra Gonzalez

(Universidad del País Vasco / Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (Spain))

During the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, governmental institutions, the media, and users led groups have promoted intensively self-care practices.

Based upon a governmental approach, this communication focuses on the role of caring for oneself in the narratives collected by the online initiative #NSUNCovidLife of the National Survivor User Network (NSUN) aimed at publishing their members' experiences under lockdown. Following Foucault, 'self-care' recommendations and practices can either be read as a disciplinary form of 'self-management' that re-inscribes the ideal psy- and biopsychiatric subject, or alternatively, as 'the care of the self' practices that problematize the hegemonic subjectification process. Thus, the objective is to understand the way in which the care towards oneself is conceptualized in the narrations collected by this initiative in the form of blog entries and short video series.

The digital ethnography and the discourse analysis carried out reveal that, first, care is a notion that is crossed by reciprocity and enacted by a relational self; second that practicing care requires to contextualize psychic suffering in precise personal, socio-economical and historical coordinates; third, that the emotional self acquires legitimacy and, forth, that experiential knowledge is crucial for caring of oneself.

Therefore, in these first-person narratives, the care of the self mobilizes non-normative ways of knowing and acting on the self during the pandemic, as well as producing subjectivities that challenge the biopsychiatric understanding of mental illness.

Combining patient talk about internet use during primary care consultations with retrospective accounts. A qualitative analysis of interactional and interview data.

Fiona Stevenson, Catherine Pope, Sue Ziebland, Geraldine Leydon, Rebecca Barnes, Helen Atherton, Maureen Seguin
(University college London)

The pervasiveness of the internet is evident worldwide, however patients report not disclosing use of online health information in consultations. We compare reported use of the internet prior to consulting with video recordings of the consultation in question. The concepts of doctorability and epistemics are employed to consider any differences between patients' reports in interviews and actions in the consultation.

Data are drawn from the Harnessing Resources from the Internet study. The data set consists of 281 video-recorded general practice consultations, with pre-consultation questionnaires completed by all patients, interviews with all 10 participating doctors and 28 selected patients. We focus on the 28 patients who were interviewed after the consultation, also drawing on data from matched consultations. A conversation analytic (CA) approach was used to systematically inspect both the interview and consultation data.

In interviews patients presented use of the internet as associated with appropriate self-management and help-seeking. In consultations patients skilfully translated what they had found on the internet in order to provide grounds for the actions they sought.

We conclude that patients translate and utilise what they have found on the internet to assert the doctorability of their presenting problems. Furthermore, patients design their talk in both interviews and consultations to accord with their understanding of the epistemic rights of both doctors and patients. Patients search the internet so they are informed about their medical problem, however they carefully manage disclosure of information so as to avoid disrupting the smooth running of medical interactions.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

Coronavirus, capitalism and the 'thousand tiny dis/advantages' that affect health inequalities

Nick Fox
(University of Huddersfield)

The Covid-19 coronavirus particle has been extraordinarily successful in colonising human bodies as hosts worldwide (Chakraborty and Maity, 2020). Despite this, there appear to be wide divergences/inequalities in infection prevalence and death rates associated with age, gender, occupational class, ethnicity and body-mass index. This paper uses a relational, posthumanist approach to explore class disparities in prevalence and death rates, making direct links between coronavirus and capitalist social relations.

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First, I use this perspective to re-think occupational class disparities in Covid-19 infection and death rates in terms of the 'thousand tiny dis/advantages' produced during quotidian human interactions.

The paper then applies a new materialist framing to explore the 'pandemic assemblage'. This analysis reveals that this pandemic has emerged because the virus not only subverts the genetic mechanisms of human cells to replicate itself, but has also subverted the normal functioning of the global market economy in which humans are inextricably caught up. With the 'market-assemblage' (comprising humans, goods, money and trade mechanisms) of capitalism highjacked into a 'pandemic-assemblage' that produces viral contagion, sickness and death, the inequalities of capitalist production (including inequalities in health) are baked into the pandemic.

This insight supplies an alternative to the mainstream public health and scientific perspectives on the pandemic, and addresses both the global spread of infection and the inequalities it manifests. I conclude by considering the implications for current and future policy on how to manage the interactions between epi/pandemic infections and a capitalist economy.

The inverse response law: Theory and relevance to Covid 19

Suzanne Phibbs, Christine Kenney
(Massey University, New Zealand)

The inverse care law refers to the idea that people who require the most care actually receive the least and to a lesser standard (Tudor Hart, 1971). The inverse care law is principally concerned with the effect of market forces on health care which create inequities in access to health services through disadvantaging certain groups and advantaging others. Consideration needs to be given to the way in which inequities, driven by economic and social policy as well as institutional decision-making, create vulnerabilities prior to a global pandemic which are magnified through systematic differences in access to resources. It is argued that vulnerable groups lack the power to compete for necessary services, as well as to engage in protective actions, creating inequities in outcomes over time. The authors posit a mid-range sociological theory, the inverse response law, as a mechanism for enabling exploration of the social patterning of vulnerability within social systems as well as its upstream drivers. International examples of pandemic responses and outcomes are examined in order to illustrate themes at work relating to vulnerability in the context of a global pandemic. An argument is advanced that attention to the workings of the inverse response law is relevant to an understanding patterns of infection and death resulting from the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Pandemics, Infodemics and Myth-busting: optimising media communication in a pandemic event

Elisa Pieri
(University of Manchester)

This paper, based on a three-year project investigating pandemic preparedness, discusses infodemics, the uncontrollable spread of information about an ongoing infection, and the transmission of dangerous myths about it and about the measures that citizens can take.

It highlights the attempts made by medics and organisations to counteract them via new media engagement. In the current COVID-19 crisis this included extended press conferences, social media campaigns, enrolments of personalities to endorse the myth busting campaigns, and other close collaborations with social media providers and industry. The paper also discusses some of the experimentation around using social media for rapid tracking of outbreaks, generating early warnings and timely outbreak identification.

This paper argues that the risk of global pandemics continues to be configured in the media as always originating outside the West resulting in problematic flaws in debate and policy responses. The language used, which is often depicting the effort to control a pandemic as a war on the disease, generates certain actors (villains, including super spreaders), produces a personification of an invisible disease, and results in the stigmatisation of certain groups, which are rightly or wrongly associated with the spread of infection. The paper concludes with some lessons from previous pandemics and reflection on best practices for optimising media communication in a pandemic event.

Deindustrialization as social death: challenges for medical sociology

Gabor Scheiring
(Bocconi University)

The rise of populism, the Brexit vote, and the presidency of Donald Trump put the issue of deindustrialization and the working class back into the spotlight. The growing health inequalities, and the stagnating life expectancy of workers in rustbelt areas in some of the most wealthy economies, such as the US and the UK, signal capitalism's existential crisis. The collapse of socialist industrial economies in Eastern Europe represents one of the most striking examples of deindustrialization, which also led to declining life expectancy and growing health inequalities. There is a large literature on the political-economic determinants of health, but this literature is dominated by social epidemiology, with a tendency to focus on empirical patterns, neglecting causal mechanisms. This article offers two contributions. First, it presents a sociological framework for analyzing deindustrialization as a fundamental cause of health by synthesizing findings from the literature. Second, applying this framework, the article presents the first empirical analysis of the role of deindustrialization in the postsocialist mortality crisis by analyzing 82 qualitative interviews conducted in four towns in Hungary's rustbelt. Following a theory-building process tracing approach, the article concludes that the arguments about the exceptionalism of the mortality crisis in Eastern Europe are misleading. The sociological perspective developed in the article—highlighting the short-, medium-, and long-term, individual and contextual-level mechanisms—can link the macro level of capitalist transformation to its embodied effect, offering insights into the mechanisms of the health crisis in the American or British rustbelt also.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration

Safe environment? Understanding the housing of asylum seekers and refugees during the Covid-19 outbreak

Gavin Maclean

(Edinburgh Napier University)

Asylum seekers living in the UK are one of the most marginalised groups in society, with most living in poverty and experiencing poor health. Private firms have increasingly played a key role in the provision of asylum accommodation in recent years (The Refugee Council 2019). Since 2010, the Home Office contracted out its asylum services to various private companies, a provision which had previously been the responsibility of local authorities (Darling 2016). Underpinned by a neoliberal logic (Davies 2017), the policy shift towards outsourcing of asylum accommodation to private firms has led to what Darling (2016) refers to as a 'depoliticising effect', transforming asylum from a human rights issue into an 'economic' concern. Recent moves by private firms to relocate asylum seekers into 'safe environments' have been widely criticised, particularly for the difficulties in maintaining physical distancing in new crowded, shared spaces that increase the risks of exposure to Covid-19 within an already 'high risk' group (BBC News, 2020). Inspired by calls for more ways of conducting research 'not on but with' those individuals whose lives are being studied (Berg and Nowicka 2019; Sinha and Back 2013), this paper reports on research co-produced with a grassroots organisation based in Scotland advocating for human rights and dignity for asylum seekers and refugees living in the UK. The paper will present findings from ongoing collaborative digital ethnography with asylum seekers to understand the role of housing provision and the privatisation of asylum services in exposing these individuals to Covid-19.

Exploring health and wellbeing in a rural refugee resettlement location: a community-based participatory research intervention

Caitlin Nunn, Raelene Wilding, Katharine Mckinnon, Htoo Gay Ku, Gai Porh Soe La Myint, Posao (Nido)

Taveesupmai, Megan O'keefe, Kaye Graves

(Manchester Metropolitan University; La Trobe University; Bendigo Community Health Services)

The resettlement of refugees in rural and regional areas is presenting new challenges for health and wellbeing service provision, highlighting the culturally and experientially situated nature of good health and appropriate, high quality care. This paper reports on a community-based participatory research (CBPR) project that explored understandings of health and care across the lifecourse in a refugee-background community in a rural resettlement location in South East Australia. Participants reported that the key challenges they faced were lack of access to local services that addressed their complex needs, and the problems created by communicating across languages, cultures, and ontologies. As a team of social scientists, refugee-background community members, and health service providers, we collectively argue that embedding CBPR's ethos of dialogue, collaboration, and power sharing into health care practice with refugee background populations can support positive health outcomes by building understanding and capacities in health care practitioners, institutions, and refugee-background service users. In the process, it can contribute to tackling structural inequalities relating to both rural and refugee health. Cultural safety, an approach already widely recognised in indigenous health care in Australia and New Zealand, offers a potential framework for this work. Further, we suggest

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that rural and regional settings – sharing common characteristics of relatively small, bounded communities with established social and professional networks – are uniquely equipped to enact such transformative change.

Building Durable Futures in Conflict and Exile :Critical pedagogies and young refugees' higher education trajectories in displacement and resettlement contexts

Jessica Oddy, Prof. Giorgia Donà, Prof. Corinne Squires, Dr. Aura Lounasmaa, Dr. Afaf Jabiri
(University of East London)

Migrants, asylum seekers and refugees globally continue to face uncertain times amidst the COVID-19. This presentation outlines the innovative holistic, participatory and multimodal narrative approach developed at the University of East London to support young refugees' access to higher education (HE) across contexts of displacement and exile, which were adapted in 2020. Higher education continues to be an under-examined area of education in forced migration contexts while young refugees continue to be highly underrepresented in higher education globally. Three interrelated projects are discussed: the Life Stories Higher Education (HE) programme with people on the move at the France-UK border in Calais; the Open Learning Initiative (OLive) Erasmus+ funded programme 'bridging' refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants into HE (UK); and the Peer-to-peer Guidance to Accessing Higher Education (Jordan and Lebanon, with Mosaik), that uses participatory design principles and digital spaces to address information, access and psycho-social barriers to accessing higher education for young refugees in the Middle East.

These participant-centred programmes aim to shift and expand learning and teaching, challenging methodologies and foci of mainstream migration studies that enforce the "refugee-victim" narrative. Situated within the critical theory, praxis, and decolonial frameworks to knowledge formation, the approaches question the divide between spaces of encampment and spaces of learning. We build on concepts of intersectionality and the 'asylum university' lens(Aparna & Kramsch, 2019) as a means to challenge the concept of the Ivory tower and connecting multiple (border) localities via practices of knowledge exchange that challenge the hostile borders practices in the UK.

Time and experience in the transnational healthcare practices of Poles in the United Kingdom

Giuseppe Troccoli, Derek Mcghee, Chris Moreh, Athina Vlachantoni
(University of Southampton)

This paper contributes to understanding migrants' healthcare-seeking practices by applying a transnational approach centred on the processual nature of access to healthcare between national borders, and public and private sectors. We argue that beyond a focus on motivations and expectations, it is key to consider how migrants' experiences after migration impact their engagements with healthcare systems, thus making time and change pivotal in comprehending how they manage their health. We develop our argument by drawing from the experiences of Polish nationals living in the United Kingdom. The paper presents findings from a mixed-methods study consisting of an online survey conducted between the 15th of November 2019 and the 10th of February 2020 amongst 510 adult Poles living in the UK, and thirty-two in-depth semi-structured phone interviews conducted between the 3rd of June and the 27th of August 2020 with survey respondents affected by, or caring for a family member with, a chronic condition or disability. We follow the methodological trajectory of our study by, firstly, presenting the multiplicity and complexity of access to healthcare based on quantitative data from the survey, and secondly, by unravelling the role of time in healthcare use and (migrant) experience on the grounds of the accounts collected through interviews. By reflecting upon the way in which the Brexit transitional period and the COVID-19 pandemic are affecting patterns of international mobility that sustain transnational healthcare practices, we ask how shared experiences of uncertainty and immobility affect the future of transmigrants' health seeking behaviours.

Rights, Violence and Crime

Ethnography of Peace, Violence and Social Distance

Ashmeet Kaur
(TERI School of Advanced Studies, New Delhi, India)

The article attempts to understand the concept of peace through the prism of social realities. The central argument deconstructs violence and peace as a variable of social distance. Consequently, social interactions become the mechanism of inequalities to underscore how asymmetries of power restructure the social distance. However,

interactions are not always actualization of the pre-existing vertical social structures (shaped by power) but how agentic dispositions can counter the course of these interactions and the resultant social distance. The recalibration or maintenance of this distance through the agency is then understood in light of peace or violence framework. The course of analysis builds upon 'structural violence' and 'School Convivencia' as a measure of social distance in relationships. Highlighting the Foucauldian notion of 'governmentality', the article concludes social distance enabled 'informal' pedagogy as a more intrusive and more insidious form of pedagogy than the disciplinary one because it attends to the affective aspects of learning. The analysis is based upon the ethnographic fieldwork conducted in an elite international residential School in India. As this builds an evaluative space of 'peace thinking', it provides for complexities of peace research.

Not just a metaphor: Taiwan's 'war' and Hong Kong's 'revolution' against COVID-19 and beyond

Eva Cheuk-Yin Li, Po-Han Lee

(Lancaster University; National Taiwan University)

The use of war metaphor in national responses to COVID-19 is observed across countries, provoking the senses of control, urgency, and nationalism. In this paper, we examine the use of war metaphors during COVID-19 in East Asia, through the examples of the use of "revolution" in Hong Kong and that of "war" in Taiwan. We argue that war metaphors should be studied in the contexts where war memories are complicated and contested. The use of war metaphor in Hong Kong during COVID-19 did not originate from its pro-China government, but from the participants in the 2019 protests as a bottom-up resistance against government's lack of response and refusal to close the China-Hong Kong border. In Taiwan, the 'war' was waged by both Taiwanese people and the current anti-China government against the Chinese regime – which concealed information, prevented Taiwan's participation in the WHO, and threatened Taiwan with the use of force even during the pandemic. Incorporating cultural studies and security studies, we have analysed protest art, memes, news reports, and official statements to unfold the diverse articulations of collective memories and identities. We contend that blanket statements against a war frame is as misleading as uncritically embracing it. Both examples demonstrate that war metaphors have drawn the public's attention to political accountability. We also observe multidirectional processes, in which young citizens, who did not experience actual wars, redefined collective memories and identities based on (in)security from the virus as well as the threat of Sinicisation in East Asia.

Peacebuilding and the temporalities of climate change and conflict

Natascha Mueller-Hirth, Stephen Vertigans

(Robert Gordon University Aberdeen)

Climate change is widely considered a 'threat multiplier' that places increased stress on natural resources and the communities dependent on them with their livelihoods. As the UN's Pathways to Peace report found, this stress can jeopardise peacebuilding processes or increase the risks of violent conflict, especially in already fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Yet, in addition to providing livelihoods and development opportunities, natural resources have the potential to resolve conflicts by developing shared identities – referred to in recent scholarship and practice as environmental peacebuilding.

This paper develops a time-critical analysis of the climate change/ conflict nexus in the arid range lands of Northern Kenya. Here, agro-pastoralist violent conflict has intensified alongside increased temperatures and prolonged droughts. At the same time, traditional and community-based conflict resolution mechanisms have long acknowledged temporalities of environmental change, with seasonal strategic peace made to survive periods of scarcity. Bringing into conversation recent insights around the temporalities of conflict and peace with scholarship on climate change, the paper examines the intersections of environmental, political and developmental times, and the challenges and potential they present for peacebuilding, in pastoralist regions of Northern Kenya.

Contesting views of nonviolence and envisioning future movements: The case of Hong Kong's Democracy Movement

Anissa Yu

(University of Warwick)

Since the Umbrella Movement in 2014, Hong Kong has witnessed a gradual escalation in political conflicts. The summer of 2019 was marked with a variety of protest tactics: from the large-scale set up of Lennon Walls in different districts, political advertisements on international newspapers, blockades and Molotov cocktails in police-protester

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confrontations, to vandalism of government buildings. Observers of Hong Kong politics may find the regular and violent protests in the extradition law amendment controversy a stark contrast with the peaceful occupation in the Umbrella Movement. Why and how did the democracy movement turn violent in these five years?

The approach in this paper is to study movement escalation and interactions among factions in nonviolent resistance from a cultural perspective. How movement participants contested the idea of nonviolence resistance in the Umbrella Movement with their experience, and produced alternative visions (including militant resistance) to future political actions in Hong Kong? The imagination of 'militant resistance is possible' is thus considered as a product of negotiation between different discourses in the movement and among various movement actors, through the articulation of values, norms, and experiences. This paper argues that changes in the understanding of nonviolence paved the way for the experiment of violent tactics in post-Umbrella Movement era.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

Bazaars and e-commerce platforms: A case for India's question concerning technology

Maitrayee Deka

(University of Essex)

A late-capitalist structure vis-a-vis a rentier system has become a defining way to speak about the economic aspect of digital platforms that has a global and far-reaching effect. The paper provides a voice from the other side to focus on actors in the informal economy. This is a much-required perspective given that mainstream discourses have highlighted the voices of powerful actors and the 'unicorn' companies. As a result, we have the impression that the harmful or beneficial aspect of the platform economy has all but been analysed. In contrast, if we concentrate on the realities of a large section of the people in a country like India where the informal pursuits are still about 90% of the economy, there is a different scene unfolding. Based on an ethnographic account of Delhi's electronics bazaars, this paper argues that bazaars' engagement with the platform economy says something more significant about the technological question in India, particularly how non-elites—those outside the elite networks of political, corporates and professional middle class—'make do' with their inadequacies and limitations. There is an 'aura' around new technology until such times when survival concerns take over, at this point, technology appears basic and banal, a chaotic assemblage requiring a hands-on and almost an irreverent approach. The paper traces the trajectory of the exchanges between informal bazaar actors and e-commerce platforms to outline the popular moral and material conditions of technological futures in the Global South.

ICT Use in Third Sector Organisations - A Systematic Review of the Research

Silke Roth, Sarah Hewitt, Sophie Stalla-Bourdillon, Lorna Fielker

(University of Southampton)

COVID-19 has accelerated the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Third Sector organisations (TSOs). We present findings from a systematic review of leading TSO and social movement studies journals concerning the use of ICT. We identify what practices of ICT use have been studied and with what methods. Our systematic review suggests that research and methods of studying ICT use in these fields have so far been limited. Research published in sociologically informed third sector and social movement studies journals has primarily focused on social media (twitter, facebook) and the methodological repertoire of studying the use of ICT and social media in these fields has been limited. ICT and social media have been used to collect information about organisations and campaigns and recruit research participants. Furthermore, activists are surveyed and interviewed about ICT use, and content analyses of social media have been carried out. In the social science literature, fewer studies employ visualisation techniques or data mining. Furthermore, the ethical dimensions of studying ICT use and social media are hardly addressed. Our presentation starts out with distinguishing different forms of ICT use and data in TSOs and SMOs, followed by an overview over the methodologies that have been employed. We conclude that whereas information and communication studies and computer science analyse a wider repertoire of ICT use of TSOs, the coverage of ICT use in the leading third sector and social movement studies journals has been limited. We advocate more interdisciplinary collaboration.

Citizenship in a Digital Age: The Politicisation of User Experience on the Dark-Net Marketplace

George Smith

BSA Annual Virtual Conference 2021: Remaking the Future
70th Anniversary

(SOAS)

Exploring the emerging phenomenon of hidden online marketplaces, known as Darknet Markets, I ask what it means to be a citizen in a digital age. In the wake of our digital age the fight for a human future looks uncertain. The age of surveillance capitalism has brought with it a new strain of power, one which Byung-Chul Han has named “smart power” and Shoshana Zuboff, “instrumentarian power”. Han has called neoliberalism the capitalism of “Like”, while Zuboff has equally noted the friendly permissibility of this new strain. Nonetheless, both agree the coercion afforded from its total panoptic omniscience leaves its digital citizens disenfranchised. In this context, I investigate the darknet life-worlds which have been created, both as acts of resistance and as simulations of a new utopia, a revival of the dreams of early techno-optimists. Through various ethnographic vignettes I speak to hackers, vendors, and users of the marketplace who view their (often illegal) acts as forms of direct-action – combining, for the first time, activism and virtual reality. I conceptualise these interlocutors as new digital citizens, ones which seemingly transcend the boundaries of the nation state and exist in a parallel world which is at once detached from, and yet umbilically attached to, the actual world. I make several conclusions about our digital selves in a world which increasingly asks us to blur the lines between virtual and actual.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

A Misfitted Understanding: Developing A Future of Critical Autism Research Through Feminist Disability Studies

Owen McGill
(University of Strathclyde)

“Disability, like femaleness, is not a natural state of corporeal inferiority, inadequacy, excess, or a stroke of misfortune” (Garland-Thomson, 2001). The study of Disability as a field and activism has branched beyond the reductivist overlook of positivist and medicalised thought in the last two decades. While Critical Disability Studies has drawn on disability models and activism to develop its pivotal adaptation in thought and knowledge of disability (Goodley, 2013) other paradigms have further moulded disability studies. Feminist Disability Studies (FDS) draws challenges to the constructed materiality of bodies and disability as somehow ‘less’ through challenging stigmatised perceptions of disability, body and gender.

One area which has remained largely uninvolved or unaddressed through an FDS lens is the field of autism research. Understanding autism as more than a diagnosed condition has been at the core of recent developments in autism research. Sociological thought has shown a robust and meaningful engagement with autistic lives. Theoretical constructs such as the Double Empathy Problem (Milton, 2012) have constructed an opposition to certain diagnostic criteria such as impairments in communication. My own research seeks to expand the current knowledge base of autistic school experiences through engagement with autistic girl’s early education reflections. In building the research engaging a Feminist lens has been vital to development of a more nuanced approach to understanding autistic lives. Looking forward, the paper will consider how Critical Autism research can benefit from more solid grounding and engagement with FDS in conceptualising and comprehending the lived experiences of autistic individuals.

The making of the activist disabled subject in English higher education.

Francesca Peruzzo, Rille Raaper
(UCL - Institute of Education)

Higher education has become increasingly positional, both in terms of disabled students’ professional opportunities and identity formation. Despite the progressive equality developments of the Equality Act (2010) and the Inclusive Teaching and Learning in Higher Education as a route to Excellence (2017), discrimination is still present in terms of disabled students’ access to and experience of university, with only 13% disabled students within the overall student population in the UK in 2018/2019 (Osborne 2019).

In this paper, we explore how this persistent marginalisation has triggered a wave of activism among disabled students, who, just before the advent of the pandemic, had organised in a structured movement, Disabled Students UK (DSUK), to act against ableist practices in higher education (Dolmage, 2017).

Drawing on Foucault’s (1991) governmentality approach, we use qualitative analysis of in-depth interviews with eight disabled students and documentary data produced by DSUK to explore disability activism and the formation of activist

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disabled students as political subjects. The findings demonstrate disability discrimination in a 'hybrid reality' of the pandemic that has created more accessible spaces but also exposed the historic ableism in university practices that ultimately motivate and hinder students' political action.

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“Periods don’t stop for pandemics”: Remaking the Future of Menstrual Activism

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(University of Sheffield)

Menstrual advocacy has long aimed to alleviate social inequalities amongst menstruators and eradicate the menstrual stigma and shame that is perpetuated by the mainstream media. The pandemic, however, has exacerbated social inequalities and created new barriers for activists. In March 2020, grassroots activities in communities and schools came to a halt. Activists had to quickly rethink how to achieve their objectives through digital means and social distancing. With a view to rethinking the future of menstrual activism, this paper presents findings from 25 interviews with menstrual advocates that were conducted between May and September 2020. Drawing on sociological work within the field of menstruation studies, such as by Chris Bobel and Breanne Fahs, this paper examines the opportunities and obstacles encountered by these 25 activists as a result of Covid-19. For instance, as one interviewee argued, the move to online events has been an equaliser for disabled menstruators who can now more easily take part in activism. As the media is a key vehicle for activists, this paper also examines the future role the media could play in changing societal attitudes towards menstruation. For example, many interviewees expressed the importance of increased representation of BAME menstruators. Overall, this paper argues that, despite the many problems that the pandemic posed, such as difficulties in accessing marginalised communities, it also offered the opportunity for activists to critically reflect on their practices and to strive to remake a better future for menstruators.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 2

Intersectionality and COVID-19: Relative Well-Being

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Based on the concept of intersectionality (Crenshaw 1989), the argument proposes that the matrix of intersectional status inform and predict inequalities in social life (Carastathis 2013; Cho et al. 2013). Researchers argue the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed, and to some extent exacerbated, existing inequalities (Laurencin & McClinton 2020). Yet, inequalities are based on relative understandings, which then frame perceptions of inequality itself (Mackenbach 2015; Wilkinson 1997). In this paper, we examine the relationship between the matrix of intersectional status (e.g. positionality) and changes in well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic. Research examining intersectionality argues negative outcomes are more evident among underprivileged or minority groups. As such, the research uses single-level regression analysis to examine intersecting social inequalities (Evans et al. 2020). Thus, within an intersectional frame, the analysis examines changes in subjective well-being during the global health crisis, COVID-19. Our results indicate that measures of well-being were informed by context of intersectional positionality, rather than positionality itself. In other words, changes in well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic differed in relative terms among minority males yet showed no change among women overall. Furthermore, age, financial (in)security, parental status, and social networks were shown to be significant in changes in well-being as well.

Cliques, cronyism and conspiracies: ‘private spaces’ and public scrutiny

Mike Sheaff

(University of Plymouth)

The “conspiracy theory of society” was described by Karl Popper as, “the view that whatever happens in society ... are the results of direct design by some powerful individuals or groups’ (Conjectures and Refutations). The complexity of social phenomena, he argued, made such reasoning absurd.

Nonetheless, there can be little doubt that powerful individuals and groups will seek outcomes that further their interests, frequently involving collaboration with others. With around one-third of British public expenditure now spent on the purchase of goods and services from external suppliers, relationships between government and these organisations are of crucial importance.

Yet these processes are mostly shielded from public view. Building on previous research (Sheaff, 2017 and 2019), and using data from freedom of information requests, this paper explores policy-making relating to NHS properties. Disclosed information, and other data, suggest a significant role for powerful individuals, including ones having extensive corporate networks. However, options that were apparently considered, including transfer to a private company, appear to have been constrained by other influences.

Suggesting the relevance of Polanyi’s ‘double movement’, involving marketization and social protection, the research was inhibited by the withholding of some information on the grounds that a ‘private space’ is required for the formulation of government policy. I argue that in the context of increased marketization, and evidence of mistrust of those in authority, some of these spaces must be opened up to public scrutiny.

Sociology of Education

The current and future shape of the sociology of education

David James
(Cardiff University)

The BSA’s 70th anniversary year comes just after the 40th anniversary of the British Journal of Sociology of Education, an occasion recently celebrated with a Special Issue of that journal entitled ‘The current and future shape of the sociology of education’. The twelve contributions include some of the longest established and well-known scholars in the sociology of education. They encompass a range of empirical and theoretical matters, and whilst some of the achievements and growth of the sub-discipline are celebrated, considerable attention is also paid to more troubling themes and there is an invitation to engage in some deep reflexivity. These more troubling themes include such matters as: the relationship between research and policy; that between sociology and the sociology of education; the degree to which the academic field reproduces some of the structural inequalities it seeks to identify and/or ameliorate; how academic integrity might be maintained or enhanced in the face of technocratic, ‘what works’ conceptions of social life.

In this presentation and discussion, the journal’s editor will introduce some key themes from this cross-section of recent scholarship, outlining some of the ‘ways forward’ for the sub-discipline that are suggested within and beyond the special issue itself and which the journal’s Executive Editors would wish to encourage and support.

James, D. (2020) ‘40th Anniversary Special Issue: the current and future shape of the sociology of education’ British Journal of Sociology of Education 41(6), pp. 757-767.

Dichotomies of disability and ageing in the teaching and discourses of digital accessibility

Sarah Lewthwaite, Angharad Butler-Rees
(University of Southampton)

COVID-19 has brought about unprecedented change in our society and the mediating role of technology in everyday life. The pandemic has left many, especially older and disabled people, isolated and reliant on digital platforms and services which are not always accessible. Digital accessibility is a technical discipline within Human Computer Interaction that seeks to make technologies accessible to all. Yet within teaching, disability and ageing are frequently articulated separately. Technical communities recognise a need to consider the ways in which accessibility and inclusive design practices must cater for both groups, yet they are rarely inter-related. This paper considers this discursive divide within accessibility. We broach where there is capacity for these boundaries to be more productively and critically engaged. To elucidate the issues, we draw upon qualitative research with international pedagogic leaders, to ask where older people fit within contemporary discourses of accessibility teaching. This is theorised, in light of the biopolitics of Web accessibility standards, and their pedagogic influence in a context of ‘digital first’ public services, growing regulatory

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frameworks, compliance culture and litigation in industry. What are the pedagogic roles of such standards, and how do teachers negotiate and answer the subtle hierarchies of impairment and ageing that standards can convey? How can the socio-technical and cultural experiences of disability and ageing be imbricated and realised within this frame, to build a more inclusive digital future? We invite delegates to engage in this dialogue and discussion.

The library [re]classified: considering the library's significance in the futures of Higher Education and Civil Society

Katherine Quinn

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Libraries sit at the intersection of processes concerning public education, knowledge and space and should be critically considered in research concerning both Higher Education and Civil Society. Within Sociology the [academic] library has been largely overlooked, being subject to somewhat clichéd representations as neutral, instrumental sanctuaries on the one hand, or figuring only tangentially within criticisms of academic publishing practices, on the other. In research concerning sociology of public space and civil society, work often considers the [public] library primarily as a through-way to studying other topics, like multi-culturalism, migration, austerity.

Drawing on the findings of my doctoral ethnography of a joint-use public-academic library (The Hive in Worcester), my paper has three elements. Firstly, I expand upon the significance of thinking with libraries as sites of sociological importance within live debates into the future of formal and informal public education. Secondly, I present my theorisation of "classificatory practices". Here, I bring an Affect Theory approach to an empirical study. Classificatory practices refers to both the "hard" structures of classification that underlay the infrastructures of libraries as places of learning (what and whose knowledge belongs and where), and to the live and in-the-making processes of en/closure, belonging, and negotiation that characterise the way different groups of people move through and in library spaces and knowledges. Thirdly, I reflect on what attending to these moments of classification tells us about the re/creation of educational and public spaces, and outline - with reference to university public engagement imperatives – the possibilities offered therein.

Enhancing the role of political consulting in preparation future sociologists

Larisa Vdovichenko

(Russian State University for the Humanity)

The directions and tasks of training future sociologists in the 21st century are expanding significantly. This happens, firstly, due to the diversification of their places of work. In addition to traditional areas of employment in centers for the study of public opinion, research and educational institutions, sociological services at enterprises, sociologists have become more often invited to work in state legislative and executive bodies, local government, parties, and social movements, in business, the media, and other organizations. Second, employers' requirements for their potential cadres of sociologists are increasing. Now employers make much higher demands on sociologists than it used to be: a broad outlook, knowledge of the problems of the industry in which they are invited, the ability to analyze, predict and assess problem situations and policy-making documents. Employers want sociologists who have the skills to prepare draft decisions, programs, the ability to assess the effectiveness and consequences of policies in various areas of political practice, PR and GR skills to ensure activities and consulting work in government and business, as well as in the field social communications. Nowadays, in many developed countries, sociological consultants earn more than just pollsters, who conduct traditional empirical research. Sociological consultants are also more in demand in the job market. These trends are also evident in Russia. The study of these trends is based on an analysis of educational and professional standards of sociologists of a new generation, as well as surveys of employers expressing their requirements for their potential sociological employees from universities.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

WELLNESS AT WORK

Addressing discrimination at work: avoidance, withdrawal behaviour and COVID-19

Alysia Blackham

(University of Melbourne)

COVID-19 continues to exacerbate existing inequalities at work, particularly for women, those with caring responsibilities, older and younger workers, and those with disabilities. The virus itself, and government responses to the virus, have intensified workplace inequalities and precarity. For those in occupations where working from home is possible, COVID-19 potentially heralds a new era of work inclusivity; for those who cannot work from home, though, COVID-19 is likely to magnify issues of work precarity, under-employment and labour market withdrawal. These effects and impacts are having a disproportionate impact on those with multiple inequalities.

A key regulatory tool for addressing workplace inequalities is equality law. However, equality law is primarily dependent on individual enforcement to address discrimination and unequal treatment. While the individual enforcement model is flawed in a myriad of ways, it fundamentally depends on individuals experiencing discrimination. Drawing on statistical analysis of Australian Bureau of Statistics data on avoidance, and the findings of a multi-year socio-legal mixed-method study of the enforcement of age discrimination law in the UK and Australia, this paper considers the way individuals respond to experiences of discrimination, and how this might undermine or challenge the framing of the individual enforcement model. Using theories of avoidance and withdrawal behaviour, this paper argues that individual enforcement is unlikely to capture most instances of discrimination at work. Given these findings, it reflects on the likely consequences of COVID-19 on workplace inequalities, and proffers alternative regulatory mechanisms for promoting equality.

The Commercialisation of Knowledge Work: Risk and Implications for Worker Wellbeing in Modern Organisations: The Case of Academia

Sallyann Halliday
(Leeds Beckett University)

We live in uncertain times. Work is changing at a rapid pace. The ability of workers to perform within their work roles within organisations depends on mental wellbeing, personal resilience and adaptability. Given the argument that new forms of work often demand substantially more from the worker, workers may find that the level of job demands has increased dramatically (Tausig, 2013, p.440). Managing and coping with stressful roles, decisions and environments is an inherent feature of modern work roles and those workers who can best cope with these stressors stand the best chance of not only surviving but of succeeding (Hunter and Chaskalson, 2013).

This paper explores the implications of these issues within the context of the UK HE sector. In these turbulent and economic and social times with increased pressure in all employment contexts to satisfy the 'customer', the nature of the work in academia is of interest.

The nature of tasks that academic workers are required to carry out has changed, as well as the way that their work activities are organised. There is a need for constant updating and upskilling – arguably, the requirement for workers to become what Castells (1996) termed 'reprogrammable labour'.

The paper argues for increased mental well-being training/support for academic workers. It seeks to build on arguments already put forward that suggest that effective well-being approaches adopted by organisations should involve integrating health and well-being considerations into every aspect of how HE organisations operate, including leadership, culture and people management (CIPD, 2016, p.3).

Lean In or Just Leave? Work, Wellness and Wanting Otherwise

Rachel O'Neill
(University of Warwick)

The bestselling manifesto-cum-memoir-cum-manual *Lean In* (2013) by Facebook COO Sheryl Sandberg received extraordinary media attention on publication and has informed public discourse on women and work ever since. Grounded in Sandberg's own experiences navigating the male-dominated environs of Silicon Valley to eventually become a major industry player, the book advises women how to climb the corporate ladder. This paper explores the seemingly divergent but nevertheless related phenomenon of women leaving corporate jobs in order to pursue careers in 'wellness', an industry that has expanded dramatically in the UK in recent years. Drawing on interviews with established and aspiring wellness workers, and focusing on an especially privileged stratum within this cohort, I discuss the motivations and experiences of those leaving jobs in sectors such as finance, pharmaceuticals, professional services and PR to start businesses centred around health-enhancement. Rather than acceding to the *Lean In* dictum to become powerful actors in elite organisations – touted as a route to gender equality – these women are in some sense attempting to live and work otherwise. For many, the appeal of wellness work is its promise to blend passion and purpose, creativity

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and care; in short, they see wellness as an escape from and antidote to work that is pointless and polluting – a vision not necessarily realized in reality. Analytically, the paper charts shifting manifestations of ‘illegible rage’ in the continuing ‘aftermath of feminism’ (McRobbie 2009), illuminating the intersectional dimensions of what anthropologist David Graeber famously termed ‘bullshit jobs’ (2018).

Covid and the loss of a Sense of Coherence

Francisca Veale

(University of Gloucestershire)

The paper focuses on the impact of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic on people’s work-life balance and their sense of coherence (SoC). The pandemic has changed everyone’s lives in one or many ways and might lead to long-lasting trauma for individuals or whole communities. Work-life balance as it was known has been thrown out of its balance, and the term ‘new normal’ has entered people’s language. Not only is it ‘new’ but nobody knows how long it lasts. Many are worried about how work is going to be conducted during these times of uncertainty. Those who can work from home having to change their work and personal life arrangements to establish a new kind of work-life balance. New virtual communities have developed in order to stay connected on a personal level as well as using virtual platforms to continue work where possible.

The familiarity, routine, and known factors of working in an office environment with colleagues, the community spirit that may have been part of their professional or personal life has most likely lost its SoC. Antonovsky (1985) argued that a SoC is a key factor in maintaining health and wellbeing, meaning: a) to see life events as comprehensible, b) being able to manage life’s challenges, and b) to give meaning to their life. But, the ‘meaningfulness’ not only of our lives but also our work life has been impacted by the Covid pandemic. For many, the crisis has spiralled out of their Spheres of Control (Covey 2004).