BSA

Crisis, Continuity and Change

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ruha Benjamin
- Princeton University

Lynne Segal
- Birkbeck, University of London

PLENARY PANEL

AI Panel:
Jenny Davis - Vanderbilt University
Vassilis Galanos - University of Edinburgh
Susan Halford - University of Bristol
Dan McQuillan - Goldsmiths, University of London
Lucy Suchman - Lancaster University

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BSA Annual Conference 2024
Crisis, Continuity and Change

Abstract Book
Thursday 4 April 2024

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then alphabetically by Stream name

Accurate as of 28 March 2024. Any further changes to the programme will be
made periodically in the lead up to the conference.

Stream Plenaries
09:15 - 10:15

Environment & Society - Room 3

Time and Temporality in the Anthropocene

Nigel Clark, Bronislaw Szerszynski
(Lancaster University)

This plenary considers sociological and social science interventions on temporality in the anthropocene at a point when climate change is altering our perceptions and experiences of time. Temporal boundaries such as seasonality and cycles are being destabilised alongside traditional notions of linear and recursive time, whilst entrenched narratives around ecology are being challenged by feminist, decolonial and indigenous scholars (Agathangelou and Killian 2022) and geological histories (Irvine 2020).

The sense of urgency and mobilisation around crisis is as much about disrupted rhythms of daily more-than-human life and the material-temporalities of everyday things, as it is about deep time, unequal racial-capitalist histories, and environmental futures. Yet, climate change appears increasingly constituted by unstable and contradictory temporal scales - short-termist chronopolitics Vs long-term planetary impacts; epochs, generations and lifespans; accelerationism and degrowth; and multiple beginnings and ends.

This plenary will be a discussion with the authors of *Planetary Social Thought: The Anthropocene Challenge to the Social Sciences* (2020), Professor Nigel Clark and Professor Bronislaw Szerszynski, chaired by Dr Audrey Verma. The plenary will reflect on the links between time and ecology that are central to sociological understandings of climate change, and how this might facilitate approaches that engender humility (Jasanoff 2022), multiplicity (Clark and Szerszynski 2021) and hope.

Chair: Audrey Verma, Newcastle University

Families & Relationships - Room 4

Instigating change through contexts of crises in young fatherhood research: the methodological power of qualitative longitudinal impact research and co-creation

Anna Tarrant
(University of Lincoln)

In this plenary, Anna presents cutting-edge sociological research based on a UKRI Future Leaders Fellowship study, Following Young Fathers Further. As an innovation and research fellowship, Following Young Fathers Further, has advanced both substantive and methodological agendas to enhance knowledge and understanding of young fatherhood and to progress the idea of father-inclusive societies, based on this evidence. Building on the Following Young Fathers baseline study (Neale and Lau Clayton, 202-15) and other linked and cumulative studies, that will be introduced, the study has captured the parenting journeys and support needs of young fathers, aged 25 and under, for well over a decade. This has enabled the analysis of the dynamics of young fathers' parenting journeys and the evolution of their trajectories in terms of parenting, relationships with family, education, employment and training, housing, offering a complex view of change and continuity over time and across their parenting journeys against a backdrop of multiple crises. One continuity is the stigma and 'problem' focus that permeates discourses of young fatherhood. Introducing new theoretical frameworks, informed by scholarship that is attentive to shifts towards caring and engaged fatherhood, Anna offers alternative theoretical frameworks, and the methodologies for embedding them, for the purposes of affecting change and transformation for young fathers and those who support them. In particular, she

will introduce the co-creation methodology, a participatory, evidence-based and interrogative process informed by sociological theories and concepts that involves young fathers and multi-agency professionals in advocacy and social change.

Methodological Innovations - Room 16

A New Dystopia of Data Science in Sociological Research? A Crisis of Path-dependent Evolution

Wendy Olsen
(University of Manchester)

UK Universities teach data science with linkages to/from the rest of the world. The BSA, too, is not limited to the United Kingdom. A new 'epistemic crisis' as I call it is that UK Sociology is being challenged by global 'Data Science'. In this paper, I discuss epistemology, ontology of macro/micro links, 'information' as the concept is used in data science, and employment implications. I explore each of these empirically. It would be a dystopia if the space and funding now allocated to UK sociology students were re-allocated to data science.

First data-science epistemic basics usually omit confirmatory hypothesis-testing. They tend to lead to data-driven research. However, expert peer review is one way of resisting the dumbing-down of confirmatory analysis. I define 'confirmatory' and 'exploratory', and show a middle ground where enquiring 'why' sits in a large overlapping region. My argument undermines the data-science epistemic foundation #1. Furthermore, reviewing the textbook literature also undermines supposedly 'exploratory' methods. (Association rules and factor analysis offer examples.) Hypothesis testing should be well-informed. In the globalised scene, this means engaging with multiple languages of research, media, and multiple types of audiences.

The scientist who engages with multiple stakeholders is well placed to engage in debates globally. By defining 'social data science' carefully I create bridges from the data science school of thought to the sociology schools of thought. For example, the sociologist makes macro/micro links, and so should a data scientist. I discuss strategic aspects of the role that sociologists can play. For example, we clear the ground for a mixture of inductive and deductive components in a clear, well-supported argument; we may implement falsification well (Mayo, 2016; Olsen, 2022); we may offer "information measures" to summarise structured datasets with multiple levels. I explore how data science views 'entropy' and 'informativeness', compared with how sociology views these, in research contexts.

Connections between micro and macro are promoted by United Nations when using social research results. It would be a crisis to ignore multiple languages in research – yet the non-English writings are often ignored. The macro aspect of global 'good' outcomes necessitates some multi-lingual research, but this prong is being rapidly shrunk in UK sociology.

The last prong of my argument is that social science and sociology strengthen the employment prospects of our graduates. Areas like 'social statistics' and 'social data science' form a middle ground, which can strengthen UK sociology students. They are indeed cognate or embedded in social sciences. Having rising numbers of Data Science students should not be allowed to sweep away the resources granted to university-level sociology, even during globalisation.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9

White Enclosures: What the Balkan Route tells us about the Contemporary State of Racial Capitalism and Global B/ordering

Piro Rexhepi
(University College London, School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies)

In the present moment, "crisis" is being reformulated and cemented as an endless state of being from which there is no escape. The deadly contemporary conjuncture, however, is connected to histories which show us that there is something left to fight for: crisis is both continuous and always connected to the possibility of change.

This plenary addresses the conference theme by inviting a speaker whose work sheds new light on contemporary bordering practices, examining oft-unheard stories of coloniality and decolonial resistance. Piro Rexhepi's book *White Enclosures: Racial Capitalism and Coloniality along the Balkan Route* (2023) locates the Balkan peninsula within global dynamics of race-craft, with implications not only for long-settled racialized minorities within the region but also for migrants whose exclusion from the European core is a tacit element of the Balkans' (promised) integration into the European project. By focusing on queer, Muslim, and Roma resistance to colonial logics, both in historical and contemporary context, Rexhepi brings a crucial and often missing perspective to our understanding of b/ordering and racial capitalism.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11

Crisis Modelling: Engaging the Social Theory of SIR models

Lukas Engelmann
(University of Edinburgh)

Infectious disease models have dominated the science-policy interface for Covid-19 in the UK and elsewhere. The field and its mathematical approaches have adopted an unprecedented authority over epidemic crisis, defining and domesticating how we govern and understand the threat of infectious disease. This ascent of modelling is often held to be detrimental to sociological and more equitable perspectives in epidemiology. As a 'reductive mechanism' (Anderson 2021) modelling threatens to make epidemics' variegated impact on society invisible, replacing the complexity and heterogeneity of social structures with simplistic compartmental visions of social organisation. While the increasing irrelevance of social epidemiology is indeed problematic, this paper seeks to set a sociological critique of modelling on more far-reaching grounds. Rather than to attest modellers a disregard of social theory, I explore the what kind of concepts of the social might be hard-coded into the construction of SIR (Susceptible-Infected-Recovered) models. This means to return models to their historical point of origin in an emerging concern about population dynamics at the beginning of the twentieth century. But it also requires an engagement with the implications of a theory of society and subjectivity that is anchored in a deep conceptual commitment to principles of contagion.

Paper Session 4
10:30 - 12:00

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

Who's Allowed In? Hospitality Workers as Gatekeepers of Public Toilet Access

Tig Slater, Charlotte Jones, Jill Pluquailec, Lauren White
(Around the Toilet Project (various universities))

Public toilet closures in the UK, brought about by austerity, have led to an increasing reliance upon private or commercial facilities, such as toilets in bars and cafes (Slater and Jones, 2018; White, 2019). Maintaining and monitoring these toilets has required additional labour for hospitality staff, something that was exacerbated and made more explicit during COVID-19 restrictions. In this paper, we share reflections from Beers, Burgers and Bleach: Hygiene, Toilets and Hospitality in the Time of COVID-19, a research project exploring the impact of additional cleaning and the monitoring of customer toilets during the pandemic. It draws on solicited work diaries and in-depth interviews with 21 UK hospitality staff between 2020-2021. We explore the role of hospitality workers as 'gatekeepers' in maintaining toilet spaces and facilitating access to essential, everyday provisions. We suggest the closure of council-funded toilets has meant that the hospitality sector has become a social infrastructure, whereby some workers see themselves as providing communities essential welfare facilities. This has particular implications for hospitality workers. Research participants described specific difficulties involved in monitoring toilet access: (1) discerning who was a 'deserving' and/or 'legitimate' toilet user; (2) feeling discomfort and/or risks of doing this work; and (3) concerns about inequity and who might be excluded. The toilet 'gatekeeper' role places individualised and difficult decisions upon the hospitality worker and shifts attention away from the urgent need for free, and unquestionable, access to public toilets.

Bookstores in Shanghai: The Dawn and Decline of Public Space (2001-2022)

Linjie Zhang
(University of Edinburgh)

This study investigates how bookstores become public spaces and the transformation of bookstores in Shanghai in recent two decades to reflect the dawn and decline of Chinese public space. With the development of digitalization, commodification, and globalization, studies of public space chanllenge Habermas's original definition of the public sphere. While the rise of hostile environments and neo-nationalism threaten public space, the public are more accessible to those living together and fighting for citizenship by engaging with public space. At the same time, as a result of pandemic, bookstores have expanded their physical space by using the internet to organize online events, creating more opportunities for the public to interact with each other. The boom and decline of semi-public spaces like bookstores can present political changes and urban modernization. However, the bookstore in Chinese context has not been fully discussed in the research of public space. This research addresses the following problems: (1) how publishers, intellectuals, bookstore managers and reading classes interact with each other in different kinds of bookstores(chain/independent/university bookstores); (2) how restrictions from the state affect bookstores providing spaces for the public to discuss social issues; (3) via the Internet, how virtual public space benefits to physical public space under the age of COVID-19. Empirically, it shows how the   wax   and   wane of   bookstores   map   onto   the   history   of Shanghai. Theoretically, through exploring everyday practices happening in bookstores, this research responds to   studies on   throwntogetherness and   urban   citizenship in   the   public space given the Chinese situation.

Mapping 'the Streets': Young Female Rappers and Violence in East London

Baljit Kaur
(The London School of Economics and Political Science)

Between June 2019 and March 2020, I conducted ethnographic research as part of my PhD to explore the ways in which working-class young people narrated their lived experiences of violence through music, in particular rap music. The research was conducted at Bass Youth Club* in the East London borough of Rowe, where its multi-million-pound creative youth space made available free programmes for young people. Using Yusef Bakkali's (2019) conceptualisation of the munpain and Maria Tumarkin's (2019) conceptualisation of the traumascape, my findings revealed that structural inequalities and ongoing everyday forms of traumatising violence, constitute the internal worlds and experiences of my interlocutors, and the physical sites in which they are happening. In the same breath, my research revealed that there are various barriers that hinders the presence of young women in the music studio and continues to silence their stories. I will thus draw on my ESRC-funded postdoctoral research (2023) which develops the spatial dimension of gendered everyday urban violence, as it is lived by young women, and produced through rap. The delivery of my contribution will be an oral presentation that includes a short film, co-produced with my interlocutors. The short film will reflect on the changing dynamics of gender, culture and social violence in Britain through the music and storytelling of young women.

*All names of people, places and affiliations with the youth club have been pseudonymised in order to maintain anonymity of the research participants to the best of my ability.

Then and Now: How Neighbourhood Deprivation in Youth Influences Attitudes towards Inequality

Anne-Marie Jeannet, Franco Bonomi Bezzo, Laura Silva
(Univeristy of Milan)

The purpose of this study is to reappraise what has been found in qualitative case studies through a quantitative analysis and to investigate the mechanisms linking experiences of collective material deprivation and attitudes towards inequality. Taking a Durkheimian view, we claim that individual attitudes not only depend on individual predispositions but also a) on the community where the individuals have grown up and b) on the community where individuals currently live. Drawing on existing research on political socialization, we claim that contemporary exposure to deprivation is important, as is exposure during childhood, due to its long-lasting effects on how individuals perceive the world around them later in adulthood. We investigate the differential relevance of community deprivation on two British cohorts, born in 1958 or in 1970. Our findings show that living in more affluent areas is associated with being less against inequality. Growing up in an affluent neighbourhood showcase similar, though smaller, effect. Interestingly, attitudes towards inequality are more strongly correlated with neighbourhood trajectories along the life course then individual social class trajectories. These effects tend to be larger for people born in the 1970s than for people born in the 1958. These results suggest that while people who have grown up in a phase of expansion of the Welfare state may have felt lower anxiety about inequality, those who have grown up during the full expression of Thatcherism might have developed stronger feelings towards inequality.

Emerging Themes - Room 16

A Crisis of Agency: Tipping Points of Cultural Neoliberalism

Mareike Zobel
(University of Cambridge)

The experience of multiple crises in the 21st century in the Global North, from financial collapse and COVID-19 to the climate crisis, populism and war, emphasises the importance of individual and collective agency for designing a better future. Yet while the practices of making of futures are diversifying, as Social Futures research shows, the guiding logics behind them, whether mainstream or critical, seem to gravitate towards an increasingly uniform rationale. Grounded in a qualitative analysis of environmental media discourses, my research revealed a 'crisis of agency', where our current,

neoliberal system (from everyday practice to the socio-economic world order) is experienced as so dominant that a sense of personal and collective agency requires intense personal effort – paradoxically reproducing the same neoliberal logics the actors and interviewees aim to criticise. Futures feel increasingly "locked-in" (Tutton 2017). Analogous to the ecological crisis, this paper asks whether we have reached a 'cultural tipping point', where the 'biodiversity' of social and economic rationalities has been reduced to an all-encompassing neoliberal logic that undermines all agency to build a radically different future. To address this question, I develop a concept of 'cultural neoliberalism' to describe a logic of self-affirmation, growth, and rewards that is translated from economic doctrine to cultural practices. I invite a discussion whether other participants' research mirrors or challenges my findings, and hope to share ideas how sociology can address this crisis of (future) agency. Drawing on my data, I propose posthumanist approaches as potential loopholes to an all-encompassing cultural neoliberalism.

Communities Responding to Crisis: Why Were Many Grassroots Organisations so Effective at Responding to the Crisis of the Early Pandemic?

Rose Rickford
(University of Oxford)

I present an empirically derived explanatory account of the ways in which grassroots community organisations (GRCOs) worked toward meeting need during the first Covid-19 lockdown in England and Wales. Based on comparative analysis of qualitative data from 40 different GRCOS, I argue that many were able to adjust quickly to changing need and adapt their work to meet specific and particular different needs, and that this was key to their ability to meet people's needs during the crisis of the early pandemic. They were flexible in their work and did not rely on rigid one-size-fits-all approaches. GRCO's ability to do this was related to their engagement in a relational response process, through which identifying and responding to need were done iteratively, through subject-subject relation. This was enabled by minimisation of hierarchy within organisations and by trusting frontline workers to use their judgment within a teleological framework. Enactment of the relational response process also relied on organisations being adequately resourced. I further argue that sources of funding that impel organisations to act towards purposes other than the needs of their communities, such as commissioning or selling of services, are a barrier to meeting need in a crisis because they can force organisations to choose between prioritising need and prioritising income. Provision of flexible grant funding to grassroots community organisations is therefore likely to be an effective policy for supporting communities to respond effectively to crisis.

Environment & Society - Room 3

Versions of the Right to Repair

Sebastian Abrahamsson
(Department of Sociology Uppsala University)

E-waste is the fastest growing waste stream globally. In a bid to solve the problem with discarded laptops, smartphones, tablets and other technologies, the Right to Repair has come to be framed as a viable way forward. But what is the Right to Repair? It is a social movement that joins concerned consumers, professional repairers, farmers and other groups together in an effort to reclaim the things they own. It is, in other words, about consumer autonomy. The Right to Repair is also a political ideal that is currently being translated into legislation in the EU and across states in the USA. In current waste management policy, the Right to Repair gets articulated as part of efforts to create circular flows of materials and resources. Finally, the Right to Repair is also a design ideal in the sense that repair relies on products and technologies that are repairable, modular and flexible. In this presentation, I map and analyse these versions of the Right to Repair to show the various concerns that push and pull this "right" in various directions and with various consequences. The aim of this mapping is to show how various concerns (e.g. consumer autonomy, sustainability, efficiency) shape public issues that get translated into policy and legislation. Doing so I pay special attention to what gets lost along the way of such translations.

The Regulation of Thermoregulation: Continuity, Change and Crisis in Thermal Cultures

Janine Morley
(Lancaster University)

How societies organise, provide for and seek to regulate human thermoregulation is a hot topic at the heart of multiple crises (energy security, carbon emissions, changing climates) and at the intersection of questions about health, equity, everyday life, politics and governance. Insights from sociology, particularly from the development of social practice theories have been influential in energy-related research, but the topic of thermal cultures, remains at best a niche concern within sociology. This is despite its resonance with theoretical developments in the sociology of consumption, the body, dress and materiality. In this paper, I draw on these areas to develop a conceptualisation of thermoregulation, usually conceived of as a physiological process, as one that is instead also deeply social: something that is organised, embedded and experienced in ways that vary according to shifting thermal cultures. In this light, I analyse changes and continuities in 'socio-thermoregulation' among UK residents during the autumn and winter of 2022/23, a period that saw steep rises in energy costs. I then consider how such private practice at home intersects with national governance and global crises, contrasting the UK's libertarian approach with European countries that sought to directly regulate the parameters for heating and air conditioning in certain building, in the process engaging different frames of legitimacy and contestation in the ongoing responses to energy security, affordability and decarbonisation, and in the face of rapidly warming climates. I conclude with a discussion of these tensions and ask how sociology can contribute to this important topic.

Air Space: Creating a Community-Integrated Network of Interdisciplinary Research on Socio-Atmospherics

David Dobson, Stephen Hicks
(University of Manchester)

Although significant sociological attention has been given to environmental, economic and social crises, it is often at the local scale that such dynamics play out in everyday lives. 'Air Space', an inter-disciplinary research project based at the University of Manchester, is investigating the ways in which concerns about air quality/pollution, attempts to address this in urban design and the inequalities that emerge concerning health and social care impacts, play out in the everyday lives of local residents and community groups. This is because concerns about environmental pollution/impact, a range of health and social inequalities, sustainability and the ways in which communities and cities are designed and experienced have all highlighted how atmospheres and, particularly, air are vital. Taking a focus on the question of air quality, this paper adopts Mason's (2018) socio-atmospherics approach to investigate community concerns regarding aspects of air quality/pollution and various community-led actions or responses. Based upon a scoping review of existing research and qualitative data generated via walking interviews/go-alongs, focus groups and sketching/photography, this paper links the current range of scholarship on air and atmospherics to how local residents in inner-city Manchester make sense of and respond to inequalities that emerge in particular spatial, economic and community contexts. In this way, the project engages in citizen social science in order to guide future air and atmospherics research agendas.

Mason, J. (2018) Affinities: Potent Connections in Personal Life, Cambridge: Polity Press.

Families & Relationships – Room 4

When Care-Creep Equals Crisis-Creep

Hazel Wright
(Anglia Ruskin University)

In contemporary society we seem to stumble from crisis to crisis; defined often as a sudden worsening of a condition, a turning point; as something dangerous, a critical incident or threat. But for individuals, crisis can have a more gradual onset shaped as it is by a person's perceptions, experiences, and emotional resilience. It is this type of crisis that I consider here.

I care for an elderly relative – not from choice but from duty. It is increasingly onerous and my aptitude for the task is continually questioned by both of us. I talk of care-creep, a label adapted from my geographical past where soil-creep refers to the slow but perpetual attrition of a slope through wind, rain, and gravity action. My independence is similarly eroded. Living amidst an inexorably deteriorating situation, "care-creep" becomes "crisis-creep", too. Therein lie the continuity and change; matters remain constantly difficult and slowly get worse.

Sharing the load with relatives just makes everyone miserable. A problem shared is just extended in a family context, not halved as the idiom suggests. Friends can listen supportively, not being directly involved. Not so family. Sharing just spreads the gloom.

I seek solutions but it is easier to talk about 'walking away' than to do it. Yet I clock up miles, tramping until I reach a state of mindless tranquillity and again breathe freely. Late at night I write, documenting, describing, storying, finding resolution through spilling out words, a creative antidote to frustration. I share the process here.

Discourses of New-Era Family and Fertility Ideologies in China under the Three-Child Policy

Xiaowan Cang
(University of Oxford)

This paper charts the normative and discursive environment in which women navigated their reproductive lives in China under the pro-natalist Three-Child Policy. By examining the public discourse that the Party-state is constructing through its language and its use of personnel in various interventions to precipitate and help along the change in the new family planning policy and the wider society, this study reveals how diverse discourses feed into each other and evolve together reflecting, shaping and reinforcing the demographic reality and public perceptions after different population policy concessions. This paper is based on interviews with cadres of the All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) and the cultural departments in several subdistrict governments.

I argue that on the one hand, rhetorically, family structures and functions are gradually redefined in a new normalisation procedure where the state aims to construct neo-familial nationalism that designates and instructs families as legitimate agents to reproduce morally righteous and politically loyal citizens while relying on multiple exploitations of women. On the other hand, in practice, being marginalised both institutionally and financially, ACWF cadres have little capacity to innovate with measures to further a new childbearing-friendly culture. They merely resign themselves to implementing the top-down mandates of the Party-state that is too patriarchal to comprehend what is needed by women to want to or feel able to have more children. Therefore, the more the paternalistic state promotes a heteronormative family image, the less real and material impacts it could have on women as reproductive subjects to form families.

The Moral, the Political and Social Licence in Digitally-Driven Family Policy and Intervention: Parents Negotiating Experiential Knowledge and 'Other' Families

Rosalind Edwards, Val Gillies
(University of Southampton)

The governance of families has long revolved around the recording and categorisation of their lives, but digital technology has transformed exponentially the way that families can be understood and targeted by government agencies. Increasingly, electronic linkage of public administrative records and application of predictive analytics for the operational purpose of identifying families for service intervention is promoted. The shift in how families are related to by the state has been significant.

In this paper we provide a conceptually-informed and empirical critique of the pursuit of social licence as to provide a warrant for data linkage and predictive analytics in the morally charged field of family policy intervention. We draw on our research project, focusing on parental views of digitally-driven family governance in the UK. We identify the notion of consensus that undergirds the concept of social licence that acts to obscure inequalities and silence conflict, and to reframe digital surveillance and prediction as a moral rather than political issue. Using focus group and individual interview material, we show how parents assert professional or lay experiential knowledges in making judgements about the legitimacy of and trust in operational data technologies, involving struggles between positionings as

parents like 'us' and 'other' parents. Parents have different leverages from these unequal and morally charged social locations. Inevitably, social licence is unobtainable; fractured by entrenched social divisions and power inequalities.

Lifecourse - Room 6

Discourses of Authenticity and Acceptance in Men's Understandings of Hair Loss

Paul Hodkinson, Matt Hall
(University of Surrey)

Detailed qualitative research on how men experience, understand and adapt to the process of going bald is limited, but some studies suggest the process can be a turbulent and distressing one (Muscarella and Cunningham 1996; DeMuro-Mercon et al 2000; Ricciardelli 2011). Against this context, the Journeys of Hair Loss project, funded by the British Academy, has sought to explore men's experiences of hair loss through in depth interviews and photo elicitation with 32 men between 18 and 49. The project takes a temporal approach focused on experience of hair loss as a process that develops over time and in relation to other biographical developments.

This paper explores the importance of discourses of authenticity and notions of acceptance as part of many men's developing understandings of, and responses to, going bald. Connecting closely with negotiations of masculinities, such narratives highlight the importance of accepting and embracing hair loss, and of conveying such acceptance to others. Conversely, the exhibition of denial, struggle or resistance to hair loss, whether by others or their former selves, often was rendered problematic or difficult terrain. The paper explores the role such understandings played as part of many men's negotiations of hair loss over time, highlighting how discourses about acceptance and balding authentically could both afford and preclude agency – and could connect to either to the alleviation or exacerbation of struggles with the process.

Longitudinal Productive Trajectories of Chinese Older Adults

Xinyi Chen
(National University of Singapore)

Productive aging encourages older adults to continue engaging in productive activities after retirement. While many studies with Chinese data discuss this Western concept, its fit for the Chinese context is debated. Moreover, scant attention has been given to the combination of different types of activities simultaneously and the potential shifts throughout the "post-retirement" years. To fill these gaps, this study adopts data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) to understand the trajectories of productive aging among Chinese older adults. Employing the growth mixture modeling, five distinct trajectories – caregivers, double-burden carriers, low engagers, declining workers, and steady workers – are identified to encapsulate the dynamic productive statuses of this population. Findings highlight the consistent role of caregiving among the elderly, especially in the caregivers and double-burden groups, while work engagement generally shows a declining trend. Notably, traditional gender roles play a pivotal role, with women being less likely to engage in work compared to men. Socioeconomic determinants, particularly rural household registration (hukou) status, influence the productive aging process, prompting considerations on voluntariness of post-retirement working. Additionally, family dynamics, wealth, and health are found to exert significant influences on these trajectories. This research underscores the necessity of a nuanced, culturally-sensitive understanding of productive aging, with implications for policy and future research. Findings and perspectives of this study resonate with other Asian contexts where cultures and norms regarding old age productivity differ from their western counterparts.

Recalibrating Temporalities of Risk: The Competing Risks of (Not) Drinking For Australian Women Pre-Midlife before and During COVID-19

Kristen Foley, Megan Warin, Paul R. Ward, Belinda Lunnay
(Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing (Torrens University Australia))

Experiences of time and risk during the COVID-19 pandemic were volatile; exacerbated by lockdowns resulting in working from home, social distancing and home schooling. This manuscript explores embodied temporalities of risk before and during the pandemic in relation to the competing risks of (not) drinking for Australian women pre-midlife (aged 25-44). Layered inferential analyses of our data, collected at four timepoints pre- and during- the COVID-19 pandemic, enabled illumination of the horizons of risk in women's lives (broadly construed) and the ways these were recalibrated during the pandemic to manage its gendered stressors. Findings from our longitudinal research suggest that subjectivities of the future changed during the pandemic. Long-future risks like breast cancer faded from view or were looked past as shorter-future risks with more immediate consequences emerged (i.e. viral transmission, surviving the emotional/relational labours of lockdown). Examining how the multiple time-framings of risk co-exist on the horizons for women in pre-midlife – and changed during the pandemic – advances scholarship on how (gendered) temporalities of risk are reflexively embodied in daily life.

Medicine, Health & Illness Special Event – Room 7

Navigating Queer Life during COVID-19

Ingrid Young, James Cummings, Karenza Moore, Dylan Kneale, Laia Bécares, Jamie Hakim, Zafi Moore
(University of Edinburgh, University of York, Newcastle University, University College London, Kings College London)

The crisis of COVID-19 resulted in dramatic and largely unprecedented public health interventions and community responses between 2020 and 2022. However, the burdens (health, economic, social) of this 'shared' crisis were not experienced evenly; those disproportionately affected by the pandemic can be traced – significantly – along recognizable patterns of inequalities, specifically race, gender, sexuality, socio-economic, age, and disability axes. As the data on health outcomes over the past few years and testimony from the COVID-19 enquiry shows, the pandemic laid bare and exacerbated the social, economic and cultural inequalities of the UK.

However, this crisis took place at a conjuncture of other major social disruptions, namely: Brexit and the increased xenophobia facilitated by a hostile environment towards migrants and non-UK citizens; ten years of UK Conservative government austerity policy that directly affected the capacity of the welfare state, and communities, to cope with a global health crisis; the global response to the Black Lives Matter movement and calls for racial equity; and a ramping up of 'culture wars' rhetoric. Indeed, we have seen an increase in attacks on LGBTQ – or queer – communities, in particular on (but not limited to) trans communities, including rescinding of trans health provision and threats to curtail and/or remove existing rights and equalities protections.

This convergence of political and social crises, alongside a global pandemic, have directly impacted the daily lives of queer communities in the UK. This special event seeks to understand how queer communities – of all shapes and sizes – have navigated their lives during COVID-19, at the conjuncture of these ongoing crises and what strategies of resistance they employed? We ask: how did queer communities fare during COVID-19, during periods of heightened restrictions (e.g. lockdowns, physical distancing) as well as periods of emergence into a world that slowly moved away from COVID-19 precautions? What can we learn from the intimate and collective experiences of queer communities who endured such a period and what does this tell us about queer resilience and resistance?

This panel draws across three research studies undertaken since 2020 that look explicitly at queer lives during COVID-19. Dylan Kneale, and Laia Becares will share findings from the Queerantine study, revealing what impact a hostile environment had on LGBTQ communities. Digital intimacies (Hakim, Cummings & Young) explored how queer men drew on digital tools to negotiate intimacy during this

period. Drawing on their forthcoming monograph (2024), Cummings will explore how the temporality of the pandemic shaped queer participants relationships. Young explores how queer participants sought out and practiced forms of queer care in their intimate lives and employed strategies of queer use to enable these caring practices. Finally, Karenza Moore will draw on work around queering party spaces post-pandemic, thinking about queer practices of drug use, party spaces and intersectional social in/justice.

Dylan Kneale, Laia Becares
(University College London, Kings College London)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning (LGBTQ+) are at greater risk of poorer COVID-19 prognosis due to higher levels of chronic disease and a greater impact on mental health from pandemic mitigation strategies due to worse pre-pandemic mental health. We examine how a hostile social system contributes to LGBTQ+ people's negative health experiences during the pandemic through adopting a syndemic framework and using data from The Queerantine Study, a cross-sectional, web-based survey (n = 515). Identification of a health syndemic is based on depressive symptoms, perceived stress and limiting long-term illness. We used Latent Class Analysis to identify latent classes based on experiences of a hostile social system. A syndemic was identified among a third of respondents (33.2%), with transgender/gender-diverse and younger participants at higher risk. Latent Class Analysis identified five groups based on experiences of hostile social systems using psychosocial and socioeconomic indicators. Classes reflecting psychosocial hostility were predictive of a health syndemic and worsening health. This study emphasises (i) mental and physical health issues are intertwined among LGBTQ+ people; (ii) experiences of hostile social systems can account for part of variation in health across LGBTQ+ groups; (iii) that psychosocial hostility continued and was exacerbated throughout the pandemic, and (iv) experiences of psychosocial hostility in particular were associated with a greater likelihood of experiencing a syndemic. We extend these analyses to explore how, despite experiencing high levels of psychosocial hostility, many LGBTQ+ respondents to the survey were at the vanguard of the response to the pandemic, contributing to volunteer and frontline roles in varied ways. Similarly, we also show that some LGBTQ+ participants, despite experiencing societal hostility and the impacts of this hostility through poorer physical and mental health, reported utilising different strategies that helped them manage their way through the pandemic.

James Cummings
(University of York)

This paper explores the interrelations of time, intimacy and digital technologies during the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the experiences of queer men in the United Kingdom (UK). The temporal dimensions of intimacy are an important area of sociological enquiry. Feminist and queer scholars have argued that time is a key feature of both normative discourses and everyday experiences of intimacy. There has also been much research into the impacts of social media, dating and hook-up apps on the pacing of intimate encounters and relationships. Time has also been recognised as a key experiential dimension the COVID-19 pandemic, related lockdowns and the fluctuation of 'social distancing' policies in the UK. Finally, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on intimate life have been the subject of much academic, governmental and popular discussion. This paper brings together these currently disconnected areas of research and explores them in relation to queer men's practices of intimacy during the COVID-19 pandemic. We draw on 43 semi-structured interviews with queer men, including cis (33) and trans (10) men, in the UK conducted between July and December 2020. The paper shows how time and digital technologies were complexly entwined in queer men's experiences of intimacy during the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, we highlight how contrasting feelings of urgency and statis played out within queer men's intimate relationships during the pandemic and how these feelings were managed through the use of digital technologies. At a more conceptual level, we show how nexuses of intimacy, time and technology can become sites of agency within a context of overwhelming crisis. However, inequalities related to cisnormativity and ableism meant that such agency was not equally enjoyed by our participants.

Ingrid Young
(University of Edinburgh)

This presentation draws on a chapter from our forthcoming monograph Digital Intimacies: Queer Men and Smartphones in times of Crisis (Bloomsbury, 2024), and draws on the same data outlined in Cummings abstract above. It explores how queer men navigated both vulnerability and control during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, providing a snapshot of queer men's pandemic experiences of digital intimacy. The pandemic – and the socio-political response to it – have been a key feature of the post-neoliberal conjuncture. Responses to COVID-19 restrictions, especially in relation to extra-household sex, by community and health organizations encompassed familiar debates about abstinence vs harm reduction echoing the HIV debates of the 1980s. These constraints proved particularly difficult for some queer men, for whom extra-household sex was a vital aspect of their intimate lives. Although our participants described experiences of loss, isolation and intense vulnerability as a result of COVID-19, we also saw how queer men navigated these challenges through 'queer use' (Ahmed 2019) of digital tools and public health guidance. In this way, our participants recounted how they asserted control over their lives in ways that enabled them to create and sustain intimacy with others. Through, for example, adapting quarantine rules, queering bubbles and navigating when and how to cross the line, our participants showed us that these queer survival strategies were not always based in opportunity or convenience, but grounded in practices of queer care.

Karenza Moore
(Newcastle University)

There have been recent advancements in sociological understandings of substance use, stigma, and social harm (Addison et al 2022, Seear 2023). This includes work on how stigma and shame is experienced by young people who use drugs (Y-PWUDs) recreationally through the lens of intersectionality (Moore 2022). We present our recent study on intersectionality and experiences of stigma and joy among queer and racialised PWUDs when frequenting raves. As Davis (2023) notes, "The spectre of the trans woman as sexual predator is reminiscent of the figure of the racialised other, from which white cis women must be protected" (p.2). Here we focus specifically on raving together, as a trans woman of colour (Zafi) and as her partner (Karenza) in post-pandemic partyscapes, as part of a longstanding study of UK dance music cultures and substance use. We draw on partial insider participant observations at 30 techno raves between July 2021 and July 2023. Key themes are explored via a series of co-created ethnographic vignettes. Themes include negotiating drug-related stigma (Ross et al 2020), racism and transphobia; inclusionary and exclusionary practices of ravers, promoters, and security personnel; and white cis gender privilege and allyship in spaces/times where drug use is prevalent. Adeyemi's (2022) framework of 'feeling right' informs our discussion of how stigma is identified, negotiated, and resisted; just as joy is embraced. Explorations of inclusionary/exclusionary aspects of queer raving are placed in dialogue with existing extensive drug harm reduction and safe(r) raving literature. Both are relevant to queering social spaces of music and drug consumption (raves, festivals, afterparties). To end, we consider examples of support for queer and trans people of colour to 'feel right' at raves, with the hope of promoting safer raving for all.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9

The Relationship of Diversity and Social Support for Asian American University Students

Charles Liu
(Cambridge Centre for International Research)

Asian Americans have faced racism in the U.S. since the 19th century, with historical events like the Chinese Exclusion Act and Japanese Internment camps as roots. In the 21st century, they continue to face discrimination, worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic, where they were unfairly blamed for the spread of the virus. Asian American college students were affected even more as they had no family support and worried about relatives in Asia affected by COVID-19. Although this is an issue that needs to be addressed, coping with discrimination during COVID-19 in Asian American students is an area that is under-researched in scholarly literature. This paper investigates how the diversity level of an educational institution and the accessibility and availability of social support affect the mental well-being

of Asian American college students coping with COVID-19-related discrimination. A qualitative method was employed in this study, and semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with Asian American college students from California and Maine. The former has one of the highest Asian American percentages in the U.S. (17.38%), and the latter has one of the lowest (1.67%) in the general population and universities. Seven students were interviewed, and it was discovered that there was a relationship between the university's diversity, the effectiveness of social support, and the emotional wellness of Asian American students. This research emphasizes the importance of university diversity in promoting overall student well-being. Although affirmative action is overturned, U.S. universities should still focus on ensuring a diverse student body to foster a supportive environment.

Colourful Faces in White Spaces: Effective Intervention and Support Programs for International Graduate Students

Bettina Teegen
(University of Surrey)

All students are often inundated with strict deadlines and have heavy workloads. The workload increases even more at graduate level which comes with research assistant- related responsibilities. However, international graduate students (IGS) additionally suffer from stressors as a result of a phenomenon referred to as culture shock. This concept was first proposed by Oberg (1960) who highlighted the highly emotional stress foreigners experience as a result of locating to an unfamiliar environment in the absence of their support networks.

Thus, being confronted with stressors that are related to adjusting and adapting to a new country and culture in the absence of support networks can have detrimental effects on IGS as well as on their academic achievement. It is therefore of utmost importance to thoroughly identify academic- related needs and (mental health) difficulties of this vulnerable student population in order to address these. This research will therefore discuss a variety of support services that have been identified by the international student literature to have favourable outcomes on IGS academic success as well as a positive impact on IGS overall well-being. These services include but are not limited to mentoring services, writing support, counselling services as well as career services.

Although the research on support services/intervention programs for IGS is outdated and sparse, a number of evidence- based research studies have shown promising results. Hence, it is recommended for higher education institutions to increase the implementation of these support services to ensure a supportive environment for IGS during their studies abroad.

Reparatory Peregrinations: Sociology as Decolonial Framework within an Irish Higher Education Institution

Philomena Mullen
(Trinity College Dublin, Ireland)

This research investigates the potential of sociology as decolonial framework within an Irish higher education institution. It addresses issues related to the Black academic journey and the needs of students, while teaching Critical Black Studies in a predominantly white academic environment. The inception of a Black Studies course in Trinity College Dublin was not an outcome of routine institutional planning, but was catalysed by student demand, activism, and online petitions, galvanised by the global impact of the Black Lives Matter movement.

The presentation aims to highlight the challenges faced by a Black academic as she navigates, what Walcott calls, the 'histories, memories, desires, free associations, disappointments, pleasures and investments...informed by the peregrinations of…consciousness' (2003, 118).

The primary focus is on the reparative potential of sociology as a lens to address the disparities and challenges experienced by Black individuals within the Irish higher education system.

Bhambra's (2023, 23) call for a reparatory sociology, which seeks to repair the social sciences while collectively addressing implicit inequalities validated by conventional social science, resonates with this research. Recognising Ireland as a colonial entity and contextualising the Black academic journey within a connected frame of reference aligns with the mission of decolonising the Irish educational landscape.

Gurminder Bhambra, (2023), BSA Network, Issue 144, Summer, London: Polity Books.
Rinaldo Walcott, (2003), 'Beyond the 'Nation Thing': Black Studies, Cultural Studies, and Diaspora'. In Decolonizing the Academy: African Diaspora Studies, edited by Carole Boyce Davies et al., 107-124. Trenton: Africa World Press Inc.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10

To What Extent is Peace Safer than Conflict for Children?: Mothers' Daily Risk Management During and After 'The Northern Ireland Troubles'

Yumi Omori
(Queen's University Belfast)

This paper will examine mothers' perceptions and management of risks in everyday life during and after the Northern Ireland conflict through the voices of mothers living in the most severely affected areas of the conflict. Drawing on original qualitative datasets on motherhood in urban Belfast, the paper will consider how mothers tried to maintain the 'normality' in family lives in the worst conditions of the conflict and in the precarious 'post-conflict' environment. While sociological research has highlighted that mothers are socially rendered as managers of risks and moral guardians for children in post-modern societies, little research has examined how mothers in 'post-conflict' societies with intensive risks and urgency for social reconstruction negotiate with these roles. The paper will discuss how the peace process since the 1990s has transformed risks in the urban landscapes and examine to what extent the conflict remains a legacy in everyday lives for mothers. The study suggested that many mothers from urban working-class neighbourhoods find it more challenging to manage risks in the 'post-conflict' context than in times of conflict, some reflecting that they felt safer during the conflict. The paper will explain the increased sense of unmanageability of risks in the 'post-conflict' setting by the shift in the social and cultural landscapes in which mothers and children are situated in late modernity, as well as factors related to the ethno-nationalist conflict and its legacy. Through these discussions, the paper intends to make theoretical contributions to the sociology of risk, family relations and peace processes.

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Demand for Guns in the United States

Jinghong Zhou
(Shanghai Lixin University of Accounting and Finance)

This paper examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the demand for guns in the United States. Using data on the outbreaks in each state and a novel proxy for firearm purchases for the 2018–2021 period, the study finds that the outbreak of the pandemic is positively correlated with the demand for guns. Further analysis using regression discontinuity estimation confirms this positive correlation. Moreover, the positive association between the COVID-19 pandemic and gun demand is significantly stronger in regions with higher levels of inequality and lower levels of judicial spending than in other regions. Ultimately, the pandemic has had a significant impact on social stability in the United States, with significant increases in gun violence deaths and property crimes.

Missed Sections beyond Time and Space: Reflections on the War in Ukraine and Transgenerational Pain in Europe

Magda Schmukalla
(University of Essex)

In 2023, I wrote an essay about diaries which were written by Ukrainian students in the first weeks of the war in Ukraine. In that essay, I reflected on how these diaries capture fragments of the traumatic rupture that the war imposed on so many lives, but I also explored how these entries, which were written in a rush, in bomb shelters, between bomb alarms, or at times in proximity of death, were examples of a resisting voice that acknowledged in personal word arrangements the crisis of the war.

In this paper, I return to that essay and explore some of the sections that I wrote back then but did not include in the final version of the text. Most of these missed sections refer to my personal experience of reading and struggling to write about the diaries. They also describe how sounds, images or scenes from the diaries had entered my every day, and how they had revived relics of personal, family-

embedded traumata and pain. The paper argues that a war destroys common arrangements of time and space and by doing so brings to the fore trans-subjective and transgenerational affects - not only for those who are directly affected by the destructive force of military attacks but also for those who feel the presence of the war despite their physical distance from it. The paper further argues that such encounters with untimely pains and ruptures are an opportunity for forming new ideas about social pasts and futures.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11

Navigating the Web of Disinformation: Employing Social Network Analysis to Decode Disinformation Dynamics in Modern Societies

Wasim Ahmed, Mariann (Maz) Hardey
(Stirling Management School and Durham University Business School)

In today's digital age, where information cascades through networks with unparalleled speed, the proliferation of disinformation has emerged as a complex and influential socio-political challenge. Disinformation can shape societal beliefs and behaviours by providing alternative information through social media platforms. This phenomenon requires further study and examination within the field of sociology. Our research has been developing an understanding of the pathways through which disinformation is strategically seeded through social networks, subsequently shaping social realities and creating division and instability, particularly among marginalised and vulnerable groups. Employing social network analysis (SNA) to study disinformation allows for unravelling the structural mechanics of diffusion across digital platforms, highlighting influential nodes and agents that magnify its dissemination and impact. SNA facilitates visualisation and analysis of the routes and patterns inherent in the information spread, providing valuable insights into digital manipulation. This study shines a light on the social beginnings and impacts of disinformation and aims to use this knowledge to develop intelligent strategies for dealing with it. By examining the structure of disinformation networks, we seek to highlight practical ways to push back against false information, protecting the unity and knowledge base of our online communities. Thus, this research highlights the urgent need to incorporate SNA into sociological studies to understand and tackle the complex challenges brought about by the era of disinformation in our constantly changing global society.

"Ridiculously now": Social and Climate Impact of On-demand Digital Services

Felippa Amanta
(Environmental Change Institute, School of Geography and the Environment, University of Oxford)

On-demand digital services have proliferated across entertainment, retail, food, grocery, and services. Businesses, claiming to follow customers' demands, invest heavily in logistics and provisioning systems to expedite their delivery. These changes carry significant implications on not just people's everyday consumption experiences, but ultimately on climate change. This research explores the domestication of on-demand digital services and its implications on people's expectations of immediacy and consumption patterns using semi-structured interviews with households in Oxford, United Kingdom. Insights from the households are juxtaposed with market analysis on its parallel changes in product and service provisioning systems. The research situates households' adoption of on-demand digital services as mutually shaping macroeconomic production and distribution patterns.

I argue that the rise of on-demand digital services depends on a sociotechnical configuration of intra-household dynamic, life circumstances, households' moral economy, companies' innovation and marketing efforts, and physical space context. These configurations largely fall into three domestication pathways: successful, precarious, and forced. Across all domestication pathways, the use of on-demand digital services is rife with tensions and contradictions. Yet, households reflect a normalisation of digital innovation's ability to provide immediate gratification. This expectation of immediate gratification is linked to greater and more frequent consumption, which in turn reinforces companies' efforts to match the perceived expectations. This cycle increases the energy and carbon footprint of

digitally-mediated consumption. This research contributes analysis of the long-term social and environmental impact of instant deliveries offered by on-demand digital services.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8

Navigating Inarticulate Masculinities and the 'Ethics of Gender' in Left-Wing Activism

Chris Waugh
(University of Manchester)

This presentation explores masculinities and anti-sexist practices among men in left-wing social movements in Britain. Informed by Raymond Williams's 'structures of feeling,' I draw attention to the existence of 'inarticulate masculinities', encompassing the struggles men face within left-wing movements as they grapple with expressing anti-sexist values and negotiating their identities. Through meticulous qualitative research, this paper uncovers instances where men falter and hesitate when confronted with questions of how to 'do' anti-sexism as left-wing men. This inarticulation, paradoxically, serves as evidence of the emergence of a new form of masculinity, one navigating the tensions between activism and traditional gender norms. Simultaneously, I introduce 'the ethics of gender,' a framework that delineates the spectrum of acceptable and unacceptable practices, stances, and values concerning gender within left-wing cultures. Through interrogating the unwritten rules governing gendered behaviours in activist spaces, this study provides crucial insights into the intricate web of expectations men navigate as they engage with feminist principles.

The research enriches the study of gender and political participation by unveiling the complexities of male engagement with feminism. It also extends its contributions to social movement studies by offering a nuanced analysis of how masculinity is negotiated and performed within activist contexts, the challenges of gender facing the contemporary left.

'Invisible' Fisherwomen Rising Above Crises?: A Feminist-Bourdieusian Analysis of the Persistence and Transformation of Gendered Practices in Small-Scale Fisheries Value Chains in Guiuan, Eastern Samar in the Philippines

Rima Jessamine Granali, Rizza Kaye Cases
(University of the Philippines Diliman)

Crisis can induce an "awakening of consciousness" and expose the arbitrariness of inequalities, according to Pierre Bourdieu. However, Bourdieu highlights the importance of an alternative "state of affairs" in facilitating the "awakening of consciousness" because hysteresis may occur when the dispositions constituting the habitus misalign with the dramatic field transformation. This qualitative multi-method case study extends Bourdieu's theory of practice and incorporates Judith Butler's gender performativity to explore how crises, particularly caused by super typhoon Haiyan and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic, influenced gendered practices and the gender power relations in fisheries value chains in Guiuan, Eastern Samar in the Philippines. Interviews, participant observation, and value chain mapping revealed how interventions by governments and non-government organizations (NGOs) presented a new "state of affairs" that contributed to the reworking of gendered dispositions and reinforcement of gender reflexivity. This led to the emergence of new value chain structures, which required performances of femininity, including displaying emotional capital, for economic capital accumulation. Although actors' interest lies in profit maximisation, the new practices, which were sustained since the onslaught of Haiyan and persisted even after the pandemic, were largely performed through communal exchanges based on loyalty and reciprocity. Women, who are typically assigned to emotional practices, such as appealing to other actors' sympathies, contribute significantly to the sustainability of fishing activities. As the affective principle obscures power imbalance, the gradual formalisation and centralisation of fisheries activities within fisherfolk organisations are recommended to foster equity and increase the recognition of women's contributions in the male-dominated field.

Theorizing the Imperialist Angst Over the Hijab

Muneeb Ul Lateef Banday, Anukriti Dixit
(University of Bern, Switzerland)

Among the many gendered-religious-cultural veils prevalent in our societies, it is the hijab that gets much attention to position Muslim women as 'oppressed subjects'. This has again been the focus of media and scholarly commentaries in the context of Iranian Women-led protests. The predominant Western imagination positions Muslim women's veil as the evidence and symbol of oppression and backwardness of women in Islam. Thus, the veil is placed at the centre of these discussions producing epistemic de-prioritisation of women-led movements in Iran and the larger 'third-world'. In this intervention, we aim to deconstruct the 'oppression-veil-Muslim' interconnections by theorising a phenomenon we term 'imperialist angst' - a disguising of Islamophobic and colonial anxieties which are proposed as 'concerns about oppression'. We contend that social movements and dissent of people from the 'third world', the 'Orient' or any other 'non-Western' categorisation is oversimplified and posited as epistemically inferior to the presumably advanced and progressive thinking of the white and Western world. Imperialist angst is thus both a product as well as a co-producer of superior-inferior hierarchisation. Instead, we situate the veil within historical relations of power and theorise the role of Western epistemes in constituting and intensifying oppressive circumstances for the women of Iran and the larger third world.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 12

Food Insecurity, Labour Precarity, and Debt Crisis in India: Links between Debt and Social Reproduction

Ankita Rathi, Charumita Vasudev, Swayamshree Mishra, Jasmine Fledderjohann, Sukumar Vellakkal
(Lancaster University)

Theoretical work on debt and credit illustrates the myriad ways women—especially racially marginalized women—and households have been increasingly pulled into the circuits of global finance .In the Global North, gendered debts have been aligned with the global process of financialization and privatization of social reproduction; in the Global South, the growth of microfinance has engendered new forms of debt-induced financialized subjectivities. While these studies illustrate the crucial ways gender and debt are interlinked, relatively less explored are the inter-linkages between debt and social reproduction (i.e., the capacity to support both everyday life and capitalist production by feeding, housing, building social relationships, educating, and caring for household members). As debt increasingly becomes the everyday mode of living globally, especially for those undertaking informal precarious work, it is crucial to understand the inter-linkages between debt and social reproduction. By drawing from semi-structured interviews conducted with men, women and children from informal laboring households in two states in India, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, our paper investigates the differential ways in which debt is both generative of life, enabling households to create everyday life-sustaining infrastructures and relations where state divestment in and privatization of public goods has created a livelihood crisis, and also deeply extractive, depleting, in particular, the women's capacity for social reproduction. Our paper aims to gender the existing debt crisis by delineating how women manage debt amidst food and other forms of livelihood precarity, and ways in which debt management financially, bodily, and emotionally constrain their capacity for social reproduction

Breaking Boundaries: Unraveling the Impact of Socioeconomic Heterogeneity on Attitudes towards Inequality in Contemporary Societies

Gonzalo Franetovic
(University of Milan)

Social inequality, a critical research area, extends beyond material concerns. Indeed, much academic literature has focused on how people perceive, explain and care about these inequalities. However, prevailing perspectives often hone in on individual or country-level factors, inadvertently overlooking meso-level elements such as social relationships. Recent studies have emphasized the pivotal role of social segregation patterns, revealing that diverse socioeconomic interactions significantly shapes attitudes towards inequality. Despite these insights, empirical testing of these claims remains scarce.

This study seeks to address this gap by investigating the impact of socioeconomic segregation of people's social environments on their attitudes towards inequality in contemporary societies. Using data from both the 2017 ISSP Module of Social Networks and the 2019 ISSP Module of Social Inequality across 23 countries, three hypotheses are tested. Specifically, increased socioeconomic heterogeneity is hypothesized to be related with a heightened perception of inequality (H1), an elevation in structuralist explanations (H2), and a decline in individualist explanations (H3) about inequality.

Employing linear regression models, incorporating country fixed-effects and controls for influential individual variables, this study also delves into the nuanced interaction effects between socioeconomic heterogeneity and individuals' objective positions. Preliminary findings underscore a compelling narrative: greater socioeconomic heterogeneity is intricately linked to an increased perception of inequality. Furthermore, there is a simultaneous rise observed in both structuralist and individualist explanations.

These results collectively underscore the crucial role of diverse social environments in not only shaping awareness of inequality but also elucidating the intricate web of determining factors at play.

Social Inclusion and Post-Pandemic Development: Findings from African, Asian and UK Contexts

Ghazala Mir, Naureen Durrani, Rachel Julian,, Yassah Kimei, Saidur Mashreky,,, Doan Duong,
(University of Leeds)

Background: Inequity is associated with social exclusion, structural and physical violence and reduced development, which are in turn linked to civil conflict and adverse health and social outcomes. The crisis of COVID-19 exacerbated inequities for socially excluded groups globally. Public services are key institutions through which such inequities are created and maintained but evidence on viable cross sector and multilevel interventions is limited for low- and middle-income contexts.

Methods: Nine studies engaged with over 600 key stakeholders in healthcare, education and local government settings in Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakstan, the UK and Vietnam. Participatory research, in-depth interviews, policy reviews and multi-stakeholder workshops identifed common themes and a framework for inclusive interventions at macro-, meso- and micro-levels for diverse disadvantaged populations. Two randomised control trials of an inclusive intervention were conducted in the UK and Pakistan

Findings: A spectrum of structural violence- through neglect, restrictions and discriminatory practice- shaped poor life chances, illness, physical abuse and death for socially excluded populations, increasing in intensity throughout the pandemic. Inaccessible or poor quality public services and a 'poverty penalty' stifled the ability of excluded groups to fulfil individual and community potential. Key recommendations for transformational change across diverse contexts and populations include representation of these groups in service staffing and decision-making; the revision of public service policy and practice to develop inclusive, targeted, collaborative and accountable systems. Results of a transformational intervention evaluated in both Pakistan and the UK show that such change is both possible and essential.

Sociology of Education 1 - Room 13

Academic Identity in Crisis: An Autoethnographic Account of Being a Purged Academic

Funda Karapehlivan
(Leibniz Centre for Science and Society, Leibniz University Hannover)

This paper aims to analyze and understand the nature of academic identity by giving an autoethnographic account of the case of dismissed Academics for Peace in Turkey. It will look at the relationship between academic capital and academic identity and the processes of preserving academic identity when an academic is forced to leave academia. It is thought that looking at this case will contribute to the academic identity literature and give us more clues about the formation, preservation, and resilience of academic identity. One of the aims of this paper is to explore the boundaries of the academic field by looking at the mechanisms of preserving one's academic identity while being forced

out of academia. This paper draws on research in progress and will raise the following questions: What does the experience of the dismissed Academics for Peace tell us about academic identity and the boundaries of the academic field? How is academic identity constructed, reconstructed, and preserved? How fluid or rigid is academic identity?

Has Oxbridge Always Been the Key Channel of Elite Formation in Britain? 120 Years of Data from Who's Who

Aaron Reeves, Sam Friedman
(University of Oxford)

Oxbridge and Cambridge universities have long been considered the key educational channels of elite recruitment in the UK. In this paper we draw on a unique data set - 130 years of biographical data in Who's Who, a unique catalogue of the British elite – to empirically interrogate this assumption. We find that Oxbridge has indeed had a longstanding stranglehold over elite formation in the UK, but its power has also waxed and waned. We show that its relative power declined significantly among those born in 1920s, 30s and 40s, at the same time as London elite universities began to become more powerful. However, significantly, we also show that Oxbridge has actually enjoyed a resurgence in it's propulsive power in recent decades, even as the social composition of Oxbridge has changed. Finally, we also show that Oxbridge do not function as elite switchboards in the same way for all students; those who enter from elite private schools have historically been more likely to reach elite positions as other students.

The Legitimacy Crisis of the Narrative of Social Mobility

Christopher Cunningham
(University of Essex)

The Post-18 Review of Education and Funding, commonly referred to as the Augar Review (2019), represents the legitimacy crisis (Habermas, 1988 [1973]) of the narrative of social mobility. This Review works as a political spectacle (Edelman, 1988) to divert attention away from the entrenched social and economic inequalities of British society by apportioning blame to the 'sector' of higher education.

Using an approach of Critical Policy Sociology (Ozga, 2021 [2019]) I chart the political history of widening participation (WP) in England to document how higher education has been marketed as the bearer of 'equality of opportunity', with 'raising aspirations' being a key strategy of policy makers since the introduction of tuition fees. I show how this process creates class through categorisation that becomes commodified in the form of the 'disadvantaged' student, which drives the 'sector' of higher education in England. Notions of individual success, which signify the assumed purpose of higher education, are underpinned by an ideology of neoliberal meritocracy (Littler, 2017). The Augar Review re-legitimises this ideology and the narrative of social mobility with which it is bound by redirecting WP towards 'skills-based' learning. This in-turn shapes the education available to 'disadvantaged' students, resulting in a deficit of pedagogy orientated towards nurturing democratic citizenship (Brown, 2015). Avoiding the legitimacy crisis of the narrative of social mobility by re-shaping higher education attracts attention away from the entrenched civic stratification of British society (Samson, 2020); doing this at the expense of the 'disadvantaged' student reinforces the existing social and economic inequalities.

Theory - Room 5

Rethinking the Concept of 'Hegemonic Crisis'

Jeremy Gilbert, Alex Williams
(University of East London)

In our 2022 book Hegemony Now, we propose a set of revisions and clarifications to the concept of hegemony, which we regard as still indispensable for many forms of political, sociological and cultural analysis. We develop these revisions and clarifications in the context of an analysis of the perceived political crisis in the UK and the UK during the period 2015-6, via an address to the question of what exactly can be said to have been put into crisis at that time. We propose that the key features of this crisis were:

- a loss of moral authority on the part of the professional political class
- a relative weakening of the political and cultural power of finance capital relative to that of the increasingly-powerful tech sector
- a context of persistent but decreasingly-efficacious forms of institutional power being exercised by institutions created or shaped by the long period of neoliberal ascendancy 1975-2008.

In this paper we will develop some of these themes and consider their more widely-applicable theoretical implications of our approach to them for contemporary political and cultural sociology. We will also reflect on how these ideas might enable us to conceptualise the current political / cultural / social conjuncture.

Genealogy for a Future in Crisis

Leonidas Tsilipakos
(University of Bristol)

Science used to be inseparable from philosophy, our egalitarian morality for the weak morphed out of an aristocratic morality of the strong and the notion of human beings having a sexuality developed out of the scientific application of new classificatory rubrics on what was before perhaps predominantly a matter of lack or excess. These are only some of the insights put forth by genealogies, studies that historicize and trace the unexpected paths of emergence of phenomena that are central to our lives. Sociologists have sought to employ the critical leverage that genealogical studies offer in order to denaturalize and critically engage with present practices. But can genealogical reasoning provide tools for understanding and responding to a future of imminent catastrophe? Indeed, the rise of automation together with precipitous climate change herald not only impending crises but produce a conception of history that posits a terminus or eschaton, thus harking back to holist conceptions of history (e.g. Christian, Hegelian). In this paper I will dissect genealogical reason in order to extract its fundamental historicizing tenets and then proceed to show how its opposition to holist historical conceptions can help us critically analyze projected future crises.

Work, Employment & Economic Life - Room 14

Streaming Selves: Navigating Gender, Labor, and Power in China's Live Streaming Landscape

Xinyun Zhang
(Renmin University of China)

In the dynamic landscape of China's internet realm, the phenomenon of live-streaming shows has experienced a remarkable surge, attracting a staggering 751 million users by December 2022. This surge has given rise to a pivotal gig economy sector, notably increasing the participation of young females in a novel form of entertainment work known as showroom live streaming. While previous studies have frequently employed the concept of relational labor to examine how live streamers generate income through virtual connections with their audiences, there are notable gaps in the existing research. Firstly, this approach often overlooked the intricate web of gender inequality that exists within the live-streaming industry. Secondly, it failed to address the intricate relationship between live streamers and their audiences within the unique technological and industry contexts that define this field. To address these gaps, this study, based on a comprehensive 3-month autoethnography, takes a novel approach by integrating the concepts of "gender relational labor" and "platformization." The goal is to explore how female live-streamers navigate the complex intersection of economic relationships and gender power dynamics with their audiences, both inside and outside the live-streaming platform. The study's findings reveal that female live-streamers employ three key strategies: "push and pull," "intimate performances," and "bounded authenticity." These strategies provide insights into how female live-streamers negotiate the delicate balance between engaging with their audiences and preserving their individuality. Additionally, this study delves into the theoretical dimensions of the interplay between relational labor, gender power dynamics, and platformization.

Loyalty vs. Betrayal: How the Embeddedness of Economic Activities Affects the Solidity of Contractors' Hometown Alliances in Collective Actions

Sijie Wu
(Duke University)

Like migrant workers, contractors in China also face the problem of wage arrears. Far from being solid, most contractors' hometown alliances are vulnerable in the collective action of demanding wages: contractors are likely to accept under-the-table agreements offered by property developers (who outsource construction projects) and defect from the alliance. Through in-depth interviews with 21 contractors and property developers for 5 months, the solidity of alliances is found to stem from whether contractors' economic activities are embedded in their native-place networks, i.e., whether contractors can obtain economic resources from native-place networks to maintain and expand their businesses. When economic activities are embedded, fellow contractors can then punish potential betrayers by refusing to provide any economic resources, thus inhibiting betrayal and making the alliance solid. However, for most contractors, the homogeneity of businesses leads to fierce competition instead of cooperation with fellow townsmen. To stand out in the competition, contractors' relations with property developers are important, rather than relations with fellows. Therefore, most contractors' economic activities are separated from native-place networks and they lose the ability to punish betrayers, leaving the alliance vulnerable. This finding fills the gap in the study of contractors' collective actions, highlights the role of hometown ties in providing punishment other than cohesion, and demonstrates how most contractors' separation of economic activities from their native-place networks can influence the solidity of alliances.

Emotions and the Machine: Sociotechnical Imaginaries of the Future of Work

Elisabeth Kelan
(University of Essex)

The future of work is often either imagined as a dystopia where tasks are automated leaving humans without jobs or as a utopia where humans and machines augment each other's skills (Raisch & Krakowski, 2021). Such sociotechnical imaginaries are ways in which desirable futures at the interplay between technology and society are performed (Jasanoff, 2015). Sociotechnical imaginaries of the future of work often entail that socio-emotional skills are constructed as uniquely human and thus safe from automation (Kelan, 2023). Since emotions are regularly seen as difficult to automate, they are constructed as a core advantage of humans over machines. The research draws on a multi-source research design consisting of interviews, technology walkthroughs, and document analysis. The paper shows how sociotechnical imaginaries of the future of work entail that machines are expected to automate routine tasks whereas socio-emotional skills are considered difficult to automate and are thus expected to be performed by humans. The paper complicates this imaginary by showing that machines assess and train humans in regard to emotions. It is argued that this constitutes a form of augmentation where emotions are automated and performed by machines in relation to and with humans. The paper questions the common assumption in sociotechnical imaginaries that emotions are out of reach for machines and instead suggests seeing emotions as routines that can be automated and augmented.

The Slaughter of Capital Logic: An Examination of the Political Economy of the Virtual Idol Industry

Binqi Chen, Wei Xu, Xiaoming Xia
(Wuhan University)

At present, the digital technology with the Internet, big data and artificial intelligence technology as the core has revealed a new round of technological revolution, but also triggered a new round of industrial transformation with the digital economy as the key field and core momentum. Among them, the virtual idol industry, which has three dimensions of technical phenomenon, economic phenomenon and cultural phenomenon, has attracted much attention. From the perspective of Marxist political economy, this paper selects virtual anchors as the representative form of virtual idols, adopts the research method of grounded theory, and tries to make a preliminary description and judgment on the overall operation mechanism of the virtual idol industry. Through the analysis of the production relations of all parties involved in the virtual idol industry, this paper believes that the capital logic dominates the whole process of two-way closed-loop interaction between "fans and virtual idols" in the virtual idol industry. The wage

laborers represented by "Zhongzhiren" in the virtual idol perform paid digital labor to produce emotional goods, and the fans participate in the re-compiling of virtual idol symbols as unpaid digital laborers. More deeply into the emotional goods of the "material-spiritual" dual consumption and reproduction. In short, from real idol to virtual idol reflects the expansion and multiplication of capital to the subculture circle, which is essentially the extensional and conformal expansion and reproduction of the idol goods - emotional goods and production relations within the capitalist economic field.

Paper Session 5
13:00 - 14:30

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

Cinematic Cities, Cinematic Public Spaces: Continuities and Changes through Representations of Urban Public Spaces in Movies

Bernardo Emmanuel
(Institut national de la recherche scientifique, Montreal, Canada)

The complexities of current urban issues require urban sociology to be aware of cities representations in multiple forms. Cinematic urban representations are particularly powerful. Films simultaneously engage image, sound, and movement, have a significant impact on society, and offer a reconstruction and interpretation of urban life.

Although cities' cinematic images are historically studied by urban sociology and by sociology of culture, this communication explores the representations of a key element of urban landscapes: urban public spaces - the system of streets, alleys, avenues, boulevards, squares, and parks. They enable interactions with nature, with the built environment, and with others, holding the potential to expose urban identities and the co-construction process of a shared urban life.

The communication seeks to understand social continuities and changes through the evolution of cities and urban public spaces' representations in three key historical moments: 1) the birth of cinema in the early 20th century; 2) post-war cinema; 3) the late 20th century and contemporary films.

We conclude that public space representations in cinematic cities literature are historically focused on the street. Other public spaces representations are not deeply explored, nor addressed comprehensively, and remain fragmented in the current literature. Public spaces appear to be significant elements in movies, but their role in this process is unclear and obscure. This gap prevents us from fully understanding the mediating role of movies in the urban evolution and the symbolic and identity aspects of urban life constructed by the cinema.

How Workers Overcome Life Difficulties In Post-Industrial Cities. Or, Towards A New Theory of Urban Life and Everyday Struggle

Alexandrina Vanke
(Institute of Sociology of the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences)

Poor, working-class and ordinary people are affected most by the multiple crises caused by the expansion of neoliberalism and authoritarianism, armed conflicts and wars, the pandemic and climate change around the globe. Drawing on multi-sited ethnography in Russia between 2017 and 2022, I argue that even with meagre resources, working-class communities and disadvantaged social groups practice the creative ways of overcoming life difficulties through the engagement in everyday struggle and accumulating 'power from below'. These grassroots practices may include workers' reshaping and maintaining decaying urban infrastructures, doing urban gardening and growing in social housing yards, engaging in informal economic activities, non-paying taxes, and other acts of peaceful resistance to neoliberalism and neo-authoritarianism in the 'grey' zones of everyday life.

Developing the neo-Marxist and neo-Bourdieusian approaches, the paper presents an ethnographically-grounded theorisation of the concepts of structure of feeling, senses, imaginaries, everyday resistance and class consciousness, which I synthesise into a multi-sensory theory of urban life and everyday struggle. According to this novel approach, workers' ways of overcoming life difficulties fall under the category of the creative forms of mundane resistance, which I view as a variation of everyday struggle in the context of neoliberal neo-authoritarianism. It is also argued that regular

engagement in everyday struggle contributes to the formation of practical consciousness and habitus of resistance marked by class, gender, ethnicity/ race and age.

The paper is based on some parts of my book *The urban life of workers in post-Soviet Russia: Engaging in everyday struggle* (Manchester University Press, 2024).

Curating Spaces of Hope: A Social Movements Approach to Combatting Crises in the City

Matthew Barber-Rowell
(Liverpool Hope University)

In this paper I will introduce Curating Spaces of Hope as a paradigm for social movement building, as set out in Sociology Study Journal (Barber-Rowell, 2023a) Social Policy Review (Barber-Rowell, 2023b) and Journal of Church and State (Forthcoming) and, illustrate the potential it offers for organising local people and networks to respond to crises and build resilience. First, I will briefly introduce Curating Spaces of Hope and its capacity to broker power, map the socio-material nuances of shared spaces, form assets and alliances and develop local leadership. Then, I will focus on the capacity of Curating Spaces of Hope to map shared spaces and develop local leadership as the basis for a social movement, through the development of three case studies from the city of Liverpool where Curating Spaces of Hope is being applied. Liverpool is characterised as the 3rd most deprived city in terms of health and disability, 4th most deprived in terms of income and 5th most deprived in terms of environment, in the UK, compounding longstanding experience of poverty and associated crises, in the city. These case studies are drawn from 1) a higher education context; Liverpool Hope University, 2) an infrastructure context; Liverpool Charity and Voluntary Services, and 3) a community context; the local Branch of the Dialogue Society. I will conclude this paper by considering the possibilities offered by the synthesis of these three studies, for a social movement that can combat crises in the city.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2

"Whatever happened with this COVID cycle, please learn from it. Everyone, please learn from it": Managing Policy Responses to Crises and Change in Olympic Sport

Lucy Moore
(Open University)

The UK government invests significant financial resources into Olympic sporting success. For over twenty years, this investment has underpinned policy processes to a quadrennial drumbeat. Central to these processes are the interdependent webs of thousands of people, the actions and interactions of which shape and are shaped by the system they create together.

But what happens to these people when the drumbeat changes or even is stopped?

The disruption presented to working and sporting lives during the COVID-19 pandemic foisted a multitude of changes upon the sporting system, with the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic games one of the most recognisable. In tandem, an increasing appreciation of the unintended human consequences of sport policy choices are coming to the fore with several high-profile scandals, public enquiries and mental health related tragedies leaving many asking about the true cost of Olympic medals.

Drawing upon the theory of process sociology it is argued that policy responses to crises and change in sport are fundamentally relational processes and consequently there is a reciprocal impact for those involved. Arguably, it is only through applying a sociological lens that policy responses in sport can really be understood. Data collected from an ongoing series of interviews with nine senior members of staff from four National Governing Bodies between 2020-2023 reveal the multi-layered impact of crisis and change for the individuals who constitute the Olympic sport system. Themes of the fragility of influence and the impact of change on individual well-being are consistent patterns in the data.

The Pains of Migration: Masculinities, Sports Migration and Neoliberalism

Jose Hildo De Oliveira Filho
(Charles University in Prague)

"Dreams" and "sacrifices" commonly figure in the symbolic worlds of anonymous Brazilian migrant athletes. In mobilising these symbols, migrant Brazilian players reveal the contexts in which contemporary sports migration movements occur. When asked to think about their career trajectories, anonymous sports migrants frame their "dreams" vis-à-vis the precarious working conditions of global football and futsal industries. In this presentation, the interaction between players' "dreams" and "sacrifices" becomes more evident in moments of injury and pain. When injured, migrant athletes must deal with the most worrying consequence of neoliberal sports industries: precarious medical care. When migrant players get injured and face the risk of career termination, their "dreams" are threatened. They must also deal with the hegemonic views of masculinity present in contemporary sports industries.

Emerging Themes - Room 16

Authoritarian Trauma: Towards a New Concept in Oppression-Based Collective Social Trauma

Mandy Lee
(Trinity College Dublin)

Given overwhelming evidence documenting the negative impact of oppression on the mental health of its targets, Liberation psychologists have recently called for the recognition of "oppression-based trauma", which focuses attention on the systemic, institutional, and psychological trauma outside of the immediate threat of physical injury or death (Holmes et al, 2016). Such "oppression-based trauma" emphasizes the everyday, ongoing nature of collective social trauma, which moves away from the event-based "catastrophe" model that had hitherto dominated trauma studies. While this broadening of trauma conceptualisation is a welcome development, much of this recent scholarship on decolonizing trauma studies (Andermahr, 2016) conceptualise oppression-based trauma mainly in terms of racial trauma. In this paper, I would argue for another specific sub-type of oppression-based trauma that I would term "authoritarian trauma", to focus attention on the particular phenomenon of pervasive oppression by a powerful regime on a subjugate population, a type of collective social trauma which the Palestinian psychiatrist Dr. Samah Jabr (2022) has called "trauma beyond PTSD". Drawing from the cases of Palestine and Hong Kong, which have differing authoritarian contexts though sharing some similar features of regime oppression, I outline how the concept of "authoritarian trauma" would be linked to, but is distinct from, racial, cultural and historical trauma. I showcase how this new concept of "authoritarian trauma" not only helps us understand more precisely the social suffering of peoples under repressive regimes, but also helps us to rethink new ways of conceptualising resilience beyond "post-traumatic" growth when oppression is still ongoing.

Precarity Capitalism: A Tool to Galvanise Environmental Intergenerational Solidarity?

Bethany Simmonds
(Aberystwyth University)

The lens of precarity can be used on multiple levels when examining ageing: micro, in relation to precarious older workers; meso, in relation to the precarious public institutions/welfare states; and macro, as a paradigmatic shift, new doxa or discourse. Azmanova (2020) also argues that precarity could be seen as a new form of socio-economic mode, 'precarity capitalism'. This new social-economic mode has certain unique characteristics which have developed since the 2008 global economic crash. The first being the 'social irresponsibility rule', which transfers risk from society to weaker individual actors. The second, that public authorities allocate opportunities to individuals which enhance pre-existing advantages. She also argues precarity capitalism has distorted earlier versions, like 'welfare state' capitalism, which used to progressively redistribute wealth, but now does so in pursuit of competition. Azmanova contends that populations need to subvert precarity capitalism from the inside via radical practices to attack the competitive production of profit, otherwise we will be stuck in terminal crisis, continuing to destroy lives and the natural environment. Further, those at each end of the lifecourse, will be disproportionately affected by climate change. Therefore, in this paper, I argue there

could be an opportunity to use precarity capitalism as a tool to galvanise intergenerational solidarity to drive change in environmental politics and policy in the UK.

Environment & Society - Room 3

How Can in the Crisis a Basic Income Truly Act as a Trigger to Empower a New Resilient System of Food Justice?

Mu-Jeong Kho
(University College London)

In contemporary capitalism deepening socioeconomic-inequalities, the major 'adaptations' (self-organising changes) is inevitable. The fundamental challenge must be institutional: the established-institutions are inadequate, and so a greater-period of 'experimentation' (as 'driver-of-change') like 'basic-income' is necessary. This is why we should look at the basics of institutional-theory, particularly in radical-traditions, outside the ruling neoliberal-consensus. However, this literature has been weakly addressed on the issue: how can in the crisis a basic-income truly act as a trigger-to-empower a new resilient-system-of-food-justice. This question leads to sub-questions: (1) how capitalist system-of-food gets to organisation-structuration in real-world (objectivity); (2) what is its truly-deeper originator-of-disorder; (3) in this crisis, how a basic-income acts as a trigger-to-empower; (4) whether it 'truly' acts as a trigger-to-empower a new resilient-system-of-food-justice, in philosophical-value 'commensurability' and history; (5) if untruly, what the normative-solution are: reformism-vs-radicalism. This paper, which defines the 'empower' as a 'driver of self-organising change' which triggers an 'institutional-process-of-change, with struggle-to-reorganise-reconstitute-restructurate an order-out-of-disorder,' aims to answer these questions with the institutional-matrix of self-organisation full of 'variables-of-empower' structurated by market vs. non-market; pro-capital vs. anti-capital, through the application of deeper-understanding of institutional-theory-in-radical-traditions to empirical case-study (with quantitative-data-analysis) on Korea during the last-decade. By doing so, this paper argues: beyond the superficial-issues of market-vs-state, and Keynesianism-vs-neoliberalism, there are truly-deeper (real-world) issues of 'structuration' within capitalist-systems-of-food in Korea, which most institutional-theory have well addressed as substances of long-term food crisis. A basic-income in these crises can act as a trigger-to-empower, but is only valid when truly connected to radical-theory, looking beyond such capitalistic-system.

Losing Out in Land-Based Greenhouse Gas Removal? A Critical Justice Perspective on Biochar

Catherine Price, Carol Morris
(University of Nottingham)

To address the scale and severity of the climate crisis, urgent transitions are required in infrastructure, land, energy and industrial systems to ensure deep reductions in CO_2 emissions. Whilst carbon emissions need to be reduced rapidly, there is also a need to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. A growing suite of greenhouse gas removal (GGR) approaches are being developed, and one potential approach is biochar.

In this paper, we ask the question: What are the types of injustices associated with the production and deployment of biochar as one approach to land-based GGR? We draw from a document analysis and 33 semi-structured interviews with mostly UK based stakeholders who have an interest or potential interest in biochar. A critical justice perspective guides the analysis, an approach that enables the systematic investigation of the potential injustices which may arise from biochar production and deployment.

Our results reveal potential distributive injustices including trade-offs between land requirements for food production and for biochar feedstock production. Possible procedural injustices include a lack of support for farmers who are seen as key actors in biochar deployment. Economic incentives and policy support for the use of biochar by farmers are currently lacking. Demand for biomass stripping away biodiverse ecosystems is a potential form of recognition injustice, whilst the importation of biomass for feedstocks may be a possible cosmopolitan injustice. If biochar is to be deployed, potential injustices need addressing.

Concept of Adaptive Capacity in Climate Action Discussions: A Critical Evaluation

Bindi Shah
(University of Southampton)

Social scientists addressing the climate crisis, and specifically action to mitigate impacts and adaptation at community levels, have focused on adaptive capacity - conditions that enable people to anticipate and respond to change, and recover from and minimise the consequences of change (Adger and Vincent 2005). In this agentic approach, scholars agree that social capital plays a role in building adaptive capacity. Recently scholars have translated abstract discussions of social capital to identify five social dimensions that can contribute to community-level adaptive capacity. This certainly offers policymakers and practitioners a useful 'toolkit' for identifying obstacles and opportunities for building capacities to adapt and innovate in the face of climate change. However, there is inadequate consideration of politics and power relations. Here I draw on my own research and wider debates in sociology to offer a critical evaluation of a focus on adaptive capacity at 3 levels: a) scholarship has identified gender differentiation in access to social capital, but I argue for an intersectional perspective in understanding access as well as ability to mobilise resources and networks or indeed create new ones; b) A focus on building adaptive capacity constructs a neo-liberal frame, shifting responsibility for adaptation to communities and affirming the stability of existing socio-economic-political-bio frames of development and growth; c) relatedly, if we are to take decolonisation seriously, we have to acknowledge that prioritising community resilience upholds Western concepts of agency and adaptive capacity. Different epistemologies of sustainability and human well-being can lead to transformation rather than just adaptation.

Families & Relationships - Room 4

Care Crisis at the Personal Level: Understanding the 'Problem' Of Informal Care Provision for Older Adults from the Perspectives of Informal Carers and Policy Discourses

Beatrice Lam, Chan Wai Leung
(Hong Kong Metropolitan University)

This paper draws upon the findings of an exploratory study on informal care of older adults in Hong Kong. Informal carers' understandings and experiences of their care provision as embedded in family relationships demonstrate how life challenges presented by the surging demand of informal care in a rapidly ageing society are felt at the personal level. With 'Ageing in Place' as the dominant service model for care for older adults, where older adults are encouraged to stay as long as possible in their own domestic settings equipped with a wide range of support services, informal carers are put under considerable strain. While carer strain is widely recognized in public discourses, what does this mean in a policy context guided by neoliberalist welfare ideology that emphasizes supporting informal carers through training and the promotion of self-managed and/or consumer-directed care? Attention is drawn to how 'family', 'choices' and 'carers' needs' are constructed in carers' narratives and policy discourses. With this, it is inquired how the transfer of the responsibility for old age care from the public sector to informal care in the private sector could have masked the structural inequities that make informal care (and population ageing) a 'policy problem'. The relevance of prevailing social hierarchies of class, gender and age in caring relationships in the wider context of the restructuring of life-course transitions are probed. Implications are explored.

The Changing Role of Gender in Intergenerational Exchange in China

Jinhan Liu
(National University of Singapore)

Research on intergenerational exchange has consistently documented how children's gender matters in both upstream and downstream support with parents. However, due to recent sociodemographic changes, many may expect a trend toward gender equality in parent-child relations. Few studies have yet directly addressed this evolving dynamic. Using data from the 2006 and 2016 Family Module of the East Asian Social Survey, a repeated cross-sectional survey project, this study examines whether gender differences in intergenerational exchange in China have changed over time. Latent class

analysis is applied to seven indicators (financial, instrumental, emotional support given to and received from parents, as well as the coresidence status between children and parents). Four exchange types are identified in both years: tight-knit, distant ascending, near descending, and detached. Over the decade, there has been a noticeable increase in the tight-knit pattern and a corresponding decline in the detached pattern, with the ascending and descending types remaining stable. Analyses based on multinomial logistic regression models show that women are more likely to have distant ascending and detached ties with parents, while men tend to engage in reciprocal or descending relations with nearby parents. These gender differences are less in one-child families than in multi-child families. Moreover, a narrowing gender gap in intergenerational exchange is found in the analyses. Instead of solely serving as providers, more women now receive support from their parents. This study provides evidence for the gendered but changing patterns of intergenerational exchange within contexts marked by dramatic social transformations and enduring patriarchal traditions.

Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 6

Socio-Economic Inequalities in Health among Ukrainian Female Refugees in the Czech Republic

Iryna Mazhak
(RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dublin, Ireland)

The data for the study (N=919) were obtained via an online survey among Ukrainian female refugees in the Czech Republic. The average age of participants was about 38 years old and more than 70% had children. Most respondents have a university education (71%), came from cities and towns (88.7 %), and had employment in Ukraine (73.8 %). Self-reported physical health as an indicator was used to measure perceived health. As regards, self-reported health, 43% of females reported their general health as good, 46.8% as fair, and 10.2% as bad and very bad. In addition, 27.9% reported that their health had worsened during the last month and 4.5% that their health had worsened or that they had sustained injury due to the war. 52.7% self-reported their psychological status as fair, 26% as bad, and 7.7% as having very bad status.

One of the most crucial post-migratory factors faced by refugees is socio-economic status. 76% of females reported that their economic and financial status became worse. Binomial logistic regression analysis was performed to investigate the association between self-reported physical health status and socioeconomic determinants. Self-reported poor physical and mental health status were statistically significant and positively associated with social determinants related to financial difficulties and socioeconomic status, low-paid manual labour, inaccessibility of healthcare services, discrimination, health deterioration during the last month, the presence of one or more chronic diseases, and limitation in daily activity due to ill health. Also, females who had savings from Ukraine were less likely to report poor health.

Bodies in Crisis: Ocular Mutilation in Colombia's Social Upheaval

Lucia Guerrero
(Wellcome Centre for Cultures and Environments of Health - University of Exeter)

At the height of the pandemic, the Colombian National Strike of 2021 saw a wave of demonstrations flood the streets and barrios of urban centres, echoing previous periods of social upheaval over the last decade both in Colombia and elsewhere (most notably the Chilean Estallido Social in 2019). During that time, at least 103 cases of ocular injuries produced by police interventions in protests were reported. Drawing on fieldwork and interviews with survivors of these eye attacks, this paper examines the ocular wound in terms of the convergence of various crises of social and individual bodies, as well as of medicine as a body of knowledge and practice.

Ocular mutilation as a response to social upheaval is not new, having been documented globally since the First Intifada in Palestine and more recently in Iran. Medics working both informally and within institutions have tracked these patterns of injury and disablement in responses to protests, and the transnational prevalence of these wounds suggests potential systemic issues in the use of 'non-lethal' force in crowd control. Beyond dispersing crowds, ocular injuries can function as an exemplifying

punishment that effectively deters civil disobedience. Moreover, their financial, social, medical, and psychological impacts are life-changing, reconfiguring survivors' identities and life narratives.

Thus, the decisive moments of an ocular injury in an individual body collide with the upheavals afflicting the social body – in 2021, a raging pandemic and the 'ordinary,' ongoing, continuous crisis of precarity – and the dilemmas they pose for medical practice.

What is Equivalence in Police Custody Healthcare

Stephanie Mulrine
(Newcastle University)

Against a backdrop of reduced care and social services, it is often the police who are the first responders and providers of healthcare, especially in cases of mental health crises. Against this background, this study aims to explore the ways that employees in police custody suites (police officers, civilian detention officers and healthcare professionals) collaborate to provide adequate care to persons in custody (not only those in mental health crisis, but also other forms of healthcare needs), or ensure that they do not die either whilst detained or shortly after their period of detention.

This ESRC funded mixed-methods project is presently in the data collection period. Data is collected from in-custody risk-assessments, ethnography and interviews with healthcare professionals, detention officers, police officers, and from those with lived experience of being detained in police custody. This paper will explore the performance of the police healthcare risk assessment as a detainee arrives in custody. In particular the negotiations between the Custody Officer and detained person as the former attempts to ensure that the latter will be safe during the period of detention. The risk assessment is performed in a largely public space and requires the declaration of any health conditions (including intoxication). In this heavily-charged interaction, how does law enforcement ensure it gathers sufficient information to ensure the safety of the detained person. While at the same time, the detainee assesses their own risk of discomfort and suffering, and strategise to accelerate a preferable outcome (e.g. release or prison sentence).

Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 7

Navigating Healthcare Realities: Exploring Access and Engagement for Transgender and Non-Binary Individuals in England

Jason Vickers, Glen Goodliffe, Lisa Porter, Vixx Thompson
(University of Salford)

Background: Recognition is growing in health policies and guidance that improving transgender and non-binary individuals' access and engagement in primary and secondary healthcare services is crucial for improving health outcomes and fostering awareness of their health needs. However, persistent barriers persist due to discrimination and a lack of understanding of trans needs within healthcare systems, resulting in unequal treatment and health inequities.

Aim: This research aims to explore the experiences of transgender and non-binary individuals in primary and secondary healthcare services to understand perceived health engagement and access.

Methods: This research employed a co-design approach, consisting of three phases to develop research with transgender and non-binary individuals, delve into the healthcare experiences of the transgender and non-binary community, and confirm the resonance and worth of findings with community members. Online focus groups were conducted, and findings were thematically analysed.

Findings: Three prominent themes emerged. Theme One highlighted the diverse health needs of trans and nonbinary individuals, emphasising impacts of discrimination and restricted access to gender-affirming care. Theme Two underscored systemic barriers within healthcare infrastructures, including cisheteronormative administrative systems and a lack of gender affirmative practices. Theme Three highlighted the dismissal of health concerns due lack of provider understanding of gender identity.

Contribution to Knowledge: This study contributes to an emerging evidence base, providing insight into the challenges faced by transgender and non-binary individuals in accessing and engaging with healthcare services. It underscores an urgent need for systemic changes, including training for healthcare staff and the implementation of inclusive policies.

"Things began to come to a head": Exploring Moments of Crisis in Women's Diagnostic Journeys of Autism and ADHD in Adulthood

Emma Craddock
(Birmingham City University)

This presentation draws on data from in-depth phenomenological email interviews with women who have been diagnosed with autism and ADHD in adulthood. Women and girls are four times less likely to be diagnosed than males, with the diagnostic criteria being based on male presentations of the conditions. Women are also more likely to mask their difficulties because of gendered norms and expectations. There is a lack of research exploring the lived experiences of women with autism and ADHD. This paper seeks to address this gap by exploring the role of 'crisis' in women's diagnostic journeys. It explores the ways in which crisis preceded and led to breakdowns and breakthroughs, with a combination and accumulation of personal crises acting as a catalyst for seeking diagnoses. While moments of personal crisis often preceded diagnoses, they continued beyond diagnosis, with individuals experiencing profound identity crises, questioning and re-evaluating their life story and sense of self in light of their diagnoses, and the diagnoses themselves. This paper explores the ambivalence of seeking and receiving diagnoses of ADHD and autism as an adult woman living in a patriarchal society. It considers how gendered norms, roles, and institutions, including that of the medical profession, impact negatively on autistic women who have ADHD, culminating in what are perceived to be personal crises, despite the structural causes of these moments of breakdown. Through exploring these experiences, the complex and gendered relationship between structure and agency is revealed in the context of moments of perceived personal crisis.

Men's Health in Northern Ireland. Do We Need a Men's Health Policy?

Erin Early, Paula Devine
(Queen's University Belfast)

The prioritisation of men's health in health and social policies in the United Kingdom (UK) is questionable, despite accounting for half the population in 2020. A gendered approach to health is evident with the development of a Women's Health Strategy in England in 2022. However, a men's health policy or strategy is lacking across the four UK jurisdictions. The Republic of Ireland was the first in the world to implement a men's health policy, which was deemed successful (Richardson and Smith, 2011). Yet the political vacuum in Northern Ireland (NI) has resulted in an impasse for policy development, despite the Gender Equality Strategy Expert Advisory Panel (Gray et al., 2020) highlighting the need to consider the complexity of gendered health outcomes as separate policy issues.

There is also a research vacuum, with few studies having comprehensively examined the state of men's health in NI. To this end, this study presents a narrative review of trends in males' physical and mental health. Bronfenbrenner's bioecological systems theory is utilised to aid a holistic explanation of these trends. Data from publicly available administrative data and survey sources were systematically searched and key findings included the high suicide rates among males across time and young males being more likely to self-report certain mental health problems. The study concludes that there is a need for a men's health policy to address variable health outcomes within specific groups of men. Practical recommendations on its implementation and a Health Impact Pyramid to illustrate these steps are presented.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9

குடும்ப வன்முறை (Tamil: Kudumba Vennmurai; English: Family Disruption) and the Living Experience of Domestic Abuse: An Exploration of Tamil Women's Narratives and Sense-Making

Minoya Patkunam
(University of Kent)

Domestic Abuse has been described as an epidemic, identified as a global health issue by the international community and contributing to long-term concerns relating to mental health, community development and safety of women. Domestic Abuse is not a new phenomenon, and gaps in research exploring the lived experiences of Tamil women, of Sri Lankan origin where incidents have been growing, and access to services to support women and girls. My research project is concerned with capturing the narratives of Tamil women using narrative inquiry culture-heritage specific arts based methodology. I aim to take an inductive approach, applying an intersectional lens to denote the multifaceted experiences of Tamil women; exploring experiences of forced migration, displacement, (dis)connection with the homeland, dynamics of honour and shame, gendered disparities and culture of being silenced. By problematising and individualising experiences, we can avoid over-generalising and understand multiple meanings of agency (Gowrinathan: 2012), supported by multiple intersectionalities an individual can identify with (Crenshaw: 1991) which can then be more appropriately used as a foundation to understand the complexities and parameters of gender, migration, culture, crisis and self-determined approaches within Tamil women's experiences. My approach aims to expose power structures that enable violence against Tamil women, including patriarchal systems, layered experiences of racism, colourism and casteism, and understanding xenophobic attitudes in the UK towards the Tamil community. I use both my lived experience, and practitioner experience in the Violence Against Women and Girls sector to tackle the gaps illustrated.

Bound by Tradition: The Complex Realities of Prostitution in the Bedra Caste of India

Sujata Sudha
(Ranchi UniiversityRanchi)

Over the past few decades, India has made significant progress in economic growth. Still, the caste system in India, the social hierarchy that has existed for centuries, plays a vital role in shaping the country's social structure. Some lower castes, such as Bedra, a forest dweller who lives in Rajasthan, UP, and Madhya Pradesh, are involved in Prostitution, which is considered a cultural practice. In this study, I have found that women engaged in Prostitution face severe problems. Still, Prostitution is viewed as an inherited profession, with many female ancestors working in this traditional field. The Bedra caste system is mainly female-dominated. Although Indian Society has been male-dominated for a long time, this caste system was used to conduct prostitution business with female dominance. Most individuals enter this institutional profession without coercion, and Society also accepts it similarly. In the present study, an attempt has been made to show how Women, except for Prostitution without any force, face various problems but do not want to quit because of family traditions, practices, Society and the caste system.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10

The Animal Question in Domestic Violence and Abuse: The Intersection Feminism Forgot?

Erika Cudworth, Di Turgoose
(De Montfort University)

Despite the success of feminism in visibilising the public story of domestic violence and abuse (DVA) it has maintained a human centric lens. The question of the animal in DVA research, campaigning and practice by service providers has received very limited attention from feminism and has also been generally ignored in animal abuse studies. It is also marginal in policy debate and media coverage. There are notable exceptions to this trend in feminist animal studies research, particularly in social work.

This paper draws on the insights of feminist animal studies to argue that the gendered and species-based abuse evidenced in DVA contexts are intrinsically linked through intersectional domination.

The paper develops a conceptual and theoretical framework for thinking through intersectional abuse and maps the patterns of such abuse. It sets out the implications for policy and practitioners and outlines the research gaps to be filled in order that DVA scholarship and intervention strategies develop more inclusive and less discriminatory understandings and practices. In doing so, it suggests the need for far closer links between research, policy intervention and situated practice – a multispecies and 'practivist' approach.

How Divorce Constructs the Legalisation of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Victim Blaming Perspective

Bo Zhang
(Bangor University)

Divorce, a significant family structure transition, has long been identified as a prominent risk or escalation factor in the realm of intimate partner violence/intimate partner homicide, involving a series of dynamic conflict relationships. However, limited research has delved into how, within the dynamics of divorce, perpetrators seek to legitimize intimate partner homicide. From a victim blaming perspective, perpetrators often believe that victims, especially those seeking divorce, might bear all or part of the responsibility for the violent acts committed against them. This belief system, regrettably, reinforces and propagates a wider societal culture where victims are blamed for their own tragedies. This study uses data from Chinese judgment documents in China Judgments Online and employs grounded theory for qualitative analysis, critically discussing how perpetrators view the pursuit of personal freedom and self-determination, represented by divorce, as a potential "provocation". Such distorted views may motivate them to rationalize their homicidal actions, especially in intimate partner homicide scenarios. This research offers insights into understanding and challenging the potential biases in intimate partner relationships, ultimately aiming to further the cause of justice and equity for a broader spectrum of victims of intimate partner violence.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11

In and Against the Platform: Influencers' Sustainable Living in Conditions of Precarity

Jiali Fan
(University of Cambridge)

Existing scholarly discussion on influencer work present a similar critical, if not entirely pessimistic, perspective: it is seen as risky, future-oriented, and with blurred boundaries between work and personal life. This is the story we know. Yet, this is not enough. There remains an imaginative challenge (Tsing, 2015) to explore the possibilities of influencers' coexistence with precarity.

Based on interviews with 12 influencers from Xiaohongshu and 15 from Instagram, I offer an 'alternative explanation' (Tavory and Timmermans, 2014) to the ambiguous dynamics of precarity in influencers' lives. With a keen awareness of the "black box" (Pasquale, 2015) nature of platforms and their algorithms directly impacting their careers, the participants deliberately opt to disregard the competitive visibility game and reject becoming ensnared by its confines. Nevertheless, they also actively engage in "collaboration" with the platforms. Drawing from their past experiences, they strategically adhere to the rituals, rules, and trends set by the platform, hoping that their content will not only avoid being restricted but also be promoted by the platform to reach a wider audience.

Drawing inspiration from the political concept of "in and against the state" (London Edinburgh Weekend Return Group, 1979), I use the phrase "in and against the platform" to demonstrate the influencers' dual stance of resistance and collaboration with the platform. This 'in and against' framework not only highlights the influencers' proactive agency and creativity beyond mere consumer culture that have been overlooked but also guides us to possibilities of collaborative survival.

The Challenges of Dating Apps as Sites of Public Health Messaging

Rachel Katz, Ben Light, Lisa Garwood-Cross, Karenza Moore
(University of Salford)

Many charities and government bodies advertise public health information such as STI testing on dating apps, especially dating apps aimed at MSM. Yet there is little known about the efficacy of this public health messaging, nor the perception of it among dating app users. This paper investigates this, drawing on findings from the UKRI/AHRC funded Covid Sex Lives Project: Health Messaging, Hooking Up and Dating among Men Who Have Sex With Men (MSM). Our methods consisted of four surveys (n=1409) conducted with MSM in the UK, along with discourse analysis. Findings discuss the types of public health messaging participants encountered on dating apps, the use of vaccine badges and statuses on dating apps, and self-reported disengagement with public health messages on dating apps. Conclusions discuss the ramifications of this for how tech companies, governments, charities respond to times of crisis, as well as the perceived boundaries of dating app platforms and concerns over trust around sources of public health messaging.

Networked Lesbian Publics in Authoritarian China: An Affordance Analysis of Dating Apps Used by Queer Women Communities

Xinyun Zhang
(Renmin University of China)

How do digital media platforms facilitate the formation of lesbian communities in the context of authoritarian China? Using a case study of China lesbian app The L, I explicate the affordances of dating apps in building community. By analyzing digital ethnography and offline interview data, I argue that The L offers several affordances namely communal connectivity, algorithmic visibility, public interactivity, and emotional support. These affordances contribute significantly to community building among lesbians in urban China. However, it is worth noting that these platforms also perpetuate digital surveillance and state censorship, emphasizing the complex dynamics at play within this digital ecosystem. In essence, this analysis underscores the significance of understanding the social, cultural, and political context specific to China's digital media platform. It also establishes a compelling link between the utilization of certain community-based media affordances and the platform's capacity to facilitate the growth and sustenance of queer communities, despite the challenges posed by ubiquitous surveillance and censorship.

Social Divisions / Social Identities - Room 8

The Logic of Appearance, the Limits and Sublation of Identity Politics: A Perspective from China

Xiaoming Xia, Bingqi Chen, Wei Xu
(Wuhan University)

"Identity" and "identity politics"have become major issues in Western political sociology. Its emergence is the result of a combination of several forces, including the long-standing "philosophy of recognition" and the "need for recognition" of social status quo with structural inequality, interacting in the field of operation of "late capitalism". The "late capitalism" is the result of a combination of several forces, which played a very revolutionary role in the struggle of minorities against structural oppression. However, with the postmodernist turn of identity politics, the limits of its utility have become increasingly evident. Identity politics itself is characterized by a triple paradox of morphology, operationalism, and teleology, with multiple crises of neo-tribalism, political polarization, and new types of totalitarianism lurking within it. Identity politics, as a politicized representation of cultural critique, is essentially a regression from real struggle to cultural spectacle, from politics to non-politics, and does not have a far-reaching revolutionary future in the field of late capitalism. Habermas's ethics of negotiation and Fraser's normative pluralism provide useful references for exploring the path of abandonment of identity politics. The paradigm of political participation with Chinese characteristics has the overall advantage of Marxism as the guiding ideology, but it can give the consideration to the reasonable demands of multiple identity groups, achieving the abandonment and transcendence of the "politics of identity" and providing a "Chinese paradigm" for solving the "House of Muumbi" problem.

"The internet is like a swamp that's dried up, revealing all the snakes underneath": Haredi Youth Negotiating Religious Authorities in the Age of Digital Connectivity

Malki Poryes
(Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel)

Covid-19 accelerated internet use in Haredi (Referring to Israel's ultra-Orthodox population) society. The Haredi leadership views this as a break in the enclaved culture and a crack in the ideology. With its inherent lack of oversight and control over the content, cyberspace offers a chance to experience different cultures and worldviews, interactions between the sexes, and more. Adolescents' presence in this forbidden space could result in punishments. Despite attempts to prevent young people from using the internet, Haredi surfers are steadily decreasing.

The following research examines adolescence in Haredi society in Israel. It focuses on how 18-year-old Haredi men and women engage with social media. It also focuses on how they negotiate their internet use and their religious and social identities. The study aims to advance the understanding of identity negotiations carried out by Haredi Gen Z online. The term "Generation" is used sociologically rather than demographically, as members of a group experiencing similar formative experiences.

This paper emphasizes the generational aspect of how interviewees interpret the internet's threat to Haredi society's characteristics. There is an understanding among participants in the study that social mechanisms encompass power dynamics as well as social control. Leadership and older generations use danger rhetoric to explain why the internet threatens society and young people, participants use change rhetoric. The internet is seen as a means and catalyst for transforming social order, especially religious and communal authorities.

The current study challenges the universality of the research field "Youth in the Western World". In the Western world, there are religious and traditional communities in which young people are subject to social dictates. Consequently, the research question is: how do young Haredi internet users negotiate Haredi society's values and the various systems they adhere to?

Sociology of Education - Room 13

The Guilt-Devotion Paradox: Mothers as Supplementary Educators

Rachel Lehner-Mear
(University of Nottingham)

Many contemporary education systems, including in the UK, acutely responsibilise parents as supplementary educators, expected to be involved, engaged and supportive of their children's schooling (Goodall, 2021), and it is increasingly recognised that this supplementary educator discourse is directed at mothers in particular (Clarke, 2021; Griffith and Smith, 2005; Reay, 2005). Simultaneously, parenting is viewed as in crisis, with parents judged and blamed for the poor outcomes of their children (Kinser, 2012). Taking the case of primary school homework as an example, this paper illuminates how mothers negotiate their precarious position in the responsibility-blame discourse. Drawing a detailed portrait of one mother's experiences (taken from a larger study of mother supplementary educators) trapped between devotion to her child's future and guilt for her child's present, I illustrate the significant emotion care work she undertakes to navigate the friction between devotion and guilt, as she supports the apparently simple, teacher-directed task of primary school homework. A guilt-devotion paradox is therefore shown to be both the driver and the vehicle for mothers' work as supplementary educators as they navigate a path between parental responsibilisation and parental judgement, in a situation which can inflict a substantial impact on their labours and emotions.

How Do You Decide Your Major(s)? A Study of Asian American Female College Students' Major Choice(s)

Ruhao Pang
(UC Berkeley)

The "model minority myth" is an overgeneralized symbol for Asian Americans, defining the characteristics and pursuits of Asian Americans based on their racial identity. They are portrayed as smart yet humble and, according to the stereotype, they enjoy a higher income in STEM-related fields, which stands for "science, technology, engineering, and mathematics". Meanwhile, the myth perpetuates an image of Asian women as feminine, caring, and gentle. Thus, the intersectionality of the racial and gender stereotypes creates overlapping pressure and discrimination against Asian female college students. Given the stereotypes of the Asian and Asian female community, this study seeks to answer the following research questions by adding a gender component: How do Asian American female college students choose their major(s)? & How do they react to racial and gender stereotypes when deciding their major(s)? This research aims to navigate the variety of reactions of Asian American female students themselves when they choose a major in college. Using data from eight in-depth interviews with Asian American female college students aged 18 to 21, this study explores personal motivation, family expectations, and institutional influences as Asian American female students negotiate and balance multiple factors that influence their major choice(s). While the existing literature mostly talks about conformity to the model minority myth, this study explains how students develop their unique strategies to take their agency when deciding on their college major(s). Thus, this research extends the scope of the existing literature to explore students' agency.

Theory - Room 5

Theorising Time in Politics: Insights from Turkey

Birgan Gokmenoglu
(Birmingham City University)

This article develops the "political calendar" as a concept that theorizes time as a medium for the exercise of power. The main premise of the argument is that although time and temporality are an intrinsic dimension of politics and political life, sociological theories of politics and socio-political transformation have yet to incorporate temporality into their frameworks at the conceptual level. I take conceptualization to be a form of theorizing (Swedberg 2016) by way of "coining new concepts in relation to empirical observation of new phenomena" (Krause 2016, p. 25). Building on insights from the sociology of time and sociological studies of space, this article centres anticipation, rhythms, and disruption to theorize time in politics. Based on two years of participant-observation in grassroots organizations and qualitative interviews with activists in Istanbul, I use the case of the 2018 presidential and parliamentary "snap" elections in Turkey to demonstrate how time is politicized both by the state and social movement activists, and how it is instrumentalized, experienced, and narrated in contentious politics. By offering the political calendar as a conceptual tool to analyse and theorise the temporal dynamics of an authoritarian regime and its challengers, this study contributes to the sociology of time and the future, social movement studies, and critical time studies, as well as political sociology and social/sociological theory more broadly.

Beyond Foucault's Blind Spot On the "Liberal Art of Governing": The 'Working Classes' as a Counter-Conduct

Nob Doran
(University of New Brunswick)

Although Foucault's later lectures (2007, 2008), at the college de france, provide both an examination of various forms of 'governmentality' (pastoral power, regime d'etat and the 'liberal art of governing) and the 'counter-conducts' which challenge these regimes, Foucault was curiously silent on the emergence of 'counter-conducts' to the 'liberal art of governing'. Thompson, on the other hand, was very insightful on the formation of the working class, but missed the real target of these protests, panoptic liberalism. This paper a chapter from a forthcoming manuscript, argues that we must go beyond Foucault,

Thompson and Miller's (2008) feminist theorizing of the underdog, in order to empirically demonstrate how today's 'panopticised' seek to talk back (Doran 2023) to discourses of knowledge/power.

Transcending Borders: The Role of Chilean Migrants in the Transnational Diffusion of Un Violador En Tu Camino

Juliette Saetre
(European University Insitute)

This paper explores the global diffusion of Un Violador en tu Camino, a protest performance born out of the 2019 Chilean uprisings. The way the anthem travelled to new contexts not only challenges taken-for-granted North-South imitation trajectories, but its cultural specificity also presents an anomaly in canonical diffusion theory, raising the question: How did this localised expression of dissent evolve into a transnational vehicle for feminist protest? Drawing from an original dataset of coded performance videos and survey data on Chileans abroad, this paper shows the Chilean diaspora's network structure played a pivotal role in the anthem's global diffusion. I develop this argument through a two-step process operating across an ethnic boundary where numerous and strong ties connect Chilean emigrants both to their homelands and to others in their host countries. The anthem initially resonated with diaspora communities as Chileans abroad organised solidarity performances. Direct exposure to these solidarity performances, facilitated by shared ties, subsequently inspired non-Chilean locals to adapt and integrate the anthem into their context through a mechanism of social reinforcement. As local adaptations proliferated, the anthem gained momentum, rendering Chilean intermediaries unnecessary for further adoption. In essence, the formation of the Chilean diaspora in the 1970s laid the foundation for a transnational network that facilitated the diffusion of Un Violador en tu Camino through clusters of individuals connected to both Chile and their host societies. This reveals a broader phenomenon in which historical emigration patterns inadvertently create latent global infrastructures for diffusion.

Theorizing 'Silence' in Childhood Sociology

Xiaorong Gu
(University of Suffolk)

While 'hearing the voices' of children has become a consensus in childhood sociology to break away from the adult-centrism in sociological canons, we are yet to map out the conditions under which children's voices can be heard, especially in contexts where children are embedded in hierarchical social structures and relationships. We posit a multi-dimensional theory of silence to fill in the gap. First, while the 'new' social studies of childhood have rightfully critiqued the dominant adult-centrism in the discipline of sociology, the ontological condition of children's dependency on adults/adult institutions due to age and generational hierarchies does not diminish despite an epistemological revolution of representing and "hearing the voices" of children. Additional structural conditions (e.g. disabilities, poverty) further exacerbate children's dependency. Secondly, from a socio-linguistic perspective, the articulateness and eloquence of children, hence their varying tones and volumes, are often intricately related to classed socialization patterns. Third, with an inherent imperative to control narratives, authoritarian polities and politics constrain spaces for independent expressions of opinions, which often starts with childhood socialization. Last, culturally, 'silence' or 'shyness' could be regarded as positive attributes in societies with 'dense normative frames'. Silence/silencing is thus encouraged and incentivized so as not to challenge or disrupt the underlying relational hierarchies. We argue that this theory of silence advances existing literature by transcending a dualist conceptualization of voice and agency in childhood sociology and pushes researchers to develop contextualized social, political and cultural sensitivities and sensibilities towards neutralizing the power imbalances during research.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 - Room 14

Renewal Rate: Racial Disparities in NBA Player Contracts and Career Stability

Di Shao
(University of Virginia)

Prior research about racial inequality in labor market attainments has primarily concentrated on the racial disparities in earnings and occupational attainments, such as hiring and promotions. Less systematic attention has been given to understanding the racial gap in career stability and its underlying factors. To address this issue, this study utilizes the National Basketball Association (NBA) as a strategic setting and develops a novel dataset that incorporates data on NBA players, teams, and their contracts dating back to 1990. Despite Black players constituting the majority in the NBA, this study uncovers two key factors contributing to career instability for many of them. First, Black players are likely to sign shorter-term non-entry-level contracts than the comparable white players. This difference only exists for players who did not recently play for the teams which they signed a contract with, where employers' decisions are more likely to be shaped by general racial stereotypes. Therefore, this difference in contract length appears to stem from employer bias instead of players' own intention. Second, Black players are less likely to have their contracts renewed by their current teams. They are more likely than their comparable white players to 1) sign a contract with another team, usually ending up with lower salaries, and 2) find no jobs and as a result leave the league temporarily or permanently. These results suggest that even in professional fields that emphasize meritocracy, Black employers still experience less career stability, and both contract length and renewal rate contribute to this racial disparity.

Understanding British Muslim Women Entrepreneurs' Positioning Through an Intersectional Reading Of Gender and Religion

Nicole Lehmann
(University of Nottingham)

Historically, gender, race, ethnicity and class have long contributed to the creation of social inequalities and divisions in the United Kingdom. More recently, the concept of intersectionality has advanced such debates by highlighting how certain social positions are more privileged than others and how especially their intersection can create unique forms of experience and exclusion. This moves away from a general gender or religion experience to a more nuanced consideration of how social divisions may be socially constructed. Muslim women in particular then come to stand at the crossroad of gendered and racialised religious experiences creating a unique experience for them. This study thus explores the interaction between religion and gender and how intersectional experiences may be created. It particularly explores how Muslim women through their entrepreneurial activities come to experience difference and exclusion within society and the impact thereof on them. Through the creation and focus on the stigmatised image of the Muslim woman, Muslim women become vulnerable in their wider interactions with society. In return, this impacts on where and how Muslim women can further obtain resources for their entrepreneurial ventures. Muslim women thus carry a particular burden attributable to their gendered religious belonging through which they manage themselves and interactions with others. This study thus extends previous research by exploring how gendered religious social positioning becomes constructed, inequality becomes created and its impact on the working lives of Muslim women entrepreneurs.

Impact of Inclusive Leadership on Organizational Inclusion in India

Avinash Rao
(University of Manchester)

The concept of inclusion has gained prominence since the emergence of multicultural organizations and inclusion has become an important element in organizational literature since the early 2000s. At the core of multicultural organization lies inclusion. In the organizational fabric, when diversity is valued,

it fuels inclusion and owing to rapid globalization, heterogeneity at the workplace is becoming increasingly inevitable, where no longer can organizations choose to exist in silos, and people are respected for who they are and not necessarily where they come from. Perceived inclusion tends to impact several organizational and employee outcomes including self-esteem, job satisfaction, employee engagement, and organizational citizenship behavior. India, the largest democracy in the world, also one of the leading economies by GDP, remains largely heterogenous. Recent studies highlight that organizations that tend to have a strong financial performance, depend on a strong managerial culture where the organizational values, ethos, and leadership are effectively demonstrated as part of business conduct. Leaders play a critical role in formulating and ensuring adherence to inclusion practices, strengthening organizational performance, leading to internal and external customer delight. Inclusive leadership (IL) draws several similarities from various styles where IL can act as a bridge between transactional and transformational leadership styles as both aim at addressing follower's needs and authentic leadership becomes the backbone of Organizational Inclusion (OI). The presentation aims to explore the dimensions of IL on OI and how this affects the social exchanges at organizations, promoting equity, diversity and inclusion at the workplace.

Covert Carcerality: How Racialized Tech Workers' Privilege Disguises Coercion

Rianka Roy
(University of Connecticut)

Globalization and digital technologies have shaped the landscapes of labor in ambivalent ways. While new jobs have enhanced labor autonomy and mobility in a borderless world, managerial coercion has limited labor rights, and have subjected racialized workers to carceral control. How can this contrast be theoretically reconciled?

I study Indian tech workers' experiences in India and the US. These workers represent the largest group of outsourced and migrant labor in the global technology sector. They earn high wages, and migrate legally to the Global North for better opportunities. But they also face layoffs, overwork and surveillance. I position this contrast of privilege and precarity within neoliberal carceral contexts. Black, Abolitionist and Dalit feminist scholars have drawn attention to the expansion and normalization of carceral control with new technologies and governance (Benjamin 2019; Subramanian 2022). Extending these dialogues, I develop the framework of 'covert carcerality' to demonstrate how carceral conditions are also disguised as privilege for many racialized workers.

Methods:

I use 55 in-depth interviews, over 800 hours of virtual ethnography, and over 60 hours of participant observation of events organized by tech unions and immigrant organizations.

Findings:

I find Indian tech workers facing covert carcerality in three ways—carceral enclosures, informalization of labor, and family separation. I also explore the ways in which covert carcerality impacts the opportunities of solidarity and collective action.

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Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 - Room 15

Inflation Crisis, Monetary Citizenship and Ideology

Adne Meling, Lars Julius Halvorsen
(Volda University College)

For millions of people across the globe, 2024 will be another year of crisis. The crisis may take many forms. One of them is economic, and within the economic form of crisis, price inflation is a considerable challenge.

Although money might be viewed as the "most abstract and impersonal element that exists in human life", as Weber put it, sociologists such as Simmel, Dodd and Zelizer have made valuable contributions to the understanding of money within the social sciences. But sociologists also have a critical role to play in the public governance of money. One important reason for this is that temporal fluidity in the money supply inevitably causes inflation crises, with some degree of regularity. These inflation crises are hard to predict for the economically marginalised citizens who suffer most from them, and it is even harder for marginalised groups to prepare for these crises.

The discussions around central banking have traditionally been dominated by economic scholars and libertarian ideologues who view inflation as a Machiavellian hidden form of taxation. This situation is unfortunate. In this presentation, it is argued that democratic citizenship should include monetary citizenship, i.e., an understanding and critical engagement in the public governance of money supply and inflation. It is also argued that sociologists must engage more actively in debates around the public governance of money. Sociology should facilitate a public space for critical debates on central planning, debates that are independent of libertarian ideology and right-wing political preferences.

A Boutique of Capitalism: Financial Accumulation through Networks

Francois Schoenberger
(University of Lausanne)

How do investment bankers leverage their networks of contacts to foster financial accumulation? While we know that networks improve financial outcomes for firms and banks, the specific social mechanisms underpinning their profitability remain underexplored. This presentation explores this question in light of a year-long ethnographic study I conducted as a financial analyst at a Swiss investment bank, commonly referred to as a 'boutique'. In addition, I carried out 124 semi-structured interviews with investment bankers and other market participants, and a multiple correspondence analysis of the field of investment banks in Switzerland.

I will firstly discuss the cultivation of social capital, which requires a deliberate and constant effort on the part of investment bankers. Depending on the type of contact considered, relationship maintenance is not always based on reciprocity. Moreover, I will explore the efforts investment bankers engage in trying to establish a positive professional reputation, thus increasing the likelihood of their contacts sharing their resources. Lastly, by exclusively highlighting the beneficial outcomes of social networks, research has overlooked the fact that they can become a liability when individuals have a negative reputation in the eyes of their contacts. Therefore, I will theoretically show that network and social capital are two distinct notions.

This research contributes to our understanding of capitalism by arguing that, despite technological change, traditional business practices, such as social capital activation, remain at its core.

Paper Session 6
14:45 - 16:15

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

Traversing through Change and Crisis: Exploring Indian Women's Agency during Solo Travel

Yagyaseni Bhattacharya
(Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi)

Male-dominated public spaces, especially in the Global South, have been perceived as unsafe for women largely due to sexual violence. However, there has been a change in contemporary years, with an increasing number of women reclaiming these spaces. Solo travel has arisen as a way to ensure women's mobility providing them autonomy and escape from their patriarchal milieu. In this context, particularly in India, social media influencers, through their travel-related posts inspire women to venture out alone. Despite this "change", anxieties about safety persist as a "crisis", reinforcing existing power structures. This intricate dynamics between the "crisis" and the "change" reflects the "fluidity" as well as "continuity" of social values, norms and interactions. The paper captures this complex relationship between "change" and "crisis" by unearthing the following research questions: how does street violence impact the geographical mobility choices of solo female travellers, and what precautions do they take to deal with these risks? how do social media influencers affect the decision-making process of solo Indian female travellers considering perceptions of safety? and how do these women negotiate with their families while navigating concerns of safety on a solo trip? The research employs a qualitative approach, namely semi-structured in-depth interviews with 10 female Indian solo travellers and content analysis of social media posts on solo travelling. The study's sociological relevance lies in its investigation of the interplay between women's agency as a "change" in social structure and continuing safety considerations as a "crisis", highlighting the influence of social media on society.

Broken Desires for Mobility: The Self-Governance and Struggles in Chinese Students' Decision to Abandon Study Abroad Plans during the Pandemic

Jiexiu Chen
(School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University)

The pandemic crisis has precipitated profound and enduring ramifications on international relations, thereby substantially influencing the dynamics of international students who navigate across geopolitical and cultural frontiers. In this context, the decision of international students to study abroad (or not) is a crucial issue, revealing the struggles and choices of individuals in the midst of a crisis. This study focuses on 20 Chinese elite university students who originally planned to study abroad but gave up due to the pandemic. Through interviews, this study aims to explore the geopolitical imagination embedded in international education and the global vulnerabilities promised by international education in the context of a global public health crisis. The study examines how international students, under the dual impacts of the pandemic and geopolitics, have shattered their past desires for mobility at various levels.

The research adopts Deleuzian theorizations on desire (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987) as an analytical tool to interpret interview data, and proposes three main findings. Firstly, the pandemic has disrupted the inertia of progress and collectively imagined/possible futures, leading many students to reconsider the meaning of international education. Secondly, in the complex and contradictory international landscape, the multiple filters and desires projected by international education are shattered, resulting in a shift towards domestic job markets in future planning. As a result, international education returns to its essence of capital accumulation. Thirdly, these elite university students adopt various strategies to navigate the rapidly changing policy landscape, seeking opportunities and maintaining their positional advantage in domestic competition.

Neighboring Care Dynamics in Context of Crisis: Migrant Experiences during COVID-19 in Diverse Urban Zones

Carolina Ramirez
(Universidad Católica Silva Henriquez)

This article examines dynamics of coexistence and care deployed in diverse urban areas in contexts crisis. Based on an ethnographic study that included observation, interviews, and visual methodologies, and emphasizing the experiences of migrant women residing in Gran Yungay (Santiago, Chile), dynamics of solidarity, mutual aid and support (contención) deployed during the COVID-19 health crisis were identified. With the notion of "neighboring care" (cuidados vecinales)—an alternative to that of "community care" more commonly used—I propose to look at care not only as self-managed and collective dynamics of the sustenance of life that go beyond the private sphere. Neighboring care is a process of collectivization and spatialization of care that can also be based on transitory, diffuse, and even virtual ties, without necessarily involving organization by affinity. Observing care through "the neighborhing" (lo vecinal), and in the midst of shared critical moments, illuminates the dynamism and heterogeneity of the social ties established by migrants in the city. At the same time, it reminds us that increasingly heterogeneous and uncertain contexts do not simply promote fragmentation and conflict. As part of a collective experience, context of growing uncertainty and social diversification can also give rise to processes of disarticulation and (re)articulation of "the common".

Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2

Truck Protest: Interest? Affect? China's K-Pop Fans' Crisis Response

Yue Pu
(Columbia University)

Renting trucks equipped with slogan-filled LED screens and having drivers park them outside entertainment companies—in the post-COVID era, truck protest is becoming increasingly popular for China's K-Pop fans' crisis response. These protests have expressed two types of demands: traditional ones where fans support their idols and protest against "unfair treatment" by the company, and nascent ones involving opposition and calls for explanations in cases of idols' work ethics violations, e.g., hidden marriages or secret affairs.

Truck protest has never been touched upon in China's fan studies, which has either focused on individual affect and intimacy in idol-stanning, or has rooted collective fan activism exclusively in grand narratives like nationalism or confronting/co-optative dynamics with censorship. However, truck protest, as a transnational practice of fan rights activism, possesses a simultaneous fusion of the national and the personal. Through web ethnography and interviews on truck protest, I hope to fill the current observation gap in a transitory/mesozoic realm. I will delve into three embedded conflicts: 1) conflict of spatiality: how do trucks embody the internet-based fans and intervene both offline and online? 2) conflict of discourse: how do activist fans contest the position of the company and of the disapproving others? 3) conflict of cognition: are fans defending their love for the idol or their own interests in the commodified idol industry? In a community that prides itself on "the great country's buying power", how do they situate their nationalist affect in such protests centered around parasocial relationships?

Constructing Musical Scenes: Space of Authenticity and Sub-cultural Capital in Chinese Live House

Yubai Li
(University Of Edinburgh)

Based on data from China, this study offers a macroscopic perspective on the production and consumption of live music, shedding light on cultural autonomy and the potential for individual agency within societal frameworks. It specifically delves into two key research inquiries: Firstly, how is the live music scene within venues known as "live houses" constructed? Secondly, what criteria define "good" live music, and how do they relate to the evaluative system applied to artistic products?

Methodologically, qualitative research methods, including interviews, participant observation, and virtual ethnography, were employed, yielding data from 29 interviews. The findings unveil that establishing a vibrant live music scene necessitates not just the active participation of musicians and music enthusiasts but also encompasses the involvement of the audience, essential material resources such as sound equipment, unique fashion expressions, creative installations during live performances, and the geographical positioning of these live houses. Furthermore, embodiment and emotional release within these live music settings foster the appreciation and expression of music within subcultural communities. This music scene transcends the boundaries of music itself, evolving into an open platform where emotions, materiality, and space dynamically converge to construct the art world.

Moreover, "authenticity" emerges as a pivotal evaluative criterion for live music. It embodies sincerity, rebellion, presence, and a strong sense of place. Pursuing authenticity validates the values, social bonds, and lifestyles embodied by the music. The pursuit of authenticity engenders a mutually enriching relationship between the audience and musicians, leading to shared emotional resonance and collective experiences.

The Transformative Power of Aesthetic Experiences: The Political Role of Music in the 2019 Chilean Uprising

Daniela Fazio Vargas
(University of Manchester)

Music has played a crucial role in recent Chilean history as conduct for social and political demands, and the protests of 2019 were no exception. "El Estallido" was also an artistic outburst, apart from being a social and political uprising. In part because demonstrators resorted to art to mobilise themselves and for the greater visibility acquired by artists and their performances during the protests. My research seeks to comprehend how music helped sustain political transformation through aesthetic experiences. One might ask, then, why look for the emergence of these artistic-laden transformative experiences in a place that would seem, at first glance, adverse for them, like the protests –specifically, if one has in mind that, notwithstanding the multiple theoretical traditions, aesthetic experiences have usually been associated with a locus of beauty and pleasure. Thus, although I am focusing on music, the notion of aesthetics used in my research is not limited to the theories of beauty or pleasure. Conversely, it refers to the form in which subjects experience their reality but also to the polemical distribution of the sensible that defines the perceivable and thinkable. Having that in mind, my research aims to show that by looking at music not as an object but as an interaction, it is possible to broaden the notion of politics beyond the public institutional sphere.

The Persistence of Chinese Alternative Rock: A Social Network Analysis of BADHEAD 1999-2023

Shan Shi
(University of Manchester)

This study delves into the social networks that underpin the production of alternative rock music in China. Drawing from a comprehensive collection of albums released by the record label BADHEAD, spanning the years from 1999 to 2023, I used this primary archival source to map the web of connections among practitioners and artists within this underground scene. Employing a mixed-methods approach, I conducted interviews with key participants and carried out formal social network analysis to dissect the formation and evolution of these networks. The findings reveal a core-periphery structure within the production network, with its formation hinging on key factors such as focal points, transitivity, and strategic attachments. These insights shed light on the role that networks play in shaping alternative aesthetics, facilitating financial support, and navigating censorship challenges within art worlds, particularly in an authoritarian context.

This research makes a contribution to the expanding field of empirical exploration within the domain of relational sociology in cultural production. Furthermore, it provides a comparative case study within a field traditionally dominated by Anglo-American music contexts, offering fresh perspectives and enriching our understanding of global cultural production dynamics.

Environment & Society - Room 3

Communities at Risk in River Islands of India's Sunderbans: Understanding Crises, Challenges, and Social Change

Vibha Arora, Sohini Chakraborty
(Indian Institute of Technology)

The age of Anthropocene has heralded existential risk for small islands of ecologically vulnerable Sunderbans region in the Bay of Bengal, India. Our paper is guided by historical analysis of four islands (based on maps available for 20th and 21st Century) and it understands the impact of sea level rise and socio-fluvial dynamics on small islands. Our research focuses on two river islands that were drowned or sunk completely in the 21st century, a new fluvial deposit created landmass that has emerged, while the biggest river island of the Hoogly estuary namely Sagar Island has reported severe land erosion. Combining review of relevant socio-historical literature and ongoing fieldwork of one author in this fragile social ecology, our paper understands the socio-hydrological vulnerabilities and life experiences of ecological refugees in West Bengal state of India. The discourse on small islands is eclipsed by socio-historical neglect of Southern Sunderbans while there are few good studies focusing on Northern Sunderbans (India and Bangladesh). The response of the Indian state is very critical to understand as communities inordinately depend for their welfare and the framing of climate change crises. Hence, our ongoing research on Southern Sunderbans fills a critical gap in understanding ideas of vulnerability and disaster, social coping mechanisms of inhabitants of crises-ridden topographies, and social change and loss of community life here as number of ecological refugees escalates.

The Highland Alternative: The Resilience of the Scottish Crofting System during the Ongoing Crises of Capitalism

Steven Speed
(University of Bolton)

Small-scale farming communities in Scotland engaged in a combination of food sovereignty, agroecology, or land sovereignty have not only made themselves more resilient to the crises of capitalism but have done so by reducing their dependency upon it. What is more, during the recent crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Brexit they were not only more able to sustain themselves when long food supply chains collapsed but were also able to increase their autonomy and sustainability through an increased demand for local food networks. Their increased autonomy has, in certain areas, transformed social relations, and, at times, revealed alternative economic practices.

The research for this paper was conducted over a 15 month period and primarily consisted of seasonal interviews with 14 small-scale food producers in Scotland. It has examined how these communities have worked towards a being more socially and environmentally sustainable through an adaptation of Erik Olin Wright's theory of transformation (Wright 2010) by drawing on David Harvey and John Holloway's analyses of capitalism and of strategies for social transformation. Through this framework the research has examined the unintended trajectories of change that emerge from the crisis of capitalism, the gaps and contradictions these crises have revealed, the relationships their strategies have with these crises as they reveal alternative economic practices, and the sustainability of these alternative practices in the face of capitalism's ability to reproduce itself.

Community Responses to Sustainability, Food Insecurity and Alternative Food Networks: The Case of CoFarm

Neli Demireva
(University of Essex)

In the last decade, the UK has experienced a proliferation of food banks and there are growing concerns about a rise in food insecurity (Loopstra et al., 2019, Loopstra et al., 2015). Even when access to food is adequate, diet quality can be poor, particularly in urban settings, where stress levels and lack of green spaces have been linked to an epidemic of obesity (Dinour et al., 2007). In this context, alternative food networks (AFNs) can play a major role in producing sustainable food, free from chemicals that may inhibit biodiversity and associated ecosystem services, such as pollination, natural pest control, and soil

mineralisation, while at the same time increasing human wellbeing in urban areas. This paper focuses on the experiences of the volunteers and stakeholders in one such local community-based agroecology ('co-farming') project in Cambridge, CoFarm Cambridge. CoFarm Cambridge is a wholly owned subsidiary of the CoFarm Foundation which was established in 2019 to help "bring people together to grow and share nutritious food, build stronger communities and healthier ecosystems.(Foundation, 2019). As a result of their cofarming experience, volunteers reported greater involvement with community issues and heightened awareness of food justice issues. Thus, this form of engagement in an alternative food network can have important community benefits which can be further strengthened through communication and the active involvement of various community actors, although a notable separation between beneficiaries and volunteers continued to exist in place of the "everybody serves" and everybody benefits model that CoFarm has originally envisaged.

Families & Relationships - Room 4

Exploring the Dynamics of the Protective and Predictive Factors for Mental Health through the Trajectories of Young Fathers

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

The mental health of fathers is only recently beginning to be recognised as a public health priority. In this context, the mental health and associated support needs of young fathers (aged 25 and under) are often overlooked and under-reported in research. Reporting on thematic analyses of qualitative longitudinal data generated with young fathers, this presentation presents the narratives of young fathers and conceptualises the dynamics of their mental health pathways in their transitions into and through fatherhood. We demonstrate that young fatherhood can be a positive source of well-being, as well as a time of change and uncertainty. We argue that while fatherhood creates new opportunities for establishing new identities and focus, the demands and responsibilities of fatherhood at a young age, compounded by limited access to the key resources needed to parent effectively, may also tip young men into periods of distress and mental ill-health. We also explore the simultaneously protective or predictive factors that impinge on their well-being, highlighting the vital need for understanding how structural contexts and processes shape their mental health pathways over time.

The Social Problems of Families after the Pandemic: Some Empirical Evidence from the Perspectives of the Social Worker

Marco Carradore, Giorgio Gosetti, Cristina Lonardi
(University of Verona, Italy)

Although the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, scientific research underlines how it continues to affect citizens and families through increased social inequalities, decreased social service expenditure, and other factors impacting citizens' lifestyles. The aim of this research was to identify the social problems affecting families since the pandemic from the perspective of the social worker.

This empirical research focuses on a local area within Northeast Italy. It applied a qualitative approach to investigate new social problems have affected families since the pandemic. The purposive sample involved social workers working in local authorities, care homes, social health services (e.g., family counselling centre), social services for minors and external enforcement services (enforcement of non-custodial criminal penalties and alternatives). A total of 46 social workers were interviewed face-to-face, by means of a structured interview. The data collected was analysed by qualitative content analysis. The initial results identified increases in certain issues, such as concerns about the fragility of parents, the incidence of families with children showing behavioural problems, the lack of housing for families, including those with median incomes, and worries about the difficulties related to caring for elderly or disabled family members at home.

All the final outputs will be shared with research partners and local stakeholders to help plan for specific interventions to address these challenges and to improve the quality of social services.

Planning Intimate Lives and Reproductive Futures in the Face of Globalised Crises

Lisa Howard, Liliana Arias Uruena, Emma Davidson, Lynn Jamieson
(University of Edinburgh)

Inevitably, multifaceted crises intersect with families, personal relationships, and the relational doing of everyday domestic life. Demographers have long demonstrated the response to recession and austerity in what they call 'fertility' and 'fertility intentions'. More recent discussions acknowledge the impact of climate change. There are growing sociologically informed literatures on eco-anxiety and forms of environmental activism centred on families, personal relationships and domestic life, such as 'birth strikes' and pro-environmental parenting movements. This paper will report evidence from a study of UK born childless men and women aged 25-40 who are in a relationship about their plans for children. They are drawn from both relatively advantaged and disadvantaged circumstances. At the core is an exploration of their views and the temporal dynamic of present circumstances, recent past, and imagined futures. This encompasses their awareness of and perspectives on the social consequences of their own present and future domestic and familial life as a facet of our own analysis. The findings in this paper draw from a 4-year study led by Prof. Anna-Maija Castrén at the University of Eastern Finland which compares the sociocultural contexts of Finland, Portugal, and Scotland to understand similarities and differences in each country in terms of reproductive 'regimes' and responses to globalised crises.

Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 6

Validating Long COVID with Data: Self-Tracking Experiences and Practices

Sazana Jayadeva, Deborah Lupton
(University of Surrey)

The post-viral illness known as Long Covid is estimated to have affected tens of millions of people globally. This paper presents preliminary findings from a study exploring how people living with Long Covid use self-tracking technologies to gain insight into or manage their symptoms. The project is guided by three interrelated research questions: (1) In what ways and for what purposes do people living with long Covid use self-tracking technologies in relation to their illness?; (2) What impact does the use of self-tracking technologies have on people's understandings of their illness and themselves?; (3) What, if any, possibilities for counterpower do self-tracking technologies present, and how?

A total of 30 participants in the UK, USA, Germany, Denmark, Canada and Australia were interviewed online about their experiences. Analysis of the interviews identified several prominent themes. Self-tracking offered validation to participants, providing 'objective' data from apps and wearable devices that could be shared with others, including healthcare providers as evidence of their illness. Collecting information also facilitated self-knowledge and self-understanding. In some cases, these insights helped participants to engage in medical advocacy, using these data to self-diagnose and then seek medical help. Self-tracking data, together with embodied feelings, also helped people manage their energy levels and limitations. However, while self-tracking offered feelings of hope and a sense of control, it could also induce anxiety. Further, frustration was reported by some participants concerning the time-consuming nature of self-monitoring and the poor design of these technologies for those wanting to track a chronic illness.

False Divisions and Dubious Equivalencies: Children's Rights during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Pantea Javidan
(Stanford University)

This paper examines the causes and consequences of the current crisis in children's rights during the COVID-19 pandemic, specifically how and why children's fundamental rights to life, health, and safety are besieged in the context of education and schooling. It scrutinizes the laissez-faire pandemic response of minimal mitigations in comparative global perspective, with the United States exemplifying this model and faring worst among peer nations, alongside the United Kingdom and Sweden. Using an intersectional framework regarding systemic inequities, it analyzes policies regarding school re-openings and pandemic mitigations through a review of relevant news media, surveys, statistical data,

and public discourse. The master narrative regarding childhood education during the pandemic has created false divisions and dubious equivalencies between different sets of children's rights to justify in-person schooling with inadequate mitigations. Political officials, economic elites, contrarian "experts," and aligned technocrats advanced laissez-faire policy fueled by disinformation campaigns, moral panic, and political violence, to overpower scientific consensus, public opinion, and human rights, which disproportionately harms working-class and racial minority children.

Narrating Crisis in the COVID-19 Pandemic: Experiences of Patients, Carers, Staff and Senior Managers of Hospice Palliative Care in the UK

John MacArtney
(University of Warwick)

Background: Hospice palliative care emphasises quality of life, timely interventions, and holistic care. At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic hospices in the UK had to adapt their approach and practices of caring and supporting people with terminal illnesses. As Covid-19 becomes endemic, hospices continue to adjust their approach to supporting terminally ill people, many of whom remained vulnerable to Covid-19 affecting the quality and amount of time they had left.

Aim: To explore hospice palliative care patients, carers, staff and senior managers stories to identify how pandemic narratives affected participants' understanding of hospice palliative care.

Methods: Narrative analysis of interviews with patients, carers, staff and senior managers (n=70) recruited from hospices across the West-Midlands, UK.

Findings: We identified four 'pandemic narratives' in the participants' accounts of giving and receiving hospice palliative care support in the first two years of the pandemic. In each narrative we explore how the associated pandemic protections affected participant's quality of life and care; how timeliness of care was disrupted at different points in the palliative care journey; and, how holistic focus care was affected by protections that were in place. We also reflect on some of the potential tensions hospices face in the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion: Covid-19 pandemic brought significant challenges to hospice palliative care, with each of core themes challenged in ways that provided opportunities to reflect on what they mean not only to hospice palliative care, but also their significance to the wider ongoing covid and healthcare political landscape.

Viral Memories: How Has COVID-19 Changed How Gay Men Remember HIV?

Sophie Atherton, Jaime García-Iglesias
(Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh)

COVID-19 profoundly changed our ways of life. For gay men, who have historically been disproportionately impacted by HIV since the 1980s, COVID-19 became a stark reminder of viral disruption. Some scholarly work has already discussed the many similarities and differences between both pandemics, including the role of stigma, social distancing, governmental responses, and biomedicine (Braksmajer and London, 2021; Garcia-Iglesias and Ledin, 2021). Whilst some work has focused on exploring how gay men's experiences of COVID-19 are shaped by their memories and experiences of HIV (Quinn et al, 2021; Handlovsky et al, 2023), little attention has been paid to how current experiences of COVID-19, and the responses to it, have profoundly altered how gay men remember and experience HIV. This paper discusses findings from the ESRC-funded project "Viral Memories." Relying on semi-structured interviews with younger and older gay men in the UK, we will discuss how COVID-19 alters gay men's memories and experiences of HIV, from the 'AIDS crisis' of the 1980s to the current 'post-crisis' moment. Drawing on the theory of haunting (Kagan, 2018) and the sociology of memory (Conway, 2010), we highlight how gay men conceptualise different social and government responses, navigate social distancing given the different transmission routes between HIV and COVID-19, and experience stigma. We conclude by exploring what this means for gay men's understandings and perceptions of risk and safety as they continue to negotiate COVID-19 and HIV in their everyday lives and consider some implications for sexual health policy and practice.

Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 7

Don't Hit the (Psychiatric) Panic Button: Interrogating and Resisting Logics of Crisis and Cure in Lived Experience of Self-Harm

Sarah Redikopp
(York University)

In contemporary Canada, self-harm is increasingly characterized as a public health crisis disproportionately affecting young people. A growing body of evidence suggests that disclosures of self-harm are often met with responses which are frightening and disempowering to those who identify with self-harm. Drawing on findings from a series of narrative interviews with young women, trans, and nonbinary people in Canada who identify with self-harm, this presentation considers the effects of treating young peoples' self-harm as a "crisis" in need of medical treatment, cessation, and "cure". I use a series of case studies to illuminate the ways that research participants experience and navigate responses to their self-harm which, in the words of one participant, "hit the panic button". Drawing on insights from mad studies, critical suicidology, and critical disability studies, I explore the relationship between crisis and cure at the site of self-harm. I suggest that logics of cure – that is, understandings of self-harm as a medical problem best responded to by medical experts to be treated and eradicated (Clare, 2017) – undergird crisis responses to self-harm, and that these understandings deny alternative readings of self-harm as a practice in survival and continuity. More broadly, this presentation asks, what kinds of engagement with self-harm become possible when we resist logics of cure and crisis in self-harm?

Towards An Over-Pharmaceuticalization of Adolescent Mental Health?

Ellen Lagast, Melissa Ceuterick
(Vrije Universiteit Brussel)

Multiple recent studies show the steep increase in (the risk of) mental health problems in adolescents such as anger symptoms, depression, anxiety, stress related conditions and substance misuse since the Covid-19 pandemic. This is both reflected in the increased prescription rate of psychotropic medication: benzodiazepines and antidepressants and the long waiting lists to access (non-medicalized) mental health services in Flanders, Belgium. General practitioners (GP) fulfil an important role in the mental health care as they are usually the first point of contact for patients struggling with their mental health but have the least knowledge about adequate treatments. Therefore, good cooperation with mental health professionals is important but although Belgium implemented mental health care reforms to integrate care and to optimize continuity of care, children and adolescents are still confronted with long waiting lists to access (non-medicalized) mental health services which was exacerbated by the closure of several mental health services during Covid-19. Thus, if difficult accessibility delays this cooperation, GPs may prescribe psychotropics – such as benzodiazepines and antidepressants - in the meantime as a quick solution which might lead to an over-pharmaceuticalization of adolescent mental health. Since the use of psychotropic medication affects the (development of the) adolescent's self, this research aims to study how this interplay between the organization of the Flemish mental health care and general practitioners at the meso level co-determines the adolescent's experience with psychotropics at the micro level.

"It just clears your mind": Young Woman Skateboarders Talk about Mental Health and Personal Development Benefits of Skateboarding

Carrie Paechter, Michael Keenan, Lyndsey Stoodley, Chris Lawton
(Nottingham Trent University)

Skateboarding is a popular lifestyle sport which is increasingly being taken up by girls and young women. The Girl Skateboarder Project, funded by The Leverhulme Trust, set out to explore the experiences of young woman skateboarders in two cities and associated locations in England. The data reported in this paper come from interviews with 32 young woman skateboarders, aged 8-28, across the whole range of ability from beginner to expert, and from a recorded discussion by skateboarders at a local managed skatepark, and a focus group arranged in conjunction with a skatepark exchange trip.

In common with other lifestyle sports such as parkour, skateboarding has some significant risks to physical safety, especially when particular styles are used, such as deep bowl skating, use of high ramps, and fast downhill runs down busy streets.

Most of our respondents had experienced injury, in some cases serious, and many had been hassled both in skateparks and on the street. However, they were all still enthusiastic and active skateboarders, due to their enjoyment of the sport and mental health benefits they felt that they gained from participating. In this paper we explore the mental health and associated personal development benefits of skateboarding, as perceived by our young woman respondents. We analyse their enjoyment of the sport, their sense of achievement and purpose, their social connection, their claims to improved mental health from participating, and the ways in which the deep focus required for skateboarding alleviated stress coming from other aspects of their lives.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10

The Hidden Crisis in the Workplace: Sexual Misconduct, Power Structures and Why Victims Don't Report.

Christina Julios
(The Open University)

Against a backdrop of widespread sexual misconduct at work, this paper examines the routine under-reporting of offences by victims, together with the organisational cultures and power dynamics that keep them silent. Viewing the problem through an intersectional lens, the work draws on the author's original findings from her recent book, Sexual Harassment in the UK Parliament: Lessons from the #MeToo Era (2022) along with ongoing research. Evidence consistently show that unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature is rife across Britain's labour market. While the extent of the problem is difficult to ascertain, various estimates point to half of women and a fifth of men being affected, yet less than a third report the incidents. The underlying reasons are well-documented and include: victims' fear of not being believed, lack of faith in institutional complaints systems, concerns about repercussions to their jobs, reputations and career prospects along with lack of financial resources if they choose to take legal action. Non-disclosure agreements are also used by employers to settle cases of sexual misconduct, effectively gagging victims. In suggesting ways forward, the paper focuses on four areas: first, redressing workplace's power imbalances that benefit those in positions of authority; second, reforming organisational cultures and procedures that perpetuate the prevailing status quo; third, strengthening the law to protect employees' rights; and finally, closing the knowledge gap afflicting the discipline. The paper ultimately shines a light on this contemporary hidden crisis, the continuity of power behind it and the difficulties in effecting lasting change.

The Disclosing Stories Project: A Qualitative Study with Working Class Women on Sexual Violence and Health

Karen Lorimer, Pamela Ritchie, Lesley Mcmillan
(Glasgow Caledonian University)

Globally, progress on gender equality is slowing or even stalling, such that the 2022 SDG Gender Index 'sounds the alarm on gender equality' (EM2030 2022). Tackling gender inequality, and specifically gender-based violence, requires an intersectional approach, which the 2022 SDG Gender Index calls for. Such an approach is embedded within Scotland's Women's Health Plan, published August 2021. But while gender is obviously central to our understanding of sexual violence, we should not focus solely on gender, as this can obscure the lived reality of women from low-income backgrounds. This study sought to develop a rich picture of the 'healthcare journey' of working-class women, to better understand the nexus between gender, class and sexual violence, and develop a sense of needs, supports and barriers. The Disclosing Stories project engaged 19 working class women who had experienced sexual violence in qualitative episodic interviews. Women who identify as working class are not a homogenous group with similar experiences and needs. Women who located class as economic AND psycho-social saw class in everyday life, offered episodic knowledge of being a working-class woman with a body that holds no value, as an object to castigate and with a voice to be dismissed. We consider the connections of this project to existing work on class and gender, and discuss the implication of these findings for

healthcare responses to working class women. How do we dismantle the 'brick-encased world' one woman described she lived in?

Crisis, Continuity and Change Regarding Violence against Women: An Examination of How Government Policy Affects Violence against Women

Michele Lloyd
(Independent Researcher)

This paper will provide an analysis of government policy in relation to how it has affected violence against women. Britain's shift towards a neoliberal state following the election of a Conservative government in 1979, coupled with austerity measures since 2010, have disproportionately impacted women. The implications of the neoliberal model of femininity, capable of achieving a work-life balance, will be discussed. According to this ideology, women's employment is beneficial if it does not undermine their role as a good housewife and mother. Deviations from this model of 'balanced' femininity (Rottenburg, 2018) are often policed including through punitive welfare measures. A case in point is the government's current two-child limit for certain welfare benefits meaning that payments will only be given for subsequent children who have been conceived by rape or a coercive controlling relationship. The neoliberal model of femininity reinforces evaluative discourses on motherhood. When violence occurs, morally charged discourses on idealised motherhood can be mobilised to regulate women's behaviour. The paper will discuss how 'neoliberal mothering-blaming' holds women responsible for violence leading to the 'good mothering' discourse being conceptualised as one of the gendered drivers of domestic and family violence (Maher et al, 2021). Although there has been some progressive legislation, patriarchal design and implementation persist such as the gendered consequences of government COVID-19 lockdown measures. A resurgence in patriarchal values, including in response to the Istanbul Convention on preventing and combatting violence against women and domestic violence, will be examined, highlighting both the importance and fragility of progress.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11

Digital Exclusion or Digital Rejection? Exploring the Rejection of Digitalised Social Rights by Racialised Individuals with Migration Backgrounds in the UK

Sara Bailey, Agnes Kukulska-Hulme, Irina Rets, Elizabeth Fitzgerald
(The Open University)

In the context of the digitalisation of social rights across the world – a process accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic – a growing body of research sets out to examine the societal implications of this phenomenon, especially for marginalised communities. These studies have found that many marginalised individuals are unable to use digital channels to access social rights because of barriers such as digital poverty and inadequate digital literacy; as such, these individuals could be conceptualised as being 'involuntarily excluded' from digitalised social rights. However, few of these studies have looked specifically at the experiences of racialised individuals with a migration background. The UKRI-funded PRIME research project aims to address this gap. Drawing on 100 interviews, we explore the lived experiences of racialised individuals with migration backgrounds of digitalised primary healthcare and social housing. A key finding that emerged from this study was the phenomenon of 'voluntary non-use' of digitalised social rights. This concept describes a situation in which individuals choose not to use digital channels to access social rights, even though they have the resources and skills to do so. We identify and explore a number of factors underlying 'voluntary non-use', including data security concerns and the perception that it is more difficult to negotiate access to social rights digitally than through 'traditional' channels such as the telephone. Our findings have implications for policy makers, and for research taking place at the intersection between citizenship studies and digital sociology.

The Left Behind of Digitalization

Anson Au
(Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

In an age of digitalization, who still refuses to use digital technology? Drawing on nationally-representative Chinese General Social Survey data, my research finds that about half of Chinese households do not actively use the Internet or e-payment systems, despite their ubiquity. This study estimates the effects of socioeconomic resources on these technologies' (non-)use across urban, resident but previously urban, resident but previously rural, and rural hukou household registrations in China. Educational attainment is associated with higher odds of use among rural hukou, but the size of this effect is nearly double compared to urban hukou. Additionally, being female increases the odds of use among urban and resident but previously urban hukou, and lowers the odds of use in rural hukou, but which are attenuated by the mediating effects of education. The results give credence to education as a direct and indirect mechanism for digital skills development, especially for rural households. Individuals proximal to rural living conditions have fewer opportunities to learn about digital technology, resulting in greater dependency on education as a rare source of skills training. Simultaneously, education indirectly creates opportunities for women to learn digital skills by improving chances for higher-status job participation that require information management skills, especially in rural regions where traditional cultural norms constrain opportunities for upward mobility. Ultimately, digital technology non-use is traced not to lack of interest, but to lack of skills development opportunities among the socioeconomically disadvantaged.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8

Gender, Sexuality and Islam in Contemporary Indonesia: Queer Muslims and their Allies

Diego Garcia Rodriguez
(University of Nottingham)

This paper presents an ethnographic exploration of the experiences of queer Muslims in contemporary Indonesia, the largest Muslim-majority country and the world's fourth most populous nation. Utilising semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and media analysis, the study scrutinises the nuanced interactions between gender, sexuality, and religion, specifically within the framework of Indonesian progressive Islam. The paper identifies the processes by which queer Muslims construct their gender, sexual, and religious subjectivities through daily interactions with family, education, media, and peers. Drawing upon the concept of 'agency' as a modality of action, the study uncovers the everyday practices contributing to the development of queer religious agentic systems. The findings reveal the critical role that Islam plays in providing emotional strength, guidance, and social support for gender and sexual minorities in Indonesia.

The Political Economy of Trans Women: The Potentials of Social Reproduction, Trans Materialisms and 'Trans Survival'

Sylvia Mccheyne
(University of Sheffield)

This presentation will focus on establishing a (critical) political economy surrounding the lives of trans women and their own communities. This will include discussing the potentials in social reproduction theories, trans materialisms, and contrasts between precarity and survival in contributing towards this understanding of political economy.

Precarity will be understood not as an exclusive class formation, but something in which trans women face in a wide range of structural and institutional circumstances, that produce the conditions of 'subjective' precarity in trans communities. Survival, specifically 'trans survival,' will be analysed as an interpretation of queer theory in understanding the severity of precarity for trans women, established against the context of rising trans-antagonism and how 'trans survival' itself becomes 'near life.'

Social reproduction theories will be acknowledged in their influences on the political economy of trans women and how they have considered the narratives on how, in states of precarity and survival, trans

women (re)produce labour power in communities and processes of care. Trans materialisms will be analysed in how they can be helpful for trans studies in applying new understandings towards the usage of social reproduction theories as well as considering other potential ideas for a political economy of trans women, including uneven development theories.

This will all be considered as theoretical frameworks towards understanding the LGBT+ charity sector in the UK as an 'employment sanctuary,' and what these frameworks say about the sector and trans women's own contributions and positions in these workplaces and in the wider political economy.

Sensing Gender: Examining the Sensory Regulation of Gender in Discourse about the U.K. Gender-Segregated Bathroom

Lizzie Hughes
(Birkbeck, University of London)

Hostility towards trans people is now at crisis point in the U.K., such that the Prime Minister can endorse misgendering as "common sense" and be applauded. This paper examines the heightened surveillance of trans women's bodies in the women's public bathroom as one aspect of this hostility. High-profile "gender critical" figures have claimed that gender is an innate "common sense" experience, implying that telling who does not belong in women's toilets is straightforward using sensory perception. To further existing feminist critiques of these claims, I analyse two viral online posts that describe encountering trans women in women's toilets: the first a now-deleted Mumsnet post and the second a Daily Mail article written by a Conservative councillor. I argue that both show how gender is informally detected and affectively regulated at the level of the sensory body via visual, aural, olfactory, and haptic regimes of governance. Moreover, that the sensory surveillance encouraged by these narratives polices the spatial, somatic, and symbolic parameters of "the women's", but also of "woman" in ways that shore up ideal embodiments of "women" as normatively sexed, white, and able-bodied, whilst criminalising the figure of the trans woman and encouraging hostility. These narratives present gender as fixed and coherent, legitimising problematic bio-essentialist ideas about the body as a site of truth. By contrast, I emphasise the relational experience of becoming in everyday lifeworlds, as humans are sensing and being sensed, made and being un-made, endlessly.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 12

Interfaith Marriage in India: Dilemmas of Sexuality, Secularism and Democracy

Nivedita Sinha
(Jawaharlal Nehru University)

This paper investigates interfaith marriage through the ambit of the Special Marriage Act and Anti-Conversion laws against the backdrop of increasingly pro-Hindutva rhetoric in India. Interfaith marriages without conversion are legitimized under the Special Marriage Act of 1954. However, there exists a compulsory thirty-day notice period starting from the date of registering for the intended marriage, during which all personal information about the couple is publicized and the marriage is open to public comment. This notice period is peculiar to the Special Marriage Act and is not compulsory in other Indian marital legislations. This law which forces interfaith couples to compromise on privacy is contextualized within the larger discourse on "Love Jihad" and Anti-Conversion laws which have been enacted by the BJP government in the last few years and have explicit clauses prohibiting conversion for the purpose of marriage. Anti-Muslim policy and propaganda have been a tool of Hindu nationalist statecraft to curb their anxiety concerning a supposed demographic swing in favour of the Muslim population. This paper draws upon narratives of couples from the news that have faced harassment because of the notice period or have been arrested upon accusations of "love jihad" to argue that women's bodies have become a tool for electoral campaigns and a site for communal politics. In this way, Hindu women's reproductive bodies have become the strategy to counter the demographic swing, leading to an excessive surveillance of Interfaith marriages in India.

Competing Perceptions and the Politics of Sacredness: The Case of Istanbul's Hagia Sophia

Umur Kosal
(University of Aberdeen)

In 2020, Turkey's most visited museum, Hagia Sophia, underwent a transformation into a state mosque. This transformation resulted from a politically informed decision by a Turkish high court, which reversed a century-old decree that had allowed Hagia Sophia to function as a museum instead of being used as a sacred Imperial Mosque and had long been a subject of historical contention. Considering that Hagia Sophia is a place rich in meanings and memories with various competing demands regarding its historical sacredness, this paper argues that this shift in its status, from a mosque to a museum and back to a mosque, can be understood by focusing on three key sociological aspects of historically contested sacred places. First, the paper explores the competition among religious histories and traditions striving for legitimacy in Hagia Sophia's sacredness, especially among devout Muslims. Secondly, it uncovers that the sources of this competition can extend beyond religious factors. Even when the causes appear to be religious, they can be influenced by broader political considerations. Finally, the paper demonstrates how political actors can strategically focus on the sacredness of any place to enhance their control over specific cases or exert influence over broader political affairs. Drawing on these three primary aspects, the paper concludes that individuals can amplify the sacred significance of any place. However, contestations over such significance are often generated and perpetuated through a cacophony of competing perceptions, which are transformed by political powers, as evident in the case of the transformation of Hagia Sophia.

Symbolic Boundaries in Humanitarianism: The Co-Production of Vulnerabilities and Resilience by Syrian Refugee 'Volunteers' in Turkey

Nisha Zadhy
(Bilkent University)

This paper scrutinises how boundary-making occurs in the Turkish humanitarian field, where constructs that are gendered, racialised, and ageist often produce simplistic categories of deservingness and create a hierarchy of vulnerabilities amongst Syrian refugee women, compounding the macro-level crisis of war, conflict and violence at intimately personal levels. Qualitative data drawn through in-depth interviewing and participant observations indicate that Syrian refugee women can become co-producers of such categories of deservingness as informal 'volunteers' in the humanitarian field wherein they co-opt and challenge existing humanitarian understandings of vulnerabilities and resilience. In embedding themselves in aid distribution centres, negotiating their positions and providing gendered labour, they became mediators between the aid workers and refugees, complicating the binaries of receivers and providers. This paper makes two key contributions: (1) it foregrounds the agentive attempts of refugees to counteract the humanitarian crisis, providing an example of how vulnerability can become a common ground for building community and communal resilience; (2) in attending to this communal aspect, it also paves the way to a deeper analysis of vulnerability and resilience in the face of crisis; instead of treating them as static descriptors of individuals, the former is treated as something situational while the latter is treated as dynamic process of boundary work.

Sociology of Education - Room 13

From Mont Pelerin to the Corporate University: How a Neoliberal Movement Came to Define the Contemporary Role of Educators and Universities

Nathan Rousseau
(Indiana University)

This presentation provides a social history of the actors and activities that led to today's neoliberal hegemony. Nascent neoliberals in the 1930s-40s began organizing to create a new global order based upon free trade in response to both the collapse of the global order following World War I and threats to liberty posed by National Socialism and the Soviet Union. The neoliberal definition of freedom is not concerned with the political freedom of persons but with the free flow of capital. This was an attractive ideology for corporate leaders and conservative politicians, and neoliberalism became the dominant

organizational principle throughout much of the world by the latter part of the twentieth century. As part of its global dominance, neoliberalism in higher education defines the role of educators, the measures used to define student success, and the purpose of an education. To protect the free market, along with the assumption that markets are self-correcting due to the rational demands of consumers, educators must become entrepreneurs who sell education to students, parents, and donors. In this way, university personnel become a part of the neoliberal apparatus. A principle means of gaining complicity is by decreasing permanent faculty, emphasizing faculty and staff as "stakeholders," and keeping faculty busy by routinely introducing new fads to be marketed. This presentation shows how we got here and offers recommendations for faculty in the UK and the US to regain their professional status.

Authorial Power, Au

Zeina Al Azmeh
(Selwyn College, University of Cambridge)

How does a crisis of the state and its 'emergency politics' lead to a crisis of the intellectual, or what does it mean to be an intellectual in our contemporary conjuncture beyond Western clichés and the universalistic bias of their declinist arguments? In responding to these questions, we draw upon data collected from exiled Turkish and Syrian academics to argue that the critical commitments exiled intellectuals presume are under threat as rising authoritarianisms take hold globally and advanced neo-liberal practices tighten their grip on universities. The promise of Said's figuration of the 'intellectual in exile' and its political potential is also under threat as displaced scholars navigate democratic backsliding and structural precarity in the contemporary university and in the nation-states to which they have found themselves tied, eroding even further the conceptual idea of the critical intellectual and the potential power of the 'post-colonial intellectual'. In our research, this crisis of the intellectual is recounted by exilics paradoxically in both the autocratic and the 'nominally democratic' higher education (HE) context where in some cases the very idea of the intellectual can represent, at least in part, a banal political figuration epitomised in what Nancy Fraser refers to as progressive neo-liberalism. This is largely so because both authoritarian and nominally democratic states, whilst different in political charge, are simultaneously invoking 'states of emergency' and culture wars that are eroding their own intellectual constituencies' ability to disturb existing institutional norms and the taken for granted problems that emerge in everyday HE practices.

Shaping Mindful Citizens: Practitioners' Motivations and Aspirations for Mindfulness in Education

Peter Hemming
(University of Surrey)

Mindfulness meditation has enjoyed growing popularity in the UK over the last few decades and is increasingly found in many educational settings. To date, existing empirical research on mindfulness in education has focused primarily on its efficacy, rather than more sociological concerns. This article draws on qualitative data from a major research study entitled 'Mapping Mindfulness in the UK' to investigate the motivations and aspirations of mindfulness practitioners for promoting and delivering mindfulness in educational contexts. The analysis argues that some of the existing theoretical critiques of mindfulness as a neo-liberalising self-technology are too reductive and do not take adequate account of the views and experiences of practitioners. For participants in this study, mindfulness in education was more than an individualised self-help therapeutic tool, but was instead a uniquely versatile practice, representing multiple possibilities for individuals and society. The research makes significant contributions to several fields of sociological inquiry, including on mindfulness, mental health and wellbeing, and education and citizenship.

Theory - Room 5

The Greek Crisis as an (In)Adequately Processed Trauma: A Psychosocial Approach

Giorgos Bithymitris
(National Centre for Social Research)

Despite its idiosyncratic features, the experience of the Greek crisis of the 2010s was decisively mediated from academic and non-academic discourses articulated at the global, European, and national level. Notwithstanding the numerous sociological accounts that have focused on spatio-temporal continuities and discontinuities of the Greek crisis, only few scholars have employed the concept of trauma to make sense of what has been different and has been the same, before and after the default. From a psychosocial angle, this is a missed opportunity, not least because trauma is one of these liminal concepts that instead of typifying -and thus reifying- changes and discontinuities it rather seeks to understand the interconnections between past and present, self and other. With an eye on building bridges between third-person and first-person perspectives, which also means linking micro with macro-level analyses, the paper discusses the trauma of the Greek crisis drawing both from psychoanalytical studies and from the cultural trauma scholarship. The aim of the paper is twofold: First, to discuss the sociological findings of previous studies on the Greek crisis, shedding light on the question of whether it could be described as a case of adequately explored trauma, while also examining the social conditioning of such an exploration. Second, to expound the epistemological and ethical implications of such questionings. What does adequately explored trauma mean, and how could sociologists productively assess this adequacy at the various levels of analysis, while also acknowledging their partiality as psychosocial subjects?

Micropolarization: The Affective and Interpersonal Experience of Political Antagonism

Matthias Revers, Stephen Coleman
(University of Leeds)

This article theorizes the intricate dynamics through which political divides become personal in local contexts. We believe conventional polarization measurements of issue-based disagreements and cross-group resentments in representative surveys only scratch the surface. We contend that polarization is only 'real' when people perceive and experience a genuine sense of political antagonism towards others and enact this antagonism. Polarization materializes in social interaction imbued with the perception and processing of publicly mediated political conflict.

Our focus on the dynamics of interpersonal political conflict offers a less elusive lens though which to comprehend public political discord. Adopting a performance theoretical perspective, we introduce the concept "micropolarization," denoting the incorporation of the drama of public political conflict in social interaction. The micropolarization dramas which transpire from this incorporation encompass the complex choreography of navigating interpersonal conflict avoidance and eruption. These dramas are fueled by political emotions and feature scripts composed of public modes of identification, misrecognition and mutual stigmatization between social groups. We will shed light on these three key elements of micropolarization—political emotions, scripts and stigmatization—by analyzing interview data about family and friendship disputes arising from divergent COVID-19 vaccination beliefs in Germany and the UK. As a research agenda, examining micropolarization dramas offers valuable insights into the intricate interplay between public discourse and personal relationships in the context of contemporary political polarization.

The Conception of Volunteering Within the Historical Context of Social and Political Culture in Turkiye

Zehra Zeynep Sadikoglu, Nursen Tekgöz, M. Fazil Bas, Aynur Erdogan Coskun, Murat Senturk
(Istanbul University)

Cross-cultural studies relying on the definition of volunteering as activities under the auspices of civil society organisations (CSOs) misinterpret the meanings attributed to volunteering and lead to underestimation of volunteering rates in non-Western societies. Addressing this lacuna, we explore how

volunteering is conceived within the historical context of social and political culture in Turkiye through an interpretative phenomenological approach. 22 focus group discussions were carried out with 10 groups (CSO managers, CSO professionals, CSO volunteer coordinators, academics, public bureaucracy, local administrations, international organisations, volunteering initiatives, volunteers, people without volunteering experience) that have a high potential to provide information on volunteering in Turkiye. Our findings reveal that volunteering in Turkiye, which is associated with benevolence and mostly carried out with altruistic motivations, is seen as spontaneous activities embedded in everyday life. This historical conception, fuelled by cultural norms and values and the Islamic tradition, renders volunteering under the auspices of CSOs futile and is reinforced by the strong state tradition of Turkiye that assumes a vertical relationship between the state and civil society, based on the understanding that the state has both a transcendent power over society and a duty to protect people. The ideologically polarised structure of CSOs, whose activities are embedded in broader social visions rather than being problem-based in scope and content, under the shadow of this tradition, which functioned as the regulating variable of Turkish politics until the 1980s with periodic military coups, also backs this conception.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 - Room 14

Hard Choices: Navigating Risk in the Freelance Labor Market

Deepa Kylasam Iyer
(Cornell University)

This study set out to understand how freelance media workers confront these risks individually and collectively in the United States. The researcher used an inductive approach to explore the question by operationalizing the construct of 'risk' from the theoretical framework of Ulrich Beck and Jacob Hacker. This was followed by 41 semi-structured interviews with freelance media workers, union and political leaders and experts. Since the media sector and the use of freelancers are concentrated in New York and Los Angeles, most of the interviewees were based out of these locations. Snowball sampling was used. From the interviews, it was clear that freelance media workers used individual and collective strategies to navigate risks at work. At an individual level, freelancers found work through existing professional network. For social security risks such as health insurance, freelancers relied on personal networks of family, spouse or partner by being part of their insurance. The collective strategy involved five different strategies to navigate risk with the help of a labor organization. This study has many implications. At one level, it brings out the workplace reorganization in the media sector that pushes more workers into freelancer status as a part of financial downsizing. At another level, the problems and strategies used by freelance media workers is helpful in understanding the workplace issues of other forms of precarious workers such as gig and platform workers. Finally, the precarity of media workers has implications on the healthy functioning of democracy.

"Who understands whom?": An Exploration of International Sign Conference Interpreting from Deaf Professionals' Perspectives

Karolien Gebruers
(Heriot-Watt University, PhD student)

International Sign (IS) is "a complex multilingual translanguaging phenomenon where individuals draw upon their sign language, language and gestural repertoires to engage in communicative 'foreigner talk'" (De Meulder, Napier & Stone, 2018, p. 10). IS typically occurs when signers, often from European countries, with diverse linguistic backgrounds meet and it is currently used in a wide range of institutionalised settings, such as at conferences and in academic courses (Kusters, 2020). IS interpreters are increasingly provided in 'hearing contexts', e.g., in political institutions and at academic conferences (Kusters, 2021). In the past, mostly hearing white heritage signers from mainly English-speaking countries in the global North became IS conference interpreters. Although the IS interpreting profession is gradually becoming more diverse, deaf and hearing interpreters of colour, and from the global South are still underrepresented.

In this on-going PhD study, I explore how deaf professionals, with diverse backgrounds in terms of gender, race, sexuality and language, experience working with IS interpreters and how these intersectional experiences shape their aspirations and practices. Drawing on mind map narrative interviews, I will discuss the challenges and successes shared by deaf professionals, which are entangled in conversations around power, privileges and oppressions. I will highlight who benefits (or does not benefit) sufficiently from IS conference interpreting services, or as one participant put it "who understands whom?", and why. Furthermore, I will discuss whether the hybrid working opportunities that arose in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic enhanced the experiences of these deaf professionals.

Precarious Mobilities and the Uses of 'International Capital' in Academia.

Aline Courtois, Theresa O'keefe
(University of Bath)

International mobility is typically understood as a beneficial and necessary feature of academic life, especially for those known as 'early-career' academics. These are often advised to go abroad for a period in exchange for an improved CV and better career chances upon return. While the scholarly literature has begun to draw attention to the inequalities, uncertainties and significant personal costs associated with international academic mobility, the notion that mobility is a potential solution to precarious employment endures and is less frequently challenged. Drawing on 40 biographic interviews with academics with experience of long-term precarity in Irish higher education, and using a Bourdieusian framework, we identify the specific conditions, uses and impacts of international mobility for these workers. This method offers a unique retrospective advantage for an analysis of the utility of international capital for a cohort of workers typically excluded from studies of international mobility. Among the specific obstacles we identify are faced by precarious academics in the accumulation and conversion of international capital are the lack of or compromised initial social capital; the dubious value of international capital in Irish academia, especially when associated with precarity, and the difficulty for workers to construct acceptable career scripts when both precarity and mobility have led them off-script. We suggest that the ability to accumulate and convert usable forms of international capital while working abroad is in part predetermined by prior struggles in the national field.

A Qualitative Research on Women's Paths towards the Position of Full Professor: Merit or Opportunity?

Anna Uboldi, Marianna Filandri, Silvia Pasqua
(University of Turin)

The study investigates the career paths of Italian women towards the position of full Professor. A consolidated line of research highlights the persistence of a significant disadvantage of women in Italian academic careers. It also show how this gap refers to structural dynamics of discrimination.

We conducted 34 discursive interviews with female academics of STEM and SSH disciplines (only chemistry and economics; by means of Miur register) from universities in central, northern and southern Italy; women united by having reached the qualification stage, but differentiated by grade and career path.

We examine how female academics make sense of the obstacles and opportunities that shaped their careers, and how they interpret everyday dynamics through, or not, the lens of gender inequalities. Within a common framework of general recognition of both forms of everyday sexism and conciliation problems, different discursive and practical strategies can be seen, aimed at facing, naming and giving meaning to the difficulties encountered. Plural reproductive modalities of gender inequalities are also identified, which refer to different dynamics of tacit adhesion to an unfair social order. We identify five ideal types that cuts across the STEM and SHH: a-problematic optimists, (a)problematic acquiescents, ambivalent moderates, radical critics, and resigned critics.

The study shows how gender inequalities are produced and inherent in the same academic 'conditions of work', permeated by a hegemonic male and neoliberal value system.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 - Room 15

Labour Process and Occupations: A Critical Journey into the Sociology of Work

Paraskevi-Viviane Galata
(Hellenic Open University)

Work-life boundaries are becoming increasingly blurred through work transformations and organisational processes that merge the moral and personal spheres of life. A series of quantitative and qualitative changes in work during the 1970s and 1980s emphasised the growth of the tertiary sector, the reduction of wages and the supply of unskilled jobs without explaining how work and life merge. Since then, the emphasis has been on qualitative aspects of work, such as generic skills, emotions and the employer-employee relationship, which explain how work and life become indistinguishable. Migration also helps to understand how migrant work is related to moral and personal life. Hence, qualitative exploitation has prevailed, collectivity has weakened, work and life have merged, leading to alienated work, isolation and self-alienation. The article examines changes in the labour process and occupations and how organisational strategies, in relation to wider socioeconomic processes, blur work-life boundaries for the need of capital accumulation. The analysis will be theoretically framed by labour process theory debates and sociological debates on occupations and skills. Focusing on Greece as an exemplary case of changes in working conditions since the 1990s and reusing qualitative data generated from previous sociological studies, the paper makes the following contributions. First, it thoroughly analyses why, how and with what consequences the phenomenon of blurring work-life boundaries threatens human life. Second, it provides an empirically grounded analysis of labour process theory that relates workers' experiences to the wider socioeconomic context and prompts further reflection on the future of work and human life.

Distant Encounters: Emotional Management and Emotional Capital in Offshored Services

Carlos Pineda Ramos
(University of Bristol)

The workplace, particularly in the service industry, provides a fertile ground for examining the role of emotions in labour, not just in its contribution to profitability but also in individuals' efforts to manage them. Given its relational nature, the service industry involves the accumulation and interaction of relationships governed by diverse rules and motivations within industry practices. Consequently, my research aims to delve into emotional strategies in the workplace and how workers' prior socioeconomic backgrounds influence them.

To achieve this, my work seeks to put Bolton's emotional management typology in dialogue with the concept of Emotional Capital, connecting broader socioeconomic discussions with the nuances of emotional management analysis. Specifically, it explores how social, economic, and cultural displays outside the workplace influence the emotional strategies employed to meet commercial, organizational, and social demands. These strategies are viewed not only as products of past conditions but also as reproducers of inequality.

With this in mind, my research centres on Colombian call centres as a case study where the rapid growth of the region's Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry has led to a more diverse labour force. Consequently, it argues that workers with varying socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds are confronted with similar emotional norms, tasks, and challenges, highlighting differences in their emotional strategies and their connection to structural conditions. Therefore, this study aims to illuminate how emotional capital is shaped by socioeconomic forces and how specific jobs and industries exacerbate disparities within their workforce.

"Extremists" and "Weirdos": Office Culture and Experiences of Women Vegans in the UK and Croatia

Martina Topic, Marija Geiger Zeman, Gabrielle Round
(University of Alabama, College of Communication and Information Sciences)

Organisational experiences of women are a well-documented area of research with sociologists arguing women often suffer from discrimination, exclusions as well as career barriers such as the lack of progression opportunities, tokenism, lack of networking opportunities etc. Bourdieusian scholars also argued that the organisational world functions as a masculine habitus in which masculine meanings and expectations are so entrenched into everyday practice that many women no longer notice them or recognise them as problematic (e.g., behavioural expectations of women such as assertiveness, aggression and other characteristics that commonly come natural to men but not women due to early socialisation process).

In this study, we are exploring women vegans as a distinctive group looking at their work experiences respective to their consumption lifestyle. We interviewed 20 women vegans in Croatia and 30 in the UK. A particular issue transpired from data respective of interactions at work and in after-work networking and events where women reported dismissive questions and comments as well as being seen as a problem for others along with being labelled as extremists and weirdos. Therefore, we analyse the work experiences of women vegans in the context of masculinity in lifestyle (in this case food consumption) that seems to feed into the organisational world, thus further extending Bourdieu's work on masculine domination. We argue that being able to fit into the organisation, including into eating culture, presents organisational masculinity that is pervasive even in informal structures such as eating at the office and networking and events.

PLENARY
16:15 - 17:15

Lynne Segal

A Politics of Radical Care

Life at present is plagued by drama and emergencies. We see rampant inequality and carelessness entrenched, ensuring that essential resources are ever harder to access for many, while environmental disasters continue to threaten us, even as continuous warfare around the globe results in ever more people on the move in search of asylum. One response is evident in the rise of the Right, with its populist nationalism and policies of exclusion. A second involves more inclusive practices of resistance and hope, which nowadays often address the need not just to prioritize care, but to explore its complexities and significance, noting its constant devaluation. In this presentation I draw upon my latest book, Lean on Me, which argues that the only way to combat the pessimism feeding reactionary movements is by insisting upon our globally entwined interdependence and shared vulnerability. We know that the recent and still ongoing Covid pandemic spotlighted exactly this global interdependence, along with our lifelong needs for differing forms of care and support. At its height the pandemic did stimulate heroic efforts from care workers globally, as well as generating a host of grassroots practices of mutual aid for those in want of care and companionship, some of which continue today. However, the recognition of our mutual dependency is always threatened by people's deep fear and disavowal of dependency, encouraged by illusory rhetoric of personal autonomy along with market promises of individual fulfilment, irrespective of others. In reality our human condition is one in which our bodies frequently fail us, just as our desires are often thwarted or dismissed. This means that none of us survive without the care and kindness of others, underpinned by diverse social infrastructures that either enable or curtail the flourishing of all living creatures, and the world itself. Embracing the interconnected vulnerability of human existence can help us to cement our ties to others, near and far, while encouraging us to respond to the persistent perils of the present and fatalistic forebodings of the future by deepening our commitment to a compassionate, inclusive sociality, placing expanded notions of care at the very heart of our politics and democratic survival.

Lynne Segal is a feminist writer and activist, publishing for many decades in the area of gender, sexuality, feminism, ageing, and care. She taught in higher education for fifty years, her last twenty in Psychosocial Studies at Birkbeck, University of London, where she is Anniversary Professor, Emerita. Her books include *Is the Future Female? Troubled Thoughts on Contemporary Feminism*; *Slow Motion: Changing Masculinities, Changing Men*; *Straight Sex: The Politics of Pleasure*; *Why Feminism? Gender*; *Psychology & Politics*; *Making Trouble: Life & Politics*; *Out of Time: The Pleasures & Perils of Ageing*; *Radical Happiness: Moments of Collective Joy*; *The Care Manifesto: The Politics of Interdependence* (co-authored); *Lean on Me: A Politics of Radical Care*.

Chair: Finn Mackay, University of the West of England, BSA Public Engagement Trustee