



2024 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 April

# 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 Friday 5 April 2024**

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then alphabetically by Stream name

Accurate as of 02 April 2024. Any further changes to the programme will be  
made periodically in the lead up to the conference.

# Paper Session 7

## 09:00 - 10:30

### BSA Publications Special Event - Room 13

#### **Sociological Storytelling: Writing for Scholarly and Public Debate**

*Michaela Benson, Chantelle Lewis, Nasar Meer and Gary Younge*  
(Lancaster University, University of Oxford, University of Glasgow, University of Manchester)

The 21st Century Standpoints series (published by the BSA and Policy Press) helps shape public conversations with works based on striking ideas and robust evidence. With lively, disruptive and progressive writers, the series provides a powerful platform for storytelling in both scholarly and public debate at this time of social and political disruption. Join Les Back (chair and series co-editor) in conversation with Michaela Benson (Lancaster University), Chantelle Lewis (Oxford University), Nasar Meer (University of Glasgow) and Gary Younge (University of Manchester) to discuss approaches to writing for broad and varied audiences, and learn more about how to participate in the series.

**Chaired by:** Les Besk (University of Glasgow, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Standpoints Co-editor)

### Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

#### **Tailor-Made Nationalism: The Case of the Israeli Digital Nomads' Community**

*Shahar Mendelovich*  
(Bar-Ilan University)

In recent years, Israel has faced electoral and social crises that have affected the well-being of its citizens. Many people have lost trust in the government and authorities, leading some to leave the country and establish independent settlements abroad. While some are considering traditional immigration, others are opting for digital nomadism, which allows for a highly mobile lifestyle through the use of technology. This research demonstrates how digital nomadism is a temporary solution for Israelis who wish to detach themselves from the nation-state while keeping their national identity and sense of belonging. By conducting interviews with 21 digital nomads and analyzing digital content analysis, I show that Israeli digital nomads strongly desire to belong to a national collective despite their choice to live a cosmopolitan, territory-free lifestyle. I refer to this process as "Tailor-made Nationalism," characterized by three elements: it is based on and facilitated by technology, tailored to the individual's needs and choices, and lacks territorial and civic commitment to the nation-state. Tailor-made nationalism allows the digital nomad to break away from the commitment to the nation-state while enjoying the benefits of national collective affiliation. It enables individuals to choose their level of commitment, sociality, and identification with their nationality. By choosing a hyper-mobile, digital lifestyle, the Israeli digital nomads grant themselves the option of tailoring their national identity and belonging according to their needs.

#### **It is Already Happening Here: Rethinking Sustainable Development in the Era of Far-Right Populism**

*Garrett Grainger*  
(Manchester Metropolitan University)

The "15-minute neighbourhood" is a model of sustainable development that far-right groups in Britain are campaigning against. This paper answers the following questions: How have far-right activists interpreted 15-minute neighbourhoods? How has their message been diffused to and impacted local authorities? What does this mean for the way urban scholars conceptualise sustainable development? I use archival data (online news outlets and social media posts) to show far-right activists use

“authoritarian populist frames” to halt sustainable development and delegitimise liberal institutions. Technological advancements help the far-right quickly diffuse these frames around the world. This has enabled organisers to expand their political coalition, disrupt local planning initiatives, and perpetuate unsustainable development. An onus for local authorities to achieve a quadruple bottom line (economic, natural, social, and political capital) has thus been created. Failure to do so may threaten democracy, intensify climate change, and/or deepen social inequalities.

## **Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2**

### **Revitalising Peace in Global Policy Discourses: Journalism's Constructive Role after the war in Ukraine**

*Giuliana Tiripelli*  
(*De Montfort University*)

In recent years, the focus of the debate about journalism has shifted from one about the crisis within journalism itself to one about journalists during crises. Global policy institutions, such as the UN, various UN agencies, and the Council of Europe, have responded by prioritising campaigns and policies to safeguard the safety and freedom of expression for journalists. This response is grounded in alarming statistics on the imprisonment, violence, and harassment faced by journalists worldwide. While this defensive approach is undeniably crucial, it calls for an urgent sociological intervention to ensure that a more constructive understanding of the role for journalism in conflict situations is retained in the current policy discourse. This paper critically examines ongoing discussions within international institutions like the UN and the Council of Europe regarding journalists' safety, in order to identify both the potential and limitations of this discourse in fostering conflict transformation. Drawing from media development practices and normative approaches to journalism, this paper builds upon essential considerations of safety and freedom and identifies ways in which these international policies could embed conflict transformation as well as journalism. By demonstrating how policymakers respond to the imperative of supporting journalists in strengthening democracy during crises, this paper shows how evolving political matters refocus institutional understanding of journalism's role in conflicts, and the importance of preserving diverse perspectives even when “our” own communities are at war.

### **A Sociological Study of the Interface between Oral Storytelling Tradition of North East India and Cultural Memory**

*Sreyasi Chatterjee, Sukanta Das*  
(*Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Mahavidyalaya*)

The western idea that literature consists of the written or printed word has been constantly challenged by oral narratives. Oral storytelling traditions originated in the earliest societies and these folklores have always served as grand repositories of memories and histories of indigenous societies. The goal of these folklores and their rendition was to entertain, disseminate cultural values as well as promote social cohesion. Rapid urbanization and globalization have impacted this oral storytelling tradition as folklores first faced distortion and then extinction. This tradition is being revived again with the help of digital technology, social media and new-age story tellers. This study explores how resurgence of oral storytelling traditions is providing a platform to the lost art of live narration of folklores as a tool to preserve cultural memory and to bring about unity within the community. Professional new-age storytellers use a variety of digital tools to make these folklores come to life and even perform them at various storytelling festivals. Through content analysis of these new-age folklore renditions, this study aims to understand how oral storytelling is used to re-narrate events of the past in order to represent shared values. This study further examines how these new age oral storytelling traditions help communities of North East India build new meanings as they start focusing on individual interpretation and on current socially relevant issues.

## **We Are Firmly Committed to Zero Policy in all Aspects of Life: The Art of Expressing Opposition towards Authority in China**

*Anonymised at presenter's request  
(Anonymised)*

In 2022, the Chinese Communist Party's insistence on brutal lockdown and zero covid policy has created a widespread human rights crisis and provoked divergent public opinions. Given the stringent censorship in China, most opinions cannot be expressed directly. This paper argues that there is a need to analyse Chinese netizens' discourse on the zero covid policy from a perspective that pays more attention to semantics and context. Based on the texts collected from the Internet and using critical discourse analysis, the paper probes into whether and how Chinese netizens utilised rhetoric to express their opposition towards the zero covid policy. It reveals that netizens usually used the following three means to express their opposition towards the policy: 1) ironically, by praising the negative effects of the policy and showing support for its negative effects with a sarcastic tone; 2) metaphorically, by using cartoons or stories to allude to the nature of zero covid policy; and 3) to conceal and implicitly convey their dissatisfaction with the policy by using puns. The paper concludes with a call for a more content-focused approach to examine the texts on the Chinese Internet and even Internet contents in other authoritarianist countries, especially since Chinese authorities have become increasingly politically sensitive to a wide range of expressions and censorship has become more intense.

## **Environment & Society - Room 3**

### **"Sometimes you just need to make a lot of noise!": Disruptive Youth Climate Protest as a Multifaceted Response to Climate Crises**

*Andrew Macdonald  
(University of York)*

For my ESRC-funded PhD research, I have interviewed 16 to 24-year-olds who self-identify as Youth Climate activists. Many of my participants choose or have chosen to participate in disruptive protests such as mass mobilisations, blockades and institutional pickets. However, although these disruptive acts directly respond to the climate crisis when interviewing 16 to 24-year-olds about their participation in climate activism, it soon becomes clear that they are not just protests but multifaceted acts. Youth climate activists are using protest not only to agitate but also to mitigate a range of anxieties. My participants outline these at the interview as they reflect upon what many young people make sense of: the crises they see looming in the future. In sharing some of my interview data, this paper will discuss how youth climate activists participating in disruptive protest see activism not just as a means to attract attention to the climate crisis but also as a way to mitigate the anxieties that climate activists view as their disrupted futures.

### **Conservatism, the Far Right, and the Environment**

*Jesse Bryant  
(Yale University)*

Sociology operates with an impoverished understanding of conservatism and the natural environment. The discipline's focus on anti-regulatory and anti-science dimensions of conservative politics can obscure a more comprehensive, historically deep, and theoretically rich understanding of conservatism's connection to nature. We review and integrate sociological research with a large multi-disciplinary global literature on conservative and far right environmental thought. Our analysis shows an intellectual tradition built around three commitments concerning the moral order of nature and society: (a) Naturalism, (b) Organicism, (c) Pastoralism. After tracing their history—beginning in Europe and continuing on into settler and postcolonial contexts—we consider several contemporary manifestations, sometimes in ways that are counterintuitive to sociology's dominant understanding of conservatism. Conservative thought, including its far right edges, maintains a firm hold on global politics while climate change transforms the planet. To better understand these dynamics, sociology must continue to integrate work from other socio-environmental fields. This scoping review begins to correct this neglect and charts a path for future research at this increasingly impactful intersection.

## **Energy Transition in a Land of Nuclear Entanglements**

*Pancho Lewis*  
(Lancaster University)

What does it mean to deliver a 'green' transition in a land of nuclear? This presentation explores this question by drawing on empirical data from west Cumbria, north-west England. I explore how 'nuclear entanglements' – the way the nuclear shapes material realities, socio-economic arrangements, and expectations for the future – seem to stymie opportunities for a rapid, low-carbon energy transition. These shape imagined future trajectories, constraining opportunities to think about employment arrangements outside of existing nuclear relations, both in terms of labour market expectations (the way new green jobs are seen as unable to compete with those provided by nuclear) and as a form of affective and practice-based 'lock-in'. Further, the nuclear provides some continuity with jobs in prior coal industry, thus informing a sense that local identities are constituted through nuclear-coal energy histories, whilst new green jobs are seen as challenging people's sense of place and identities. I conclude by drawing out the implications these challenges raise for those seeking to enable a rapid low-carbon energy transition to prevent dangerous climate change.

## **Families & Relationships - Room 4**

### **Breastmilk or Formula: The Individualization Process of Chinese Women's Infant Feeding**

*Yang Jun*  
(Shandong University)

With reference to Ulrich Beck's theory of individuation, this paper explores whether Chinese women's individualization in infant feeding practices has undergone a process of "de-traditionalization, de-embeddedness and re-embeddedness" from the beginning of the nineteenth century to the twenty-first century.

This paper focuses on the impact of three important historical nodes: first, during the late Qing and Republican periods, women were deeply embedded in the traditional network of family, relatives, and community. Secondly, in the mid-to-late 20th century, along with the "planned economy and unified distribution" came the "de-sexualization" of China's division of labor, in which the individual was de-embedded from ancestor's shade and then embedded under the management of the Party-State. Women in this period became partially individualized, disembedded from traditional structures and re-embedded in the development of the country. But it was incomplete, as women were required to participate in productive activities as well as child-rearing, resulting in a double strain and burden. Thirdly, the market economy era from the end of the 20th century to the present has given women a more equal status. Women are determined to separate themselves from the feeding experience of their elders and demand more autonomy, but families still impose certain restrictions on women in terms of diets and other lifestyles. Besides, optimal breastfeeding serves as a normative force through which women regulate their own behavior, embedding themselves in the family and the State in a covert manner.

### **Investigating Identity and Spirituality in Humanist Families: From Supernatural to Natural**

*Morena Tartari, Hamide Elif Üzümcü*  
(Babeş-Bolyai University & University of Padua)

Non-religious spiritualities are still largely unexplored from a sociological perspective. This paper aims to fill in this gap by discussing the results of two research studies on secular Humanist movements, which explore the everyday life of Humanist families, their activism and practices, and the intergenerational transmission of values. While contributing to the advancement of knowledge concerning non-religious identities in the public and private spheres, this paper also aims to stress the method of inquiry that we applied to analysing practices and discourses on spirituality.

The research projects RE-Green and WHosGreen, funded by two distinct research grants, have involved seven countries (the United Kingdom, Norway, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary, and the US). This presentation is based on the data collected so far in four countries (United Kingdom, Norway,

Italy and Romania) as the research projects are still ongoing. Data comes from various sources: content analysis of the websites of Humanist associations, popular publications produced by these associations, participant observation in some events organized by the same associations, and in-depth interviews involving Humanist parents and grandparents, and young Humanists.

Results highlight the link between non-religious forms of spirituality and different representations of Nature. They allow unfolding how spiritual humanism and non-religious identities are represented and discursively constructed and their tension towards social change. Through this analysis, this paper also aims to discuss the application of a materialist theoretical and methodological approach not yet used for the study of spiritualities, namely the sociological approach of Institutional Ethnography by D.E. Smith.

### **Family Transmission of Religion and Secularization: Patterns of Decline or Reproduction?**

*Jacob Legault-Leclair*  
(University of Waterloo)

This presentation results from the work done by the research group The transmission of religion across generations: a comparative international study of continuities and discontinuities in family socialization (JTF foundation).

My objective will be to present an analysis of the relationship between patterns of religious transmission in the family and how it influences the different stages of decline stemming from the secularization theory.

To account for religious decline, researchers have used indicators such as religious affiliation, individual and collective practice, the importance given to religion, and different types of beliefs. While I recognize the importance of these indicators, we suggest that religious (non)transmission within the family is a precursor indicator of secularization. By drawing on a perspective inspired by certain authors of secularization such as Voas (2009), Stolz (2020), Bruce (2011), Meunier and Wilkins-Laflamme (2011), and Martin (1978), I analyze religious transmission within the family at various stages of its decline such as cultural religion (Lemieux 1990; Demerath 2000), the “large middle ground” (Davie 2010) and the “fuzzy middle” (Voas 2009).

I have conducted an international comparison between five countries with different religious landscapes and different secularization trends (Canada, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Finland). Using an international telephone survey of 8,408 respondents, I will then perform a historical comparison using age cohorts to measure the prevalence of transmission types across different time periods. Finally, I will show the elective affinity existing between types of transmission patterns and historical moments in which different secularization trends are dominant.

## **Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 6**

### **Knitting Fog: The Complexities of Conducting Trauma-Informed Research during a Global Health Crisis**

*Katherine Allen, Megan Hermolle*  
(University of Suffolk)

Trauma-informed practice (TIP) emerged in response to growing recognition across medical and behavioural health fields that lifetime exposure to trauma is prevalent, and that its legacies can be profound and enduring (Dong et al, 2003 ; Felitti et al, 1998 ). Encountering people whose lives have been affected by trauma should therefore be the “expectation, not the exception” when designing health and social care systems, requiring a systemic change approach (Barnett Brown, 2018: 20 ). TIP is well-researched, and has been widely advocated - if imperfectly implemented – across UK statutory and voluntary sectors, with a set of consistent, broadly recognised core values. However, the evidence base regarding trauma-informed research (TIR) is less extensive, and its central principles less well developed, with no “gold standard” for conducting research with trauma-exposed participants (Jefferson et al, 2021) . There is still less evidence regarding adapting TIR practices in an era characterised by

polycrisis, and how researchers can remain responsive to the needs of participants, safeguard their own wellbeing, and produce rigorous and socially impactful 'research that matters'.

Between late 2021 to early 2023, researchers evaluated a TIP training and development programme. Research protocols were inevitably shaped by the pandemic but also evolved collaboratively in response to a range of emergent relational, ethical and pragmatic concerns. In this paper, researchers place our evaluation design and processes under the lens, reflecting on the complex challenges and rewards of striving to embody TIR principles and conduct socially meaningful research in a time of collective trauma.

### **Indigenous Art and Protracted Exile: Therapeutic Role of Somali Oral Poetry in Dadaab Refugee Camps in Kenya**

*Ana Ljubinkovic*  
(California State University)

This paper explores the interaction between continuity and crisis by looking at how Somali refugees in Kenya use their traditional art of poetry-making to psychologically cope with the crisis of protracted exile. Focusing on the work of contemporary Somali oral poets in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, this exploration proceeds in three parts. First, it outlines the historical, political, and social context of the Kenyan Dadaab refugee camps and investigates some of the psychological adversities its refugees face, such as the erosion of identity, the loss of hope, and what refugees refer to as buufis, or an 'obsession' with resettlement to a Western country. Second, the paper introduces the unique and central role that the art of poetry-making has occupied within traditional Somali culture, acting as a means of administering justice, broadcasting current events, maintaining a historical archive, and, most relevant to this exploration, promoting psychological coping with adversity. The paper then presents an analysis of contemporary oral verse created by Dadaab refugee poets in light of psychological theories of trauma processing. It is suggested that, by combining a variety of poetic tools, these verses play a complex therapeutic role in relation to upholding a continuity of collective and personal identity amidst the crisis of protracted exile.

### **Curating the Patient Voice**

*Julia Frost, Catherine Pope*  
(University of Exeter)

Since the 1930's Contract Research Organisations (CROs) have been employed by pharmaceutical companies to complete their clinical trial-related functions, including the collection of patient experience data (so-called 'patient voice' report) to inform the development of new medicines. This practice is legitimated by guidance from the International Council for Harmonisation of Technical Requirements for Pharmaceuticals for Human Use (ICH), which requires pharmaceutical companies to include patient input in their drug development practices, although they are not permitted to approach individual patients directly - which constitutes marketing. CROs typically recruit patients for patient voice reports from Patient Organisations, where patient and caregiver representatives advocate for a wider community with a specific medical condition. However, a Reflections Paper produced by the ICH (2021) acknowledges that the current practice of 'Patient Voice' has significant room for improvement.

To test the reflections of the ICH, we have analysed a set of patient voice reports that have been conducted by several CROs. These reports are rarely theoretically informed and typically lack methodological detail, and the role of any patient or group of patients in knowledge construction is unclear. We contrast these findings with our own, gathered from sociological research with more marginalised people who have the same condition. We suggest that current pharmaceutical practice obfuscates rather than elevates wider patient perspectives, in a way that continues to put the needs of business, or patients with existing relationships with business, before those of other patients – limiting the potential for the development of personalised medicines.



## Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 7

### **“What if I get sick...”: Healthcare Experiences of Overseas Filipino Workers in Taiwan**

*Po-Han Lee, Isaiah Christian Felix Antonio*  
(National Taiwan University)

The increasing presence of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) in Taiwan, particularly in the electronics and technology (E&T) industry, has brought pressing concern for their health and well-being. Previous studies have identified that language, socioeconomic, and cultural barriers, as associated with perceived and experienced stigma and discrimination, pose substantial challenges for migrant workers to access healthcare services. Despite health policies such as the National Health Insurance (NHI), which encompasses migrant workers, and the New South Bound Policy, which aims at improving the health of neighbouring countries' constituents, these issues persist. This qualitative study, informed by Brandenberger et al.'s (2019) 3C model (communication, continuity of care, and confidence) regarding healthcare delivery for migrant workers, investigates OFWs' experiences of receiving care in Taiwan and the implications of these experiences to their health-seeking intentions and behaviours. We conducted in-depth interviews with ten individual workers in Taoyuan and Taichung (the two cities with a significant population of Filipino E&T workers) and four “key persons” (e.g. migrant rights advocates and migrant shelter organisers). Most participants, having experienced stigmatisation and discrimination, have not fully utilised NHI-related services out of their health-seeking “old habits”. The lack of access to crucial information and resources has also compromised their willingness to explore healthcare options until, very interestingly, they experienced job transition, running away from hostile employers, or staying in shelters. We argue that beyond focusing on the challenges OFWs face, peer education and networking with NGOs can be an important entry point of intervention for promoting rights awareness and empowerment.

### **Guolin Qigong within Cancer Self-help Groups in China\***

*Fanping Zeng*  
(School of Health, Fujian Medical University)

According to the statistics, after receiving the initial treatment in hospital, 60% of the cancer patients in China will join cancer patient organizations, among which cancer self-help groups spontaneously organized by patients occupy the highest ratio. Almost all of the cancer self-help groups in China practice Guolin Qigong. They believe that besides receiving treatment in hospital, cancer patients can effectively increase their resistance to the possible recurrence and metastasis after their cancer recovery if they practice Qigong in their daily life. In China, cancer self-help groups play a key role in connecting the physical exercise of Guolin Qigong with cancer resisting, prompting cancer patients to keep practicing Guolin Qigong. Firstly, we found that parks near a residential area are the footholds of cancer self-help groups, since the convenience makes the patients more willingly to get out and practice Guolin Qigong. Secondly, there are both egoistic self-help behaviors and altruistic mutual help behaviors in the anti-cancer groups in China, and the emotional relationship among patients is the key to expanding the former into the latter. Lastly, influence of anti-cancer stars and group leader is the key to maintaining and passing the mutual help behaviors within cancer self-help groups. In the process of accepting help and helping others, the mutual help behavior of cancer self-help group helps patients get rid of the chains of disease and form a huge social reinforcement, which leads the cancer patients to increase the motivation of surviving and living, and to confront and defeat disease together.

### **The Pull into Wakefulness: How Sociocultural Categories Intersect to Shape Sleep Opportunity and Sleep Ability in Israel**

*Dana Zarhin*  
(University of Haifa)

Objective: Prior studies have documented the existence of sleep disparities between social groups and have proposed possible reasons for these gaps. To extend these empirical findings, the current study elucidates whether and how intersections between sociocultural identities shape the lived experience and management of sleep and sheds light on the social factors that explain within-group heterogeneity.

**Methods:** This article draws on semi-structured interviews with 66 employed Israelis, aged 40-60, conducted between February 2020 and February 2022. Participants were selected using a purposeful sampling design that sought to include individuals with a wide range of sociodemographic backgrounds in terms of gender, ethnonationality, socioeconomic status, religion, and religiosity, as well as sleep quality.

**Results:** The analysis shows that intersections of gender, socioeconomic status, ethnonationality, religion, and religiosity prompt qualitatively different understandings, experiences, and management of sleep, in a way that affects both sleep opportunity and sleep ability.

**Conclusions:** This study contributes to the scholarly understanding of the social determinants of sleep by highlighting the significance of the intersections of sociocultural identities for sleep health and implementing a nuanced socioecological approach to understanding within-group variability. While previous studies have shown how society and culture 'get under the skin' of individuals in a way that affects their health, in this study, the respondents' reports show that the socio-political context can 'get under' unconsciousness, overcoming it and pulling individuals into wakefulness, thereby affecting their sleep health. The results call for the design of tailored interventions that consider the sociocultural context.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9**

### **Towards Further Institutionalisation Amidst Critical Junctures: (Dis)Continuities and Disruptions in Migration Governance and The Establishment of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW) in the Philippines**

*Rizza Kaye Cases, Bubbles Beverly Asor  
(Department of Sociology, University of the Philippines Diliman)*

It is often assumed that critical junctures such as leadership transition, global pandemic, technological and natural disasters and hazards, and economic recession could result in 'radical reconfiguration' of institutional structures and may engender 'exceptional responses' from various actors. Widespread transformations are expected and emphasised as outcomes of such episodic events given that they present opportunities that could open possibilities for long term societal changes and institutional legacy.

Within migration studies, some scholars tend to subscribe to such assumptions of dramatic shifts altering the migration landscape. However, what might be overlooked by these assertions are the enduring and self-perpetuating characteristics of the migration process. Under what conditions do gradual and punctuated events maintain or disrupt and alter existing 'regimes of governing practices'? To what extent do (un)anticipated turning points may bring about (dis)continuities in migration governance?

Considered to be one of the largest labour-exporting economies and a model for other labour sending countries, the Philippines developed a highly 'institutionalised labour-export process' (Guevarra 2010: 3) and interdependent government and non-government actors that manage and facilitate overseas deployment of Filipino workers. In this paper, we explore the persistence and (dis)continuities of regimes of governing practices that not only manage and regulate but also produce 'highly desired' and 'deployable' migrant workers from the Philippines despite and amidst sociopolitical transitions and disruptions at the national and global levels. In particular, the case of the establishment of the Department of Migrant Workers is examined vis-à-vis episodic events such as the global pandemic and leadership transition.

### **Formal and Informal Support and Household Food Security in a Conflict Situation: Evidence from Burkina Faso, West Africa**

*Souleymane Sanogo, Abdramane Soura, Clémentine Rossier  
(Université de Genève)*

Since 2015, Burkina Faso, a West African country with 20 million inhabitants, has been experiencing a security crisis that has caused the displacement of 2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs). Ensuring food security among IDPs is a great challenge faced currently by the Burkinabe government.

The association between IDPs' characteristics and (non) governmental sources of support and transfer to IDPs with food insecurity is not well-known at the national level.

This study takes advantage of a unique IDPs database collected by the Conseil National de Secours d'Urgence et de Réhabilitation in 2021. Panel data were collected from 1043 households (3 visits one month apart). The sample covers 9/13 regions in Burkina Faso where the presence of IDPs is significant. Applying logistic regressions, we examine which types and sources of support are related to food security and assess how variation in its volume is related to changes in food security, controlling for households-level socio-economics factors.

Findings show that 76% of IDPs households suffered from food insecurity but large disparities exist: food insecurity is positively associated with large household size, living in rural areas and in camp areas. While transfers from kin does not improve food security, receiving transfers and food aid from government or NGOs as well as from non-kin reduces food insecurity. However, a reduction in food aid from government or NGOs exacerbates household food insecurity compared to households that did not receive any aid. To summarise, the assistance received has a protective, although short-lived, effect on food insecurity.

### **Pollution in the Yamuna River: Unraveling Water Scarcity, Stigma, and Displacement in the Nishad Community of Uttar Pradesh**

*Narendra Singh, Dr. T. Longkoi Khamniungan  
(Department of Sociology Central University of Haryana)*

This study delves into the complex interplay of water scarcity, societal stigma, and displacement faced by the Nishad community in Uttar Pradesh, India. The research sheds light on the enduring stigma stemming from the British-imposed Criminal Tribe Act of 1871, which not only restricted the community's access to public spaces but also subjected them to systemic discrimination and surveillance, leading to enduring social, economic, and political exclusion. Despite ongoing efforts to overcome this historical stigma, the community grapples with new challenges. Emphasizing the critical role of the Yamuna River, this study explores how it serves as the lifeblood for the Nishad community, providing both livelihood opportunities and potable water. However, the looming threat of the river's depletion poses a significant risk, potentially triggering widespread migration and prolonged marginalization. The study employs an ethnographic method that scrutinizes the disproportionate impact of these migrations, particularly on women who bear the responsibility of securing water and sustaining their families amidst disruptions caused by pollution, bans on sand mining, and privatization of fishing. These factors have contributed to economic hardships, with dwindling fish production exacerbating their challenges. The research underscores the urgent need for sustainable water management strategies and social policies to uplift the Nishad community from their current state of marginalization and also a holistic approach that addresses not only water scarcity but also the historical stigma and systemic barriers faced by the community.

### **Seeking Food, Work, and Place through Migration: Social Reproduction of Precarious Migrant Labor in India**

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

This paper examines how migrant families-socially differentiated across caste, class, and region, marked by long histories of racial subjugation, deprived of land, food, and livelihood, and facing environmental unfreedom-make a living through differential forms of short- and long-term migration. Drastic forms of agrarian changes, racialized inequality (in the form of caste, class and religion), reinforced by environmental disasters and changes in their home regions have forced these migrant workers and their families to migrate to seek food (khana), work (Kaam and Naukri), earnings (kamai and pagar), place(jagah), and social mobility in the city. By looking beyond the migrant workplace/worksite and focusing on a wide array of activities and relationships, both within the household and outside, our study show how the precarious migrant labor's reproduction and its ability to support the capitalist processes of urbanization and production relies on the frequently devalued forms of unpaid and paid reproductive labor provided by migrant men's families (women, children, kins) both in the place of migration and their home villages. Our participants' stories suggests that this everyday vital, life sustaining reproductive labor is, however often racialized, stigmatized, and rendered

precarious by the uneven process of capitalist urbanization and production which they ultimately structurally support. We draw this from in-depth interviews conducted with migrant households in two diverse regions in India (Uttar Pradesh and Goa) during December, 2022-March, 2023.

## **Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10**

### **Entwined Discourse of Misogyny, Confucian Legacy, and Nationalism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of the 'Leftover Women' Phenomenon in China**

*Xinyun Zhang*  
(Renmin University of China)

The term "leftover women" (shengnǚ) has permeated Chinese socio-cultural narratives since its emergence in 2007, targeting unmarried women over the age of 27, particularly those with advanced educational backgrounds. Intriguingly, this term has proliferated against the backdrop of a reported male surplus, with approximately 17.52 million more men than women within the 20-40 age bracket. Employing a Critical Discourse Analysis approach (Fairclough, 2013), this study dissects the multi-layered construction and implications of the "leftover women" discourse. By analyzing online discussions, state-sponsored media content, and relevant policy documents, it unveils the term as a nexus wherein online misogyny (manifested notably through incel subcultures), the reinvigoration of Confucian gender ideals, and a pronounced patriarchal nationalism intersect. This ideological confluence not only problematically frames and devalues the choices of unmarried women but also strategically aligns with broader nationalistic agendas geared towards bolstering birth rates and ensuring societal conformity. Ultimately, the discourse surrounding "leftover women" is not merely symbolic; it operationalizes and perpetuates the intricate interplay of contemporary misogyny, age-old Confucian ideals, and a patriarchal-nationalist project within China's contemporary socio-political milieu. This analysis underscores the gravity and multi-dimensionality of the term, highlighting its far-reaching ramifications on women's agency and lived realities in today's China.

### **A Representation of Women and Girls Organisations 2008 to 2018**

*Lorna Dowrick*  
(Sheffield Hallam University)

The year 2008 marked the start of a global economic crisis and in 2010 over 10 years of austerity policies began in the UK. These austerity policies are known to have disproportionately affected women and girls. Women and girls organisations (WGOs) have a fundamental role in providing important services, opportunities, and activities for women and girls within a society in which gender inequality and its effects are both pervasive and systemic but the role and activities of WGOs are not widely understood.

Using a feminist and post-structural framework, the paper will explore how WGOs between 2008 and 2018 can be represented using regulatory data from the Charity Commission. The paper will first discuss defining WGOs to illuminate the ways in which the boundaries of the definition are permeable and contested. Second, it will demonstrate the size and shape of WGOs as a group, followed by detailing how different kinds of WGO have experienced changes in number, income and location. Third, incorporating the 'What's the problem represented to be?' approach (Bacchi and Goodwin 2016) the paper will highlight the scope, complexity and limits of this knowledge. The paper is based on wider research on the representation of WGOs for a recent PhD thesis.

The paper will invite reflection and discussion on changes to WGOs as a group between 2008 and 2018 and the ways in which WGOs can be understood and represented. This discussion is of particular importance in light of persistent gender inequality and concerns about the sustainability of WGOs.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8**

### **Living in a Fragmented World: A Study on the Evolution of Chinese Character**

*Xiaoyan Fan*  
(Northwest A & F University)

During times of social transformation, individuals often feel torn between the demands of their everyday lives and their spiritual well-being, resulting in anxiety, confusion, and other mental dilemmas within groups. In this context, this study employs the "need-morality" logic as its core analytical framework and examines the psychological dilemmas faced by the "second generation of farmers," "second generation of businessmen," and "second generation of students" (referred to as the "second generation X") across different age groups. By analyzing the consumption patterns of these groups, this study sheds light on the relationship between the need for survival and the underlying moral mindset behind basic consumption. Additionally, using a country-life course perspective, this paper examines the mindset of the "second generation X" in an inter-temporal, multi-dimensional, macro and micro way, resulting in a comprehensive study of the "moral mindset" in the context of the transitional era.

For this study, 84 individuals belonging to the "second generation of farmers," "second generation of businessmen," and "second generation of students" born between 1980 and 2009 were selected through convenience sampling and snowball sampling. The research collected empirical data through qualitative research methods such as in-depth interviews and observation, and used content analysis to organize, analyze, and summarize the data obtained in order to reveal the formation mechanism of survival-oriented needs and their corresponding moral mindsets.

### **The Impact of the Crisis of Recent Years (COVID-19, Russia's Invasion of Ukraine) on Participation in Voluntary Organizations and Religious Organizations in Hungary**

*Marton Tamas Csanady*  
(Department of Sociology, Karoli Gaspar University of the Reformed Church in Hungary)

What is the current situation in Hungary with membership of voluntary non-profit organizations and membership of religious organizations (churches), which are the basis of social cohesion?

Our analysis is based on the data of research conducted in August 2022 by the Sociology of Religion Research Group of Károli Gáspár University. We conducted a nationwide online representative survey in Hungary with the participation of 1,200 respondents, in which we sought answers to the above questions, among others. The sample is representative in terms of gender, age, settlement size, county, religious denomination and educational level. In the research, we also asked questions regarding the perception of the covid19 epidemic and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The Soviet occupation following the Second World War and the communist rule destroyed the voluntary organizations in Hungary. (Bibó 1986) Voluntary organizations and active volunteering revived in the 1970s and 1980s. (Hankiss 1982) After Hungary became a member of the European Union (2004), the level of participation in the work of voluntary organizations began to rise again (Marinova 2011). In recent decades, members of churches and religious communities have played an important role in the work of voluntary organizations (Csanády 2022). In recent years, there has been a fierce political struggle regarding the evaluation of the functioning of voluntary organizations and the social role of churches. This is especially true for helping refugees since the 2015 refugee crisis.

During our presentation, we would like to better understand the above questions with the help of research data.

### **Zero-COVID Policy in Shenzhen: Long-term Impacts on State-Society Relationships and Political Identity**

*Chenjie Song*  
(University of Chicago)

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, China has implemented a strict "Zero-COVID" policy to eliminate virus transmission through measures such as mask mandates, centralized quarantines, and regular PCR

screenings. This study focuses on understanding how the implementation of the Zero-covid policy in Shenzhen triggers long-term effects on state-society relationships and political identities in contemporary China.

This research examines how individuals interpret the central and regional governments' intentions and governance logic through the lens of COVID-19 policy. It also investigates how individuals make sense of their own experience under these policy measures, as well as how they reshape their perceptions of the government and identities through processes of narrative-making. Ultimately, this study reveals how specific COVID policies in China have shaped individuals' political identity and thinking.

Despite the potential long-term implications of COVID policies on mobility and governance, there is limited research on how these policies shape state-society relationships and people's perceptions of the government. This research aims to address this gap by analyzing qualitative data obtained through interviews and ethnographic methods that spanned over two years, both during and after the period of "Zero-COVID" policy.

By examining citizens' social experiences, political discourses, and sense-making process, this research provides valuable insights into the complexities of pandemic policy enforcement in China. It contributes to the existing literature on government policies and pandemic prevention measures by offering a qualitative perspective on the experiences of individuals living under the Zero-covid policy.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 12**

### **Persistence of Status in the 21st Century: The Case of the Hereditary British Aristocracy 1858-2018**

*Matthew Bond, Julien Morton*  
(London South Bank University)

Status groups are crisis prone in the face of democratic politics and capitalist individualistic values. Weber struggled to resolve views pointing to the capacity of status groups to persist through internal support networks and monopolistic asset or position capture, versus their decline through irrational economic behaviour. We address this issue of modern power through an empirical analysis of the hereditary British aristocracy. We acquire novel data regarding their probate wealth and representation in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography to model these against their rank, education, the top 1% wealth holders, and land values. We add an analysis of the economic and social behaviour of contemporary Dukes. Contra contemporary historiography we find that aristocratic wealth is resilient, social prominence is significantly overrepresented vis a vis the general population, decline in status positions is largely confined to political status, and there is a strong internal differentiation of status by rank. The economic persistence is particularly surprising given the technical disadvantage of counting their wealth within the same family over time as compared to aggregates such as class. The analysis of the wealth, social prominence and social networks of the contemporary Dukedom further substantiates the aristocracy's ability to maintain its elite status position in the 21st Century. We conclude that modern status groups are indeed entirely capable of economic and status persistence in modern societies, resolving, in part, Weber's initial questions.

### **Does Class Origins Affect Elite Decision-Making? Evidence from British Judges**

*Aaron Reeves, Vlad Bortun, Sam Friedman*  
(University of Oxford)

The class composition of the elite is often assumed to affect the decisions made by people in power. But those who have studied this question – often by looking at the voting records of politicians - have typically found no evidence of this relationship. There are, however, important limitations these earlier studies. First, the voting records of politicians is largely determined by party membership and not ideology, suggesting it may difficult to observe the impact of class origins on voting. Second, the measure of social class used in these earlier analyses is often the occupation of the politician before they became an MP, but this is not a good proxy for their class origin. In this paper, we create a novel data set which combines the decisions made by judges in the UK's Supreme Court (and its predecessor the Law Lords) with the class origin of these judges (measured according to the wealth at death or the

occupation of their parents). In this setting, which is far less constrained by party politics, we find that class origins are correlated with decision-making. Judges from less affluent backgrounds are more likely to support decisions that are on the political left than judges from more affluent backgrounds. Our results suggest that the class composition of judges (and potentially other elites) can have a profound impact on the nature of British society and that continuing to recruit key decision-makers from those born into wealth will only reinforce the political power of the economically dominant.

### **Intertextuality Continuity and Change: The Roles Played by Intertextuality in the Posters Exhibited in Israel's 2023 Socio-political Crisis Demonstrations, A Case Study**

*Michal Ephratt*  
(University of Haifa)

The legislative effort to introduce a '(judicial) reform', launched by the coalition that won Israel's 2022 elections, was perceived by many Israelis as a coup endangering Israel's standing as a democratic state.

Kristeva who coined the term 'intertextuality' explained that '[a]ny text is constructed as a mosaic of quotations; any text is the absorption and transformation of another'. At all times an intermediate text evolves produced by the choices of the specific subjectivity: socio-historical dialogic setting.

The noticeable involvement of rhetoric intertextuality in the posters exhibited in Israel's 2023 crisis ongoing demonstrations triggered examining what roles does intertextuality play in the supporters' and opponents' posters? And does this use of intertextuality differs in the posters of the two groups?

A qualitative textual-deconstructive methodology attached to each of the corpus's 105 posters a thematic categorisation for its raw (literal) wording; its intertextual sources and the message deconstructed as its dialogic 'intermediate space'. We then worked-out the thematic relations between the three texts to identify roles. This reverberates the addressers' competent decoding of intertextuality and its roles.

The findings (and their illustrations) suggest that each side uses intertextuality to (1) appropriate values identified with the Other: (2) attach momentum; (3) portray Israel's crisis in a universal context and (4) create eminence.

These finding are explained in terms of (1) the vision of Israel and the endeavour of continuity and change (2) intertextuality and creativity; and (3) the parties' standing in the crisis and motivation. Hopefully, this case-study will inspire other studies worldwide.

## **Sociology of Education 1 - Room 11**

### **Teachers Learning: Subject-Agent Approaches within a Professional Learning Community**

*Ramona Saraoru*  
(University of Cambridge)

The last decades have witnessed increased tensions about today's educational priorities. The teachers' learning has not been spared from such pressures due to its critical position within the global transformative educational discourses. One of the common models of teachers' professional development, professional learning communities (PLCs), has been particularly popular in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This young nation has been exposed to significant educational reforms for the past twenty years aiming to increase the quality of public school education.

My study aims to understand teachers' learning outcomes within a PLC in a public school that is governed by dynamic reform initiatives. I conducted a case study to understand what teachers learn within a PLC in a public school in Abu Dhabi, and I used interviews with the PLC members and observations of the PLC meetings. The results of this study suggest that, within a PLC teachers' learning is exposed to conflicting outcomes that range from serving the bureaucratic expectations within the existing system to becoming agents of educational change. The broader implications are that such tensions could drive teacher development in the UAE more towards compliance with technicist requirements than towards positive educational changes.

## **Risky Schools: Teachers' and Architects' Perceptions of Risk in School Buildings in Britain**

*Anastasia Shaw*  
(University of York)

Many social theorists have suggested that we live in a world of increasing risk anxiety and in this period of late modernity “thinking in terms of risk and risk assessment is an ever-present exercise” (Giddens, 1991, p. 124). While children are seen as a particularly vulnerable societal group, schools are largely seen as safe spaces for children, but these physical spaces hold risks of their own. This study explored the lived experiences of both the users and designers of school buildings, to translate theoretical understandings of risks into the real world. While risk can be explored through a number of lenses, this study approaches from a critical realist perspective.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with teachers and architects to understand their lived experiences.

Participants' perceptions of risk focused on four key areas – behaviour management, building maintenance, funding and futureproofing – but maintenance was the overwhelming concern for teachers. Architects were more concerned with producing environmentally sustainable, futureproofed designs and challenges around budgets, particularly through government school building funds. School building funding is increasingly scarce and competitive, and some of the consequences of this can be seen in the ongoing Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) crisis and funding continues to be a barrier for school maintenance. While architects want to make buildings fit for a sustainable future, teachers simply want the bare minimum to be done well. Until maintenance funding is sufficient, any chance of addressing global risks through having sustainable and futureproofed school buildings is well out of reach.

## **Are Teachers 'Enemies of Promise'? Crisis, Continuity and Change in the Relationship between Schooling and Government**

*Michele Lloyd*  
(Independent Researcher)

Education has historically been positioned at the interface of national debates on social issues. This study examines how the relationship between schooling and government has experienced crisis, continuity and change, and how aspects of this relationship have played out in media discourses. The timespan of this study is the formation of the Conservative-Liberal Democrat coalition government in 2010 through to present-day. Applying discourse analysis of policy, language and images, the study analyses how social divisions are discursively constructed and reinforced through both government policy and sections of the UK media. Teachers have been described as ‘enemies of promise’ and resistant to reform as analysed in the study. This paper also examines the way education interfaces with sociological issues which came to the fore during the Covid-19 pandemic. With school examinations cancelled, the government planned to use an algorithm for deciding grades which took into account a school's past performance and teacher assessed grades. When the algorithm was applied, students in areas of higher deprivation were more likely to have their teacher assessed grades lowered than those in more affluent areas due to schools' historical performance. Although students were eventually awarded teacher assessed grades, the paper considers what the algorithm reveals about continuing educational inequalities. The way the issue of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete in schools has been addressed by the government is also examined. New insights are provided into how the government and certain media organisations portray teachers and social divisions which has implications for rising inequality in the UK.

## **Responding to the Change: An Empirical Assessment of Educators' Views on Teachers' Work under China's 2021 Educational Reforms**

*Achala Gupta*  
(University of Southampton)

This article offers unique insights into the relationship between education policy and teachers' work. It considers how globally pervasive responsabilising regimes make teachers' work more burdensome. Drawing on interviews with 15 school teachers, this article shows how China's 2021 Double Burden Reduction Policy has reconfigured educators' (class)work practices and pedagogical approaches.



Specifically, it unpacks the policy mechanisms that: 1) condense school time and make teachers' work more methodical and 2) prolong teachers' working hours that are dedicated to offering students after-school educational support, thus reducing the demand for shadow education. This article argues that this policy shifts the education burden away from tutorial enterprises and parents and onto the teachers, which illustrates a case of the impact of policy regimes on teachers' work within the broader context of neoliberal globalisation. Moreover, this article produces a novel typological spectrum – submission, substantiation, and scepticism – to capture and understand the diverse ways in which teachers may respond to policy-led changes to their professional work globally. Overall, it generates new knowledge on the impact of homogenising education policies on teachers' work and the heterogeneity of teachers' responses to these policies, thus contributing conceptually to the wider field of policy sociology in education.

## **Sociology of Education 2 - Room 16**

### **Can Free Lunch Subsidy Improve Academic Performance? Evidence from Junior High School Students in China**

*Xiyuan Liu, Yaojun Li, Andrew Miles*  
(University of Manchester)

Free school meal is a widely used policy in many countries to achieve the equal right to health and the equal right to education, such as the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) scheme in the United Kingdom and the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) in the United States. The free lunch policy in China also has its own uniqueness due to the huge school-age population size, urban-rural dual structure and unique educational system. The positive impact of free lunch policy on children's health has been discussed, but there is a lack of study in the impact of free lunch policy as an education policy on students' academic performance in China. Better academic performance in junior high school is positively related to higher scores in the high school entrance examination in China, and further positively related to the life chances of students. Investigating the factors influencing academic performance and the relationship between academic performance and free lunch subsidy may make great contribution to policy knowledge exchange. Using cultural capital theory, this research analyses the China Educational Panel survey by using descriptive analysis and multilevel regression analysis to investigate the effect of free lunch policy on the academic performance of junior high school students in China. The analysis shows that free lunch policy has a positive effect on students' academic performance, contributes to the reduction of the intergenerational inheritance of cultural capital in the school system and promotes the educational equality of educational opportunity.

### **Emotional Trek: A Social Stratification of Academic Burnout of Chinese Adolescents**

*Jinghui Huang*  
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Inspired by the framework of emotional capitals, this study investigates academic burnout and its emotional consequences among students in two high schools in Guangdong Province, China. The study aims to explore the social hierarchical nature of academic burnout and the unequal emotional consequences experienced by students from different educational backgrounds. In-depth interviews were conducted with 40 students from an elite traditional high school and a developing key high school. The findings reveal that while students from both schools experienced academic burnout, they exhibited significant differences in emotional experiences, consequences, and interpretations. An emotional framework comprising three dimensions, namely emotional core, emotional motivation, and emotional resilience, was proposed based on the interview analysis. The study contributes to a deeper understanding of academic burnout and highlights the importance of considering emotional factors in addressing this issue. By recognizing the diverse emotional experiences and interpretations of academic burnout, educators and policymakers can develop targeted interventions to support students and mitigate the negative impacts of burnout on their academic performance and well-being.

## **Making Disadvantages: Moral Development of Boarding School Students in Western China**

*Yahui Chang, Yewen Hu*  
(*Shaanxi Normal University*)

The purpose of this paper is to assess the effects of boarding life on children's moral development in an isolated area of western China by investigating the boarding conditions and moral development of young boarding students. We entered the boarding school to conduct participant observation and in-depth interviews to understand educational resource allocation, dormitory environment, and student behavioral performance in the western county, and to provide an in-depth description of children's learning and boarding life. According to the findings, the current investment in rural boarding resources cannot satisfy the excessive demand for boarding resources by an excessive number of boarding students. As a result of the lack of resources, boarding school management systems, the competence of life teachers, and the biases and guidance of student culture are also compromised, thereby preventing children from developing the senses of discipline, attachment, and autonomy they need to be successful. Rural boarding children are disadvantageous due to the combination of residency and boarding, which contributes to their poor moral development. The results of our study indicate that boarding schools cannot simply replace the moral teaching function of family education in a western borderland society where a high proportion of children are mobile and left behind.

## **Theory - Room 5**

### **Esoteric Capital: The Organization and Mechanics of the Metro Manila Esoteric Field**

*Bridgette Nicole Diaz*  
(*University of the Philippines Diliman*)

Through in-depth interviews with 20 members of major Metro Manila esoteric groups, four years of content analysis and participant observation, and Bourdieusian analysis, a blueprint of the local western esoteric field is drawn. The processes and conditions through which esotericism is capitalized within its own field and beyond, particularly in the context of a pandemic, socio-political upheaval, and an "occult revival", are demystified, and the organizational consequences of these mechanics are delineated. Esotericism is perceived by esotericists and exotericists as transposable to a variety of fields, endowing its mobilizers with unique advantages, but being a rejected field of knowledge has made the gameplay within the esoteric field severe. The exoteric sphere's inability to develop a well-constituted esoteric habitus and the exclusivity of "legitimate" esoteric cultural capital leaves "the dominated" in a state of blind dependence on "the dominant", impeding upward mobility, and despite their monopoly of the field, the dominant are unable to successfully define the field due to deficits in mainstream forms of capital. The absence of comprehensive regulatory bodies has led to defective doxic relationships, and the resulting rampant misrecognition of esoteric capital renders exotericists vulnerable to "illegitimate" esotericism. Finally, through these analyses, a nuancing of the current conceptualization of esoteric capital is proposed—it is observed that esoterically-determined qualities and labels on their own are granted social role, position, and action determining functions which are, to some extent, being adapted and legitimized even by exoteric fields.

### **Sociological Approach to Morality: Towards Conceptualisation of Moral Order and Moral Obligation**

*Anna Smolentseva*  
(*University of Cambridge*)

The complexity of morality makes it a difficult object of research in various disciplines, including sociology. The sociology of morality takes an ad hoc approach to morality by exploring empirically what is considered moral in a particular context (Hitlin and Vaisey 2013, Abend 2014). Morality is studied through the concepts of moral beliefs, moral emotions, norms, values, practices, and 'orders of worth', 'thick concepts' of dignity, recognition, and others. However, wider conceptualisations embracing various dimensions of morality are scarce (e.g., two levels of morality by Abend 2014).

This paper seeks to contribute to the sociological conceptualisation of morality. It revives and further develops Durkheim's theorisation of morality which was left unfinished and underrecognized. The paper

proposes the concept of moral order which connects key elements of what creates a morality of society in a Durkheimian perspective: moral ideals inseparable from individual autonomy and knowledge, discipline based on regularity of conduct and moral authority, and social attachment to the group. Together these elements shape the moral obligation, the central element of morality. The paper further elaborates Durkheim's ideas by the conceptualisation and operationalisation of moral obligation.

The Durkheimian conceptual model provides a helpful epistemological instrument for an empirical study of how morality is changing and can be changed. Application of the model is illustrated by findings from the study of the transformation of the moral order in Russian society since the late Soviet time which highlight the broader implications for social change of moral obligations, moral ideals and moral authority.

### **Navigating Ethical Dilemmas in Child Witchcraft Accusations: A Pathway toward Societal Change**

*Claire Princess Ayelotan*  
(Christ the Redeemer College)

In an era marked by global crises, the ethical implications of child witchcraft accusations within Nigerian Pentecostal communities offer a critical lens through which to examine the interplay between crisis, continuity, and change. Situated within complex societal structures, these accusations disproportionately affect marginalised and vulnerable groups, catalysing multiple forms of violence and social exclusion. Utilising a purely qualitative research approach, this study leverages in-depth interviews and participant observations to delve into the issue's ethical dilemmas. Employing ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Deontological Ethics, and Virtue Ethics, this study aims to dissect the ethical tensions between individual rights and communal harmony and the conflicts between ethical relativism and universal principles.

This study aims to add a textured understanding of this specific sociological phenomenon and contribute more broadly to discussions about how ethical considerations influence and shape responses to societal crises. In aligning with the themes of the BSA Conference—“Crisis, Continuity, and Change”—this research underscores the importance of an ethical framework in understanding and addressing the crises that pervade contemporary society.

By elucidating ethical complexities, this research offers practical solutions and policy recommendations to initiate systemic change within the scope of ethical and sociological considerations.

### **Science and Infinite Progress: Late Modern Society Viewed through the Lens of Blumenberg**

*Luke Doggett*  
(Kingston University)

From the perspective of philosophical debates on secularisation, core features of modern orientations are translations of theological positions. To some extent, this line of argument is acknowledged in sociology, for example in the derivation of the professional work ethic and individualism from Protestantism, or therapeutic scrutiny of inner motivations from Catholicism. However much of the focus of the philosophical secularisation thesis is on the derivation of the modern conception of progress from pre-modern eschatology. This paper will consider the contribution of Hans Blumenberg's challenge to this claim: he argues that the scientific revolution fostered a genuinely new orientation for modernity, based on open-ended 'infinite progress.' From this perspective, knowledge is never 'finished'; and this can be linked to the notion that political debate is never 'finished' which grounds liberalism. Blumenberg's claims provide a basis for a critical re-evaluation of contemporary social developments that are often deemed to be postmodern.

# Work, Employment & Economic Life - Room 14

## **The Everyday Work of Climate Crisis in Disaster Events, Response and Recovery: Gendered Resilience between Public-Paid-Workplace and the Private-Unpaid-Domestic Spheres**

*Jo Orsatti*  
(University of Sydney)

While recognition of just transitions is gathering pace, this has focused on energy-intensive industries, highlighting masculinised industries. Yet increasingly our understanding of the tangible work of climate crisis is incorporating the “everyday work of coping with planetary breakdown” (Carr, 2022). This everyday work involves not only repairing and re-building physical infrastructure but also social cohesion, community trust and civility (Flanagan, 2019), altogether the infrastructure for order in daily life.

Extending understanding of work of climate crisis complicates binaries between public-paid-workplace and the private-unpaid-domestic (Carr, 2022) and draws attention to the gendered nature of the work of climate crisis. This paper argues that disaster events, response and recovery offer sites to understand the work of climate crisis at the intersection of workplace and domestic spheres.

The paper conducts a thematic analysis of 17 reports spanning 2011–2022 produced by the National Women’s Alliances, a series of bodies that collaborate with the Australian Federal Government to ensure women’s voices are heard in policy making. These documents provide a corpus of in-depth qualitative interviews with people and communities that have experienced natural disasters.

The analysis reveals the dynamics of gender and their implications in the interplay between public-paid-workplace and the private-unpaid-domestic realms that span from the personal through to the community and State. Conditions of resilience for individuals, families and communities before, during and after disaster events are enhanced by social, economic and work infrastructures that promote a loosening of gender-stereotypes and their accompanying valuations of work across public-paid-workplace and the private-unpaid-domestic binaries.

## **Learning to Aspire in Precarious Times: How Chinese Educated Elites Adapt Career Aspirations amid Layoff Waves**

*Youjia Zhou*  
(Shanghai University of Finance and Economics)

Recent studies increasingly highlight the salience of future aspirations in driving social actions (Suckert, 2022). Theories emphasizing reproduction shed light on how stratified career aspirations perpetuate inequalities. Yet, the mechanisms through which aspirations may flourish or wane in diverse social contexts remain underexplored.

Contemporary shifts in labor supply-demand dynamics, growing employment precarity (Standing, 2011), and recent waves of Covid-19-induced layoffs intensify the vulnerability of career aspirations. Consequently, projecting long-term career goals has become more challenging. As a result, uncertainty needs to be incorporated into the analytical framework of future aspirations.

This paper extends theories of future orientations by investigating how youths adapt aspirations facing employment precarity. Drawing upon interviews with 21 Chinese educated youths transitioning into the information technology industry, I examine how people adapt career aspirations within their personal networks and on social media platforms. Following a pragmatism approach, this study proposes a theoretical framework explaining the relational unfolding of career aspirations. It involves individuals referencing perceived norms, pre-assessing value attainment, and evaluating feasibility within social contexts.

Further, findings reveal before recent layoffs, individuals exhibited greater deliberation over value attainment and career feasibility. In contrast, uncertainty prompted individuals' alignment with societal trends and norms. Additionally, social media played a unique role in sustaining commitment despite

youth's pessimism regarding their future attainments. Media infrastructure affords an archive of experiences, with each online forum storing discrete attitudes related to career transitions. Youth selectively engage with online content, focusing on positive narratives and role models in response to challenging circumstances.

### **Sustainability Transformation in Work: Experiments and Ruptures in Post-Fossil Working Life in Finland**

*Eeva Houtbeckers, Suvi Salmenniemi*  
(University of Turku)

As International Labour Organization has reported since the 1980s, climate change profoundly affects jobs, employment, and working life. While sustainability transformation requires both rethinking the concept of work and reorganising work structures and work processes, the everyday processes of work are still less studied. We present findings from an ongoing research project focusing on the conditions and meanings of ecologically and socially sustainable working life in the sustainability transformation. The paper draws on interviews conducted with business units, HR experts and responsibility experts in Finnish companies committed to the United Nation sustainable development goals and climate change mitigation. The paper discusses how sustainability is understood, how it shapes work processes in the companies, and how post-fossil work is developed and experimented in these companies. To answer these questions, we trace the conflicts that arise between the aspiration towards post-fossil work and the prevailing social and business constraints. For example, the increase in EU regulation on sustainability issues seems to explain some of these conflicts. Our tentative findings suggest that environmental sustainability of work, which considers the ecological limits of the planet and aim to reduce the use of resources and consumption, prevail over understandings of social and cultural sustainability. Thus, for example, well-being at work, work as a source of identity and social relations, and work as an issue of social justice remain underexplored as a site for sustainability. We discuss the findings with previous literature on work and sustainability transformation.

# Paper Session 8

## 10:45 - 12:15

### BSA Publications Special Event 1 - Room 3

#### **Bridging Sociology and the Public: Engaging the Next Generation**

*Laura Way, Tim Butcher, Edmund Coleman-Fountain, Rachela Colosi, Ian Lamond  
(Roehampton University, University of Tasmania, University of York, University of Lincoln, Leeds Beckett University)*

In this interactive workshop, facilitated by members of the Sociological Research Online (SRO) editorial team, we will explore together our editorial vision and foster a collective commitment towards enhancing public engagement in sociology. Specifically, our vision to develop an innovative approach to addressing the growing disconnection between academic scholarship and the broader public, particularly aspiring young scholars, in Sociology. We will begin with SRO editors sharing more about this editorial vision of SRO, which aims to spark dialogues and facilitate engagement with sociological research beyond the traditional academic sphere. After this brief introduction, participants will take part in an interactive zine making experience. This serves to engage you in a dialogue about the possibilities, to collaborate with us to refine our vision, and, importantly, explore how we might enhance accessibility and inclusivity, promoting a culture where the intricacies of sociological research become evermore digestible and engaging for the wider public.

### BSA Publications Special Event 2 - Room 13

#### **The Practice of Peer Reviewing: A Workshop**

*Marek Korczynski (University of Nottingham, WES Journal Editor in Chief), Laurie Cohen (emerita, University of Nottingham, WES Journal Editor in Chief)*

Authors (and editors) greatly value reviewers' excellent work providing developmental feedback on papers seeking publication. It's a key function for publishing and for developing our own writing practice. However, we're aware that sometimes reviewers can feel as if they are working in a black hole, with little guidance, feedback or opportunity to discuss their practice. In this interactive session, we will discuss what makes a great review and talk about how, together, we can best deal with some of the tricky issues that come up in the process of peer review. We'll also consider the perennial question of what makes a 'novel contribution' to the discipline – a question that as authors, editors and reviewers we continue to debate.

### Culture, Media, Sport & Food 1 - Room 1

#### **Run, Hide, Fight: How Female Gamers Understand and React To Misogyny in Gaming**

*Ziyu Deng  
(Oxford Internet Institute)*

Through 41 in-depth interviews with female gamers from both Chinese-speaking gaming communities and those from English-speaking communities, this research questions female gamers' conceptualization of gendered gaming experiences, how they make sense of rampant sexism and misogyny in the gaming community, and what coping strategies have been deployed based on their answers to the previous two questions. The gendered gaming experience is not understood by female gamers as limited during game play, but are rather perceived by female gamers from three dimensions: gaming content, interactions with male players in games, and the atmosphere of the broader gaming community. While the previous two sources of gendered gaming experiences exert direct impact on

female gamers' perceptions of sexism and misogyny in gaming, the indirect intimidation exerted by the hostile atmosphere of the male-dominated gaming community significantly influences two of female gamers' main coping strategies, which are "run" (quitting multi-player online games or avoiding playing with strangers) and "hide" (concealing female identity cues). Protesting against sexism or misogyny in gaming on the spot is reserved as the last option of "fight". Female gamers carefully calculate the social cost of standing out for themselves along two dimensions, their interpersonal relationships with the offender, and the purpose of perceived offense, which invites further investigation on the juxtaposition of online and offline social interactions in gaming, as well as the reproduction of pre-existing social inequalities in gaming experiences.

### **Growing Up Gaming: Class Differences in Gaming Practices during the Transition to Adulthood**

*Xiaobin Zhou, Adrian Leguina, Paula Saukko*

*(Loughborough University (Division of Criminology, Sociology & Social Policy))*

Research on video gaming has rarely considered the impact of social class on gaming practices. Inspired by Bourdieu and interdisciplinary video gaming research, this study highlights the interplay between life context, social relations, and social class in accounting for changes and differences in gaming habits through life trajectories. Based on qualitative interviews with UK gamers (aged 18-35) of different social classes (n=37), we observed differences in gaming and life trajectories in the transitions from adolescence to young adulthood.

Both working-class and middle-class participants reminisced that they spent considerable time gaming daily with real-life and/or online friends as adolescents. However, groups diverged when transitioning to young adulthood, especially between those pursuing higher education and those in (part-time/full-time) employment. Working-class players continued spending significant amounts of spare time on similar gaming genres, often with the same friends. Middle-class gamers' habits changed when they transitioned to young adulthood, moved to university education, and spatially away from their old real-life friends. They often shifted to less time-consuming games and played more often alone due to time pressures, and the social aspect of gaming becoming less important. Additionally, we identified an upwardly mobile group of young professionals (based on NS-SEC) who grew up in working-class backgrounds. These participants gradually developed more middle-class-like gaming habits in terms of preferences, frequency, and game-mediated socialising. The differences in gaming frequency across life courses observed in the qualitative analysis were corroborated by secondary data analysis of the English Taking Part Survey (2018-2020).

### **What the Myths about AI Mean: Cultural Perspectives on AI Risk**

*Manfeng Lin*

*(School of Social Development, East China Normal University)*

The implications of inequality and discrimination inherent within artificial intelligence have garnered significant attention within academic circles, prompting numerous technical and political approaches for improvement. However, the technical nature of the topic of "artificial intelligence" obscures its interconnectedness with various societal domains. Hence, this study aims to focus on the societal and cultural myths surrounding artificial intelligence, specifically the notion that it represents progress or an inevitable consciousness. The term "myth" does not denote a fallacious belief, but rather provides a comprehensive lens through which we can perceive the entanglement and co-constitution of artificial intelligence and society.

This study identifies several key actors in the construction of artificial intelligence myths, namely the media, audiences, government, and the technology itself. By employing textual analysis of artificial intelligence-related content in the media, the primary patterns involved in constructing the mythology of artificial intelligence are determined. Furthermore, this research elucidates the societal factors contributing to the formation of artificial intelligence myths and analyzes how these myths indirectly facilitate the production of social risks such as inequality and surveillance.

Ultimately, this study calls upon artificial intelligence researchers to adopt diverse perspectives and attain a broader understanding of artificial intelligence as a social practice. Such an approach is crucial for effectively addressing future technological advancements, engaging in public discourse, and grappling with societal issues.

## Culture, Media, Sport & Food 2 - Room 2

### **Documenting and Staging Social Change: A Study of Photography in Wales**

*Eve Ruet*  
(Cardiff University)

This paper explores how photographers and curators involved in photography exhibitions in Wales-Cymru produce meaning about social change. The research findings presented here are from my current PhD work looking at community and identity in photography exhibitions, practices, and curation in Wales. The study consisted of 25 semi-structured qualitative interviews with photographers, curators, and an ex-member of the Arts Council of Wales. A study of the policy document of the Arts Council and photographs from the exhibitions was also carried out. Often unknown, Wales holds an important place in the history of photography, moreover, the country, its landscapes and its inhabitants have been documented by a variety of photographers' lenses through time. The last 20 years of photography exhibitions in Wales, help us to visualise the multidimensional structural changes occurring in its landscapes, communities and identities.

For the purpose of this presentation, I will concentrate on findings showing how photographers negotiate social change and use it as a source of inspiration. Indeed, some photographers use their art to record change whilst trying to fight it or, for others, to induce it. Secondly, I will consider how, through exhibitions, meanings about changes occurring in Wales are made by curatorial practices. Finally, I will discuss the Arts Council of Wales' discourse on changes in relation to the arts in Wales and how changes are viewed as a step towards the future. This paper will reflect on the changes happening in Welsh society and culture, through the art of photography.

### **Changing Gender Culture within the Patriarchal Framework: Female Images in Chinese Idol Talent Shows and the Audience Reception**

*Yilin Wang*  
(The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

The female idol talent shows originated in Korea has spread to China since 2018. In 2020, three female talent shows with distinct themes premiered, garnering widespread attention and sparking lively debates on social media. The female idols in these shows have become an inspiration for many young women, promoting female empowerment and a new femininity. Using qualitative methods and adopting a theoretical framework that integrates Hall and Carolyn's ideas, the study investigates the role of the audience in cultural production and analyses the negotiation of meanings during the audience reception of recent female idol talent shows in China from a feminist perspective. The study reveals that young audiences recognized the presentation of diverse female images and nonconventional gender expressions in recent female idol talent shows. However, they also noticed the attempts to reproduce hegemonic patriarchal values through production strategies like editing. They negotiated with hegemonic values by actively favouring positive values of women and opposing scenes that reinforce gender stereotypes. The interviews reveal that female images and gender values in talent shows can impose a notable influence on audiences' gender values and attitudes about gender issues. The diversity and fluidity shown in the shows inspire audiences to be more open-minded, and confident about various gender expressions. This study highlights the desire for female empowerment, feminist development and gender expression without constraints among Chinese youngsters, which indicates the changing gender culture and a positive sign for gender context in China.

## Families & Relationships - Room 4

### **Selling Legal Parenthood: How Fertility Clinics Market Themselves as Safe Alternatives to Informal Donor Conception**

*Leah Gilman*  
(University of Sheffield)



In the UK, sperm donor conceptions can take place within licensed clinics or via informal arrangements, outside of medical institutions. Regulatory discourses frame donor conception in a licensed clinic as the legitimate and safe way to enact donor conception and discourage conceiving with a sperm donor outside of clinics. And yet, growing numbers of people are building families this way, through digitally-mediated informal donor conception (DMIDC), facilitated via online platforms and social media groups.

Drawing on an analysis of online communications produced by leading fertility clinics, as well as interviews with clinic staff, I demonstrate how fertility clinics are increasingly marketing themselves in opposition to these 'risky' online arrangements. Such marketing is most often used to target same-sex female couples and often draws heavily on family law and bureaucracy in order to sell clinic-based donor conception to potential customers. Drawing on Thompson's (2005) theory of 'ontological choreography' as well as insights from kinship and parenting studies, I analyse the models of parenthood and family which underpin such processes, in particular the assumed superiority of the two parent family. I also discuss the potential implications of following medicalised routes to secure legal parenthood.

Thompson, Charis. 2005. *Making Parents: The Ontological Choreography of Reproductive Technologies*. Cambridge and Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

### **From Godkin to Oddkin: Love and Friendship beyond the Human Family**

*Erika Cudworth*  
(*De Montfort University*)

Work within the sociology of family and personal life has tended to proceed with little or no recognition of non-human members of the household. In the sociology of human-animal relations however, ideas of multispecies families, multispecies households and animal companion as kin have been proposed in order to capture the close bonds between people and the animals they share their homes and lives with. Drawing on a UK ethnographic study, this paper considers the emotional bonds and affective relations people have with dog companions. In doing so, it problematizes the assumption that dogs can be considered 'family' by standing in for other kinds of intra-human relationships and through being humanized, particularly by being considered 'children'. The paper argues that the sociological concept of the family is stretched in attempting to account for intra-species relations. Haraway uses kin-making to indicate that intimate relationality might be more widely drawn, beyond immediate human relatives and beyond the human. Through a critical engagement with Haraway's concept of 'oddkin', the paper asks whether kin might be a more productive category in conceptualizing intimate relations with animal companions.

## **Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 6**

### **'To invest in the people to be interested in the idea': An Ethnographic Study of a Community Nursing Service in England**

*Martina Sykorova*  
(*University of Nottingham*)

Introduction: Since the 1990s NHS policies have started advocating for the delivery of evidence-based care in nursing. The views of community nurses on EBP are less known compared to nurses working in a hospital setting. This study aims to address this gap by examining the impact of a healthcare intervention in the community delivered as part of the evidence-based policy drive using chronic oedema as an example.

Methodology and methods: The ethnographic approach used for this study combined participant observations and semi-structured interviews with nurses working in the community to provide an in-depth insight into their working lives.

Data were analysed using a thematic analysis.

Findings: Community nurses did not display resistance to workplace policies but instead adopted workarounds by finding a way to deliver care to all patients. Community nurses' perspectives of

evidence-based practices (EBP) were largely positive, however, community nurses voiced their concerns about healthcare interventions that are 'too rigid' and 'prescriptive'. Such interventions do not allow for tailoring care to each individual patient which contradicts nurses' wish to deliver patient-centred care.

Community nurses spend most time on leg ulcer care. Despite the research evidence that compression therapy helps to improve chronic oedema and leg ulcers, not all patients adhere with the recommended treatment. In community nurses' perspective some patients are 'non-compliant' although this view differs between more junior and senior nurses.

Conclusion: Community nurses wish to deliver patient-centred care which at times contrasts the delivery of evidence-based practice.

### **Health Professionals' Self-Presentation in Peer Online Communities**

*Rowena Forsyth, Krestina Amon, Brad Ridout, Andrew Campbell*

*(Cyberpsychology Research Group, Biomedical Informatics and Digital Health, School of Medical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, University of Sydney, NSW Australia)*

Online communities offer opportunities for individuals to connect through digital technologies. In health, research to date has focused on how patients interact online with each other and with health professionals. Our focus instead is on how health professionals connect with their peers through online platforms. Our study included an international sample of health professionals from medical, nursing and allied health disciplines including physiotherapy, psychology, speech pathology, and podiatry. The current project is the first to incorporate a mixed-method multidisciplinary and multiplatform study of online communities on an international scale to capture the evolving nature of health professional networks, interactions, and communication.

Health professionals in our study carefully curated their online profiles. There was variation in the way they presented themselves and managed their identities across different platforms. Explicit efforts were made to manage the boundaries between public-private and personal-professional identities. This was based on the membership of the communities, the intended audience, and the degree of public visibility of the content shared in the communities. Most health professionals developed their profiles and online identities through their experiences with personal profiles. Some worked for organisations with code of conduct guidelines for using social media but these held different relevance for our participants. These communities are sites for inter-professional and intra-professional exchange that are constituted and reproduced through members' interactions. This project contributes to understanding of online professional identities. This evolving research area continues to re-shape itself as existing platforms change in membership and popularity and new platforms emerge.

### **Facing the Crisis, the Changes of China's Health Policy and the Emergence of Doctor-patient Disputes**

*Haoyang Liu*

*(University of Sheffield)*

Since the 1970s, there has been a major transition in China's economic system, in response to the global expansion of neoliberalism, the state has adopted the market-oriented medical reforms, reducing government financial support and health administrative control over hospitals. Healthcare services, traditionally provided by the government are now borne by individuals, triggered hospitals' profit seeking behaviour. The lack of institutional safeguards for patients and the absence of professional autonomy for doctors have led to a systemic dissociation in the 'state-doctor-patient' relational structure. Traditional Chinese values, which prioritized doctors providing treatment and salvation without considering personal gains or losses, have eroded, resulting in increasing social distrust of medical profession. Although the central government acknowledged the shortcomings of the healthcare reform in 2003, the tensions between doctors and patients remain, the context of development and crisis calls for rigorous research and deliberate intervention.

This study adopted systematic reviews of China's healthcare reform and doctor-patient relationships, incorporating semi-structured interviews that engaged directly with the frontline doctors and patients to investigate the current state of doctor-patient relationships in China. Adopting a social constructionism framework, this research delved into the interactions between doctors and patients. The findings

highlight those inappropriate internal incentives in hospitals, coupled with doctors' overwhelming workload, undermined the quality of clinical interactions. These issues reflect the paradox of medical development not leading to increased patient satisfaction as well as some difficulties in the policy implementation, offering valuable perspectives on the evolution of doctor-patient relationships against the broader backdrop of healthcare crises.

### **How 'Different' Autism and Intellectual Disabilities Are?: Differentiation Logic in Global Medical Classifications and the Local Welfare System in Japan**

*Sawako Shinomiya*  
(University of Exeter)

[Question] This study explores the historical relationship between medical classifications derived from the Euro-American context and a local welfare system, with a case study of autism in Japan. It aims to uncover the interrelations of the logic of classifying human conditions between medicine and social services. Until the 2000s, autism was not treated as a distinct category in Japan's welfare system and was positioned as part of intellectual disabilities, although these two conditions were medically different. This welfare position of autism left little room for specialised care for autism to be conducted. What made the distinction between autism and intellectual disabilities less significant in Japan's welfare system despite the medical differentiation?

[Method] I analysed historical documents and conducted oral history interviews with doctors, parents, care workers, and government officials to examine how Japan's welfare system had interpreted the category of autism until 2000.

[Findings] The welfare distinction between autism and intellectual disabilities was a recurring topic in Japan. The first Japanese medical case of autism was reported in 1952, which meant autism was a 'late-comer' in Japan's post-war welfare system and autism was addressed under the existing system for intellectual disabilities. Despite parents' desire, the government and experts emphasised the practical similarities of autism and intellectual disabilities, the cost-efficacy of disability facility management, and the possibility of isolating autistic people by treating them separately from non-autistic people. Furthermore, the ambiguity of the medical concept of autism made it difficult for the government to create a guideline specifically for autism care.

## **Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 7**

### **The Logic of Dementia Prevention in Contemporary Japanese Society and Its Rise and Fall**

*Takashi Iguchi*  
(University of Tokyo)

This presentation meticulously analyzes the multifaceted meanings and historical evolution of dementia prevention in Japanese society, utilizing a comprehensive dataset from newspaper articles. In the context of an aging society, dementia is perceived as both a societal burden and a daunting individual challenge. Developed nations primarily approach dementia research through a biomedical lens, exploring the intricate pathogenic mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease and the development of therapeutic drugs, emphasizing early detection and preventive measures.

Japan's National Dementia Strategy in 2019, focusing on prevention, faced scrutiny from individuals with dementia and their families, who emphasized the importance of 'living well with dementia' and proactive 'preparation for dementia'. This perspective highlighted the inherent conflict between prevention strategies and the lived experiences of those affected. Globally, dementia prevention has expanded beyond neurological disorders to include chronic diseases and lifestyle modifications. This diversification has complexified the discourse on dementia prevention, raising intricate questions about inclusion and the experiences of individuals living with dementia.

Using a robust database of Japanese newspaper articles spanning five decades, this study systematically categorizes and analyzes materials related to dementia prevention. The analysis aims to discern shifts in content, underlying logic, and contextual nuances. By exploring evolving trends,

semantic transformations, and their connections with concepts like 'preparedness' and 'coexistence', this research seeks to illuminate the intricate landscape of dementia prevention in Japanese society.

### **Research on Health Inequality among Older People in China: Based on the CHARLS Data**

*Min Qiu*  
(University of Manchester)

With the acceleration of population ageing, the health of older people has become a significant field of academic attention. Older people are vulnerable people in society, and their poor health not only affects their subjective wellbeing, but also burdens their family and society. Therefore, it is of great significance to explore health inequality and its influencing factors. This research used the SF-36 scale and the data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS) in 2018, with descriptive statistics and multiple regression models to investigate the influencing factors of health inequality. The results showed that economic conditions have a positive effect on the health status of older people, while income and education show an inverted U-shaped relationship with health status. Younger, urban, and male individuals have better health.

Reducing health inequality among older people requires further improvements to existing social security systems to raise the income level of older people, increasing human capital investment for older people. At the same time, attention should be paid to the differences in health inequality between urban and rural areas, age differences, gender differences, education differences and income differences, and clear the critical population for policy intervention. Vulnerable groups, particularly rural, low-income, and low-education females, require more attention and policy support.

### **Chinese Ageing People in Dilemma: Exploration of Elder People's Feeling about Home Caring in Western Area of China**

*Yucheng He, Wanyun Huang, Weizheng Wang, Yuzi Wang, Yucheng He*  
(Hong Kong University of Science and Technology)

The demand for elderly care in China is surging due to the acceleration of ageing. Despite various efforts from multiple sectors to diversify elder care, home care remains the preferred choice for 90% of the elderly population. In order to delve deeper into the underlying reasons for these choices, this research employs an innovative and intertwined theoretical framework of welfare pluralism, the Anderson Behavioral Model, and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to analyze the intricate choices and requirements underlying elderly home care preferences. These frameworks provide a comprehensive understanding, ranging from societal structures and policy environments to individual psychological needs, illuminating the reasons behind the elderly's preferences. Three key research questions drive this study: Why do the elderly prefer home care services over other private care options? What are the elderly's current needs and concerns regarding home care? How can we enhance current practices and offer viable alternative solutions to the challenges of ageing? By utilizing the qualitative method with semi-structured interviews, this research captures the subjective feelings and diverse motivations underlying the choices of home care. Furthermore, the results offer specific recommendations for achieving welfare pluralism through the cooperative efforts among the government, community, organizations, and individuals. Ultimately, these findings have substantial implications for policy-making and service providers, aiming to enhance the overall quality of life for the elderly population.

### **Values of Tics: Unpacking the Organizational Disparities between Tic Disorders and Attention-deficit/hyperactivity Disorder in China**

*Yanze Yu*  
(University of Michigan)

This research examines the pharmaceuticalization of Tic Disorders (TD) in China over the past decade. Based on interviews with 15 physicians at the Tic Disorders Association of China (TDAC), ethnography from six medical conferences, and a wide range of digital archives, this study investigates the factors leading to the organizational disparities between two commonly comorbid disorders, Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and TD, in China. Despite being less diagnosed and recognized, TD has managed to rally extensive societal actors, assembling a nationwide hierarchical consortium, while no similar organizations exist for ADHD to date. The study proposes that the ways elite medical

professionals in public hospitals and state-invested pharmaceutical corporations assign value to neurodevelopmental disorders and innovative drugs, respectively, result in such organizational differences. In a medical regime of valuation, tics are valued for their neurological tangibility for diagnosis and their scientific improbability for treatment. This resonates with the state's approach to early intervention in psychological and mental health issues. In a monetary regime of valuation, the drug treatment of tics is valued not only for its frictionless design, which promotes patient compliance, but also for its symbolic representation of national prestige as a leading-edge "Class 1 New Drug." This aligns with the state's aspiration to transform its pharmaceutical industry into an innovation-led powerhouse. Consequently, the departmental concentration of TD practitioners and the state's backing for domestic capital enabled pediatric neurologists to partner with a state-invested pharmaceutical corporation to tap into the potential surrounding TD, leading to the establishment of TDAC.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 - Room 9**

### **Who as a Study-Abroad Expert? An Ethnographic Study of New Forms of Education Consultancy on Social Media**

*Sazana Jayadeva*  
(University of Surrey)

Through an exploration of new forms of education consultancy on social media, this paper contributes to the growing scholarship on commercial education consultants and their role in mediating international student migration. It draws on my research on student migration from India to Germany and, specifically, on a digital ethnography I conducted of 19 'Study in Germany' mutual-support Facebook and WhatsApp groups, which brought together prospective international students across India interested in studying in Germany. The paper offers an analysis of how 'Study in Germany' mutual-support Facebook and WhatsApp groups have created novel opportunities for Indian international students in Germany to become freelance education consultants – or 'Student Guides' – and have strongly shaped the ways in which they operated. It examines how these Student Guides emphatically distanced themselves from professional education consultants in India and contributed to the critical narratives about such 'traditional' consultants that circulated within the mutual-support groups. Most prominently, the Student Guides emphasised their insider knowledge of the German higher education system and their student identity, and constructed 'traditional' education consultants as lacking experiential knowledge of study in Germany and being profit-driven businesses which manipulated and exploited prospective international students. The paper shows how such anti-consultant narratives and the alternative sources of guidance available via the mutual-support groups had led to many group members choosing against seeking the services of an education consultant in India. At the same time, it draws attention to a number of ways in which 'traditional' and social-media consultancy had begun to intersect.

### **Soft and Seamless? Gender, Race, and Everyday Life on the UK-Irish Border**

*Theresa O' Keefe, Niall Gilmartin, Dyuti Chakravarty*  
(University College Cork and Ulster University)

Though the border on the island of Ireland has always been a site of contestation, it is popularly constructed as an 'invisible' or 'soft' border, a discourse readily observable in the wake of Brexit. The signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and subsequent 'demilitarisation' of state border infrastructure from 2004 onwards gave way to a set of prevailing narratives that suggest the ending of traditional forms of border control and surveillance synonymous with the Troubles erased the border as a significant factor in the lives of those who cross it, are policed by it or live in its shadow. This paper uses an intersectional framework to contest the dominant view of the UK-Irish border as 'invisible', 'soft' or seamless. Drawing on interviews with over 25 women living in border communities on the island of Ireland, we explore women's embodied experiences of the UK/Irish border and the ways in which it has served to restrict mobility and police women's daily life. Using an arts-based 'walking methods' approach, our research examines women's relationship with and navigation of the border during the Troubles and since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. By centring the experiences of women, including racialised/and migrant women, we gain a perspective of the border and border life that has yet to be meaningfully considered in UK/Irish border studies, and one that disrupts what we consider to be an androcentric and ethnocentric view of the border.

## **Understanding Modern Day Slavery: "Examining Forced Hysterectomies among Female Migrant Sugarcane Cutters in Maharashtra"**

*Kritika Gosain*

*(Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen)*

Migration in India is predominantly influenced by social structures and patterns of development. The development policies of all the governments since independence have accelerated the process of migration. The landless poor, who mostly belong to lower castes, indigenous communities, and economically backward regions, constitute the majority of migrants in India. Research indicates, a significant population of migrant workers come from historically underrepresented social groups, particularly Dalits and Adivasis, and are likely to face systemic discrimination and human rights violations both at work and in their native regions of residence. (Naik & D'Souza, 2021) The current caste structures are a primary cause of labour migration to susceptible occupations. Capitalists frequently use migrant labour to undercut the salaries of local workers. A new class of contractors from the dominant castes has emerged as a result of the new production relations, which mainly rely on migrant labour. India is a leading global sugar producer, with Maharashtra ranking first in the country's sugar production. A concerning development has emerged among female sugarcane workers in Maharashtra's Beed district, with one in three experiencing uterine loss in recent years. Cane cutting contractors often refuse to hire menstruating women, believing that menstruation and pregnancy impede their physical ability to perform daily wage labor (SPRF, 2019). This paper will delve into the emergence of a corrupt health industry and seek to understand the debt trap ensnaring sugarcane workers as a result of "modern-day" slavery perpetuated by politically influential individuals within their community.

## **Prevent and Critical Race Feminism: The implications of Prevent for Muslim women in Post-16 Education**

*Lilly Barker*

*(Nottingham Trent University)*

There is existing, extensive attention on the effects of counterterrorism policy on the Muslim population. This paper goes further by providing an analysis of the intersectionality of religion, race, gender identity and the effects of counterterrorism policy, namely 'Prevent'. I focus upon understanding young Muslim women's experiences concerning the UK's counterterrorism strategy Prevent, with a theoretical framework of Critical Race Feminism. This research demonstrates the UK government's incorporation of Muslim women into countering violent extremism policies and how this aids the Prevent's wider acceptance and legitimacy within society, whilst also categorising Muslim women as a tool in deradicalization. I directly address the gap between feminist research and the lived experiences of Prevent for young Muslim women in post-16 education. This study is one of the first to offer insights into Muslim women's feelings surrounding how Prevent operates within the UK's post-16 education sector. To aid this exploration, Critical Race Feminism is used to advance the discussion of intersectionality within this paper. Within the data collected, certain themes are evident such as: the self-censoring of students; the responsabilization of Muslim women; gendered Islamophobia; and the reluctance to report to the Prevent strategy. The findings of this research demonstrate that there is a gendered impact of the Prevent strategy within the UK's post-16 education sector and this occurs through different avenues. Accordingly, this paper should be added to the context of debate about the future of Prevent (if any) particularly within the education sector.

# **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 10**

## **The Black Middle Class in London: Agency, Power & Associations**

*Secorro Green*

*(Goldsmiths, University of London)*

In the last 30 years, studies of the Black British Middle Class (BBMC) and professional and managerial workers (PMWs) have focussed on identity, culture, and inequality in the fields of education, employment, and economic outcomes. These studies investigate interactions in inter-racially—i.e., when black people are in white-dominant spaces (e.g., work, universities, and elite institutions)—not

intra-racially, i.e., within Black-only contexts such as BMC associations, community organisations and social networks.

This PhD thesis (data analysis in progress) addresses this gap by exploring intra-racial associations as counterpublics, a free space for the development of political worldviews, to analyse racial uplift ideology and analyse these spaces as expressions of BBMC power in knowledge generation, representation, and social reproduction.

The data was collected through participatory-observation methods in four Black British professional associations (two personal development, one leisure, and one community engagement) and 14 interviews with participants on politics, racial identity, and participation in professional associations. The research examines how groups are created organisationally, politically, and institutionally; understanding why people participate and create communities through these mechanisms; and observing how race and class operate and connects in these spaces.

The presentation will discuss the following preliminary findings:

- The role of counterpublics in ideological production, propagating neoliberal ideas on racial uplift, black capitalism and political avoidance
- The process of race-making through institutions, as associations create Black Britishness as a pan ethnic group through shared fate, history and militancy
- Dynamics of class and identity as expressed through distinction practices in intra-racial contexts

### **Contesting Citizenship Patterns in Civil Society**

*Shrestha Barma*  
(University Of Bielefeld)

The research argument: The issue of citizenship has been recently a controversial and debatable aspect, which has been discussed by many social scientists due to the inflow of migration

Recent issues: The growing significance of this issue can be reflected in the recent case Of Rohingya Refugees, who are termed as undocumented.

What can sociologists do:

1. It is very much necessary to revisit the citizenship studies, and to challenge certain foundational theories of citizenship, that has to be changed within contemporary times.
2. It is also necessary to look into the various social movements that is happening nowadays and discuss about the facets of it, challenging how they are contesting the citizenship patterns. These claims consist of various connotations to study about the controversial citizenship patterns. Moreover, through these studies new sociological models can be built up, which can resist the foreign policy laws by the sociologists.
3. Initially along with building a model on the reformist ideas, it is also necessary to converge the processes between activism and theories. Here I mean that models should be built upon by actively engaging through social movements and seeing the perspectives from closer side, by the social scientists.

Thus to conclude it briefly my argument and my paper will solely lie that how to deal with the crisis that contest the idea of citizenship in civil society. And how sociologist can build up new theories and new ideas which brings the multiculturalist attitude towards the society.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8**

### **Self-reflexivity, Culture Wars and Social Change**

*Nick Hubble*  
(Brunel University London)

In his introduction to the British Social Attitudes report (September 2023), John Curtice notes that ‘the current debate about “culture wars” is perhaps a symptom of the fact that the role of the state in

upholding particular social and cultural values is now more contentious than it once was'. The results show that over the last decade, public opinion has liberalised on the libertarian-authoritarian axis. This trend is more prevalent amongst both middle-class identifiers than working-class identifiers and the young rather than the old. However, despite this latter correspondence, Curtice concludes that it would be a mistake to think that Britain will simply continue to become more liberal due to generational turnover, even though the BSA chapter on 'Age Differences in Politics' states categorically that 'Age has now displaced class as the principal demographic dividing line in how people vote'. The implicit recognition overriding this apparent generational effect is that the state does still have the power to overturn generational and educational liberalisation. This paper draws on the BSA survey reports and qualitative analysis of Mass Observation narratives, to explore how the authoritarian-libertarian divide in the 'culture war' over whether the state should impose social norms has come to distort class and generational divides so that these are no longer sufficient to explain political alignment. In particular, I'm interested in whether social change is itself a cause rather than an effect of attitudinal change and how different types of self-reflexivity shape such attitudinal change with respect to the libertarian-authoritarian axis.

### **Political Parties and Women's Political Representation in Brazil**

*Vanilda Souza Chaves, Ana Paula Belém Hey  
(University of São Paulo)*

The main objective of this research is to investigate the gendered dynamics within Brazilian political parties' governing bodies to understand how it affects women's participation in politics. In Brazil, due to debates on the participation of women in the political process during the 2020 elections, the Superior Electoral Court (TSE) ruled that the quota law should also be applied for the election of political parties' internal bodies, such as executive committees and directories, in the proportion of 30%. Considering the stagnation of quotas over the years, we chose to analyze the internal organization of parties, which can provide relevant elements to understand how these elite groups reproduce the dynamics of the social world and how these quota laws are reframed within Brazilian political parties. In Latin America, quotas laws have emerged as one of the main strategies adopted by governments for the inclusion of women in politics. However, opinions regarding them are controversial, and they are surrounded by many disputes in parties and parliaments. Thus, in this research we explore the following questions: what are the strategies adopted by parties to stimulate the participation of women? What roles do they play in the parties? For this investigation, there will be an immersion in relevant political parties from different political spectrums. Therefore, this paper contributes to apprehending, in the light of the discussions of Political Sociology, how this party elites are configured and what are the disputes and obstacles to the effectiveness of mechanisms to promote women's participation in Brazilian politics.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 Special Event Part 1 - Room 12**

### **Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity**

*Roisin Ryan-Flood, Kelly Burns, Cristyn Davies, Helen Rand, Sarah Molisso, EJ Caris-Hamer, Laurie James-Hawkins  
(University of Essex, University of Sydney, University of Sydney, University of Greenwich, City University London, University of Essex, University of Essex)*

This special event will present chapters from an exciting new edited volume 'Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity' that is published by Routledge in November 2023. It takes place over 2 sessions: Paper session 8 and Paper session 9 (Friday 5 April, 14:30).

The book explores the concept of consent in different contexts with the aim to consider the nuances of what consent means to different people and in different contexts, particularly in the post #MeToo era. While it is generally agreed that consent is a fluid concept, legal and social attempts to explain the meaning of consent often centre on overly simplistic, narrow and binary definitions and to view consent as something that occurs at a specific point in time. This book examines the nuances of consent and how it is enacted and re-enacted in different settings (including online spaces) and across temporalities.



Consent is most often connected to the idea of sexual assault and is often viewed as a straight-forward concept and one that can be easily explained. Yet there is confusion among the public, as well as among academics and professionals as to what consent truly is and even the degree to which individuals conceptualise and act on their own ideas about consent within their own lives.

*Kelly Burns*  
(University of Sydney)

Globally, debates about sexuality education initiatives, and specifically the inclusion of lessons around consent, remain politically- and socially- charged. While it has long-been recognised, consent education plays an important role in reducing sexual assaults and coercion and improving young people's experiences of intimacy. However, political conservatism has slowed or prevented its consistent presence in educational programs. Joining a chorus of scholars and policy-makers, young people have begun to demand consent education in different settings, and in February of 2021, a significant movement was commenced in Australia, when Chantel Contos launched an online petition calling for mandatory consent education within Australian schools. In doing so, she collected testimonials of over 6700 schoolgirls who experienced sexual assaults during their school years by young men attending all-boys schools. The e-petition precipitated a larger campaign (with 44,484 signatories) called Teach Us Consent, which continues to call for more comprehensive sexualities and relationship education in schools, including addressing toxic masculinity, rape culture, slut shaming, victim blaming, sexual coercion, and is inclusive of queer sex education. Contos' petition has received global media attention and ignited dialogue within Australian schools and government about how to reform school-based consent education. Drawing from the concept of 'a culture of limitation' (Ferfolja & Ullman, 2020), this chapter reviews the Teach Us Consent movement and analyses national and international social and news media, exploring representations of consent, gender and power. Our analysis demonstrates that the media debate around Contos' e-petition, and even the Teach Us Consent movement itself, overlooks a long and challenging history for researchers working in health, gender and education who have advocated for more comprehensive and critical consent, sexualities and relationship curricula. Recognising Contos' impact in using social media as a vehicle for political change, we ask what role it might play in better disseminating research about consent and sexualities education, to politicise the work of researchers and ensure new efforts to develop consent education is informed by a strong research base.

*Cristyn Davies*  
(University of Sydney)

In simple terms, consent can be understood as permission for something to happen or an agreement to do something. Influenced by local, national, and global contexts, public discourse about consent is generally foregrounded when high-profile cases involving sexual consent receive media attention. This chapter outlines an approach to collaborating with young people to co-produce principles and strategies to support their consent literacy, especially sexual consent literacy, self-efficacy and involvement in decisions that affect them. Developing a shared understanding of consent must begin early in young people's lives to build their awareness, skills, and agency. Using an intersectional approach to co-develop principles and strategies with young people, we aim to deconstruct dominant discourses that constitute their attitudes and underpin their behaviours and practices associated with consent. Core to this initiative is addressing understandings and practices of consent on young people's terms. Our initial consultation with diverse young people highlighted their concerns about understanding different forms of consent, effective verbal and non-verbal language to communicate consent, communicating consent beyond the yes/no binary, understanding consent as a staged learning process, and intersectionality of identity and experiences of negotiating consent, gender, and power. We argue that using a participatory, iterative pedagogical approach, such as a Living Lab methodology, is foundational to embedding consent literacy within young people's everyday practices and interactions. The development of young people's sexual consent literacy must address the sociocultural discourses underpinning gender and power, foreground the complexities of intersectionality, and be guided by young people's everyday lives, concerns, and practices.

*Helen Rand*  
(University of Greenwich)

This paper considers how consent has been conceptualised as a binary opposite to coercion within mainstream Western feminism and used as a moralising tool in sex work politics to oppress, exclude and attempt to silence sex workers. Throughout, we demonstrate how consent/coercion are not mutually exclusive categories and how understanding consent in this binary way does not allow for a wide range of contexts and relations in which sex work is carried out. Drawing on case studies from Asia, the Americas, Africa, and Europe we argue that by basing anti-sex work and anti-trafficking policies on the presumption that all sex work is coerced, this has the effect of reducing sex workers access to labour rights and migration protection policies and excludes sex workers from interventions to reduce trafficking and exploitation leading to oppressive and sometimes fatal outcomes. We conclude the paper by drawing attention to the pressing need for sex workers to be at the forefront of all policy debates and development that directly impacts their lives.

*Roisin Ryan-Flood*  
(University of Essex)

In 2005, a landmark change in British law regulating donor conception removed egg and sperm donor anonymity. It enabled donor conceived people to find out the identity of their donor upon turning eighteen years of age. In 2023, this first generation of donor conceived people came of age to be able to reach out to their sperm or egg donors and discover their genetic origins. This change was widely welcomed by campaigners, who often referenced the rights of adopted people to know their biological roots. However, this left those who were donor conceived prior to 2005 in the continued situation of being unable to access this information. In an unanticipated development, many people have gone on to bypass the laws of anonymity and trace their donors, or donor relatives, via direct to consumer genetic testing or social media. This paper explores the process of finding donor kin via these unofficial means and what the implications of this are for conceptualisations of consent in relation to donor conception. It draws on 22 in-depth interviews with donors, recipient parents and donor conceived people, all of whom have experience of finding donor relatives via social media or DNA testing.

## **Sociology of Education 1 - Room 11**

### **A Common Struggle? The Missing 'Student Experience' in Critical University Studies**

*Leo Mccann*  
(University of York)

Marketization, organizational change, and managerialism have transformed the culture, structure and meaning of UK universities. These changes are heavily critiqued in the newly emerged cross-disciplinary field of Critical University Studies. So far, however, the focus of these studies has been almost exclusively on academic professionals and academic labour, and the perspectives and experiences of students have not been extensively explored. We know little about how students understand and interpret the neoliberal university. This paper contributes to the paradigm of Critical University Studies from a student-centric perspective. Using a survey (n.280) and qualitative interviews (n.25), the paper explores students' accounts of life in British universities. Findings suggest that students greatly appreciate the academic teaching and the content of their degrees. Many of them support a traditional academic ideal of higher learning for its own sake. While supportive of academics and sympathetic to UCU industrial action, they are highly critical of university management. They complain of high tuition fees and accommodation costs, poor accommodation quality, and limited availability of wellbeing services. High-profile controversies around 'freedom of speech on campus' were regarded as either irrelevant or cynically engineered by Rightist political agendas. The paper identifies much in common between academic and student criticism of how universities are funded, governed and led, arguing that student-centred research has great potential to strengthen the claims of Critical University Studies in confronting the neoliberal university.

## **The Politics of Educational Change: Contesting the 'Digital Transformation' of Egyptian Education**

*Hany Zayed*

*(University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)*

In late 2018, Egypt began implementing an audacious reform program involving the 'digital transformation' of its national education system. Situated within a state-led project to build a New Digital Egypt, this educational digitalization was massively accelerated with the coronavirus pandemic. This paper examines the politics of educational change at a time of digital developmentalism, educational digitalization and pandemic acceleration. It asks in what ways, and for what reasons, Egyptian students were contesting the top-down state-led techno-educational change.

Building on two years of digital ethnographic fieldwork, including field interviews with educational communities and qualitative social media research in student-led groups, this paper shows how students were leading various forms of bottom up resistance practices, including digital collective cheating, tablet hacking, system crashing and digital activism, against the top-down state-led educational change. While some of those practices undermined the whole reform project, others rejected and sought to modify certain facets of it. Through those digital forms of resistance, students were collectively redressing injustices, reclaiming their rights to a better education, and articulating their agency against state-led educational change and unfair structural conditions exacerbated by Covid-19. They were also building community and forging solidarity with their peers in a youth subversive counterculture. One that is linked to a cruel post-revolutionary political economy and a colorful history of collective action. By telling a story of change, resistance and possibilities in Egyptian education, this paper offers not only an empirical intervention from the global South, but theoretical, methodological, and practical ones as well.

## **Sociology of Education 2 - Room 16**

### **A Spatial Analysis of Elite-Making at State-Funded Selective Grammar Schools in Zurich, Switzerland**

*Carlotta Reh, Lara Landolt*

*(University of Zurich)*

State-funded highly selective secondary schools play an increasing role for elite (re-)production in socioeconomically stratified societies. Despite not charging tuition, they tend to not be socioeconomically and ethnically diverse, as research shows. This presentation provides a spatial analysis of elite-making processes at the transition to selective state-funded grammar schools in the city of Zurich. In Zurich, only about 20% of students attend grammar schools. We highlight that the (re-)production of elites in education is an inherently spatial process by exploring how different forms of spatiality at state-funded selective grammar schools contribute to the (re-)production of elite privileges.

We draw on two recent one-year ethnographies with 15 students at the transition to grammar school which the authors conducted in parallel as part of a larger research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation. The analysis is informed by Lefebvre's theorisations of (social) space (1991). We show how schools largely draw upon their historic and cultural ties to their mostly socioeconomically privileged neighborhoods but simultaneously present themselves as schools that presuppose student mobility within the city and foster cosmopolitan capital, producing educational spaces of distinction. Students mould their spatial freedom and their schools' cultured spaces into perceived spaces of lived elitism that separate them from the majority of students in the city who do not attend grammar schools. We argue that the schools' spatial anchoring and the spatial addressing of students are central aspects of elite-making processes at Zurich's grammar schools and help to sustain the city's socioeconomically stratified geography.

### **Extending of a Time Limit: A Narrative Study of Master's Students Actively Delaying Graduation in China**

*Manyuan Sun*  
(*East China Normal University*)

In recent years, the global youth employment situation has become increasingly severe. More and more Chinese students choose to delay their graduation and slow down their life process. It is different from overseas gap years, which enable young people to broaden their minds. Given the unique phenomenon of master's students in China's "double first-class" construction universities, the research conducted in-depth interviews with 17 master's students. This paper uses the educational narrative method to decode the active postponement behavior of master students and analyze the obstacles that master students encounter after postponement. The paper finds that master's students have generally experienced training deviation, time poverty, and mental evolution, resulting in active delay behavior. After they chose to postpone graduation, they commonly encountered the contextual obstacles of dual identity, the barriers of the study system, and the blocks of self-characterization. Under the linear view of time, they presented a non-covariant relationship with society in the temporal dimension but realized the possibility of self-subject construction under various obstacles. The study has two suggestions based on the empirical analysis of Chinese students' initiative to postpone graduation and the social environment. The government should create a better atmosphere of talent cultivation and employment for master's students at the structural level. Society should take a rational view of the active postponement behaviors towards students and grasp the essential contradiction of dynamic postponement behaviors.

### **Unemployment in Disguise: The Transformation of Postgraduate Education System in China**

*Yuyang Kang*  
(*Xihua University*)

Youth unemployment has been a concern for many governments as it can have serious social repercussions. In this article, we analyze the role that postgraduate education has played in China's development after the Reform and Opening up. Higher education (HE), especially the postgraduate education, was expected to cultivate leading talents for the country's development. However, a critical historical analysis of the reforms in China's HE system reveals that Chinese postgraduate education system is increasingly used by the government as a hybrid to disguise the soaring youth unemployment issue and as an attempt to fix the gap between HE and labor market demands. By investigating the plights faced by Chinese young graduates, this paper argues that the centralized approach failed to create a synergy between the expanding HE system and the changing labour market. Instead, it offers contradictory response to the labour issue as it embodies the tension between capitalist development and government control.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life - Room 15**

### **Labor-Management Relations in the Era of Information Capitalism: A Case Study Based On the Chinese Internet Industry**

*Zhiwen Ding*  
(*Shanghai University*)

The qualitative study explores the shifting landscape of labor relations within the era of information capitalism, focusing on the Internet industry as a case study. Through six months of fieldwork and 16 interviews in a Chinese Internet company, the research finds that the uncertainty surrounding the realization of value within cognitive products (such as the function of APP) has caused workers to be granted a measure of autonomy to cater to user demands. However, this autonomy remains to serve capital interests, obscuring the inherent exploitation underpinning it. The author introduces the concept of "labor-capital entanglement" to encapsulate this novel labor relations, characterized by four features: attenuation of control over the labor process, realignment of labor control objectives, assimilation of labor control internally, and differentiation of workers' internal positions. Within this paradigm, workers

strive to harness capital support to realize their aspirations and achieve market success, while capital endeavors to optimize profit by overseeing the output of labor.

The findings show that the labor relations in the Chinese Internet industry are different from those in the industrial era. In contrast to the conventional notion of an inherently adversarial relationship between labor and management, this study unveils the possibility that workers may autonomously cooperate with the capital in the specific production environment. Therefore, we should get out of the analytical framework of labor-capital antagonism in industrial society, and explore a better way to understand the working conditions of workers in emerging industries.

### **Sectors, Organisations and Local Skills Systems: Occupational Progression for Young Workers in Higher Level Vocational Pathways**

*Karen Tatham*  
(University of Leeds)

The risks of being young in the transition from education to employment are widely evidenced, with long standing patterns of socioeconomic disadvantage reproducing into occupational pathways. Drawing on Kalleberg and Mouw(2018) call for a greater focus on the processes of intragenerational upward mobility to address entrenched inequalities, this paper explores vocational occupational progression through the career sequences, sector patterns, and organisation effects experienced by young workers.

Drawing from a Northern local case study during the Covid-19 pandemic of three industrial sectors, digital, construction and textiles manufacturing, 29 key informant interviews from employers, educators, local policymakers, and young adults provided insights into the processes that support progression in vocational pathways to high skilled work. Processes were embedded in distinct occupational pathways by sector, which themselves were a product of the low, mid, or high skill nature of the sector skills system, the vocational qualification framework, and local area partnerships between employers, educators, trade bodies, and local policymakers. In a time of unprecedented change during the pandemic, employer and educational processes endured that supported young workers. Some vocational pathways demonstrate economic returns above those of median graduate outcomes.

There is surprisingly limited evidence of how young workers progress via vocational pathways to higher skilled work, or of employer and educator processes in local skills systems. Closing regional inequalities through wider access to high skilled work are a UK-wide priority. This paper contributes to the emerging debate of employer-led skills systems and locality approaches to skills.

### **Behind Graduate Employability Curtain: Evidence of education-job Mismatch in Romania**

*Isirabahenda Gonzague*  
(Babes-Bolyai University)

Subjects such as skills, employability, education-job mismatch, and precarious working conditions are increasingly popular in today's world of work. Numerous studies have highlighted the complex journey that young university graduates (YUGs) must navigate in their university-work transition, and post-university life is full of many hindrances. While getting a graduate level and a matched job is a puzzle in the Romanian labour market, few enquiries exist regarding the under-employment lived-work experience among young people in Romania. This study sheds light on the transition from university to work by describing and examining young university graduates' experiences in their entry-level positions. We used reflective thematic analysis to interpret and extract meaning from two-year ethnographical case study data, with customer support representatives (CSRs) occupying entry-level positions and those in managerial roles. The findings discuss the devaluation of university credentials and explain how employers purposively ignore their hard skills. This study shows how working conditions entail deskilling and hinder CSRs' autonomy in work planning and task execution. This study also highlights the critical role of multinational companies' working strategies in talent mismanagement and unfulfilled work expectations. Equally, this study calls for reconsidering views on human capital in ways that account for the reality of the rapidly changing labour market and decent job agenda that can ensure the value of university credentials and adequate careers for numerous young university graduates in Romania.

**PLENARY**  
**13:15 - 14:15**

**Ruha Benjamin**

**Race to the Future?**  
**From Artificial Intelligence to Sociological**  
**Imagination**

From automated decision systems in healthcare, policing, education and more, technologies have the potential to deepen discrimination while appearing neutral and even benevolent when compared to harmful practices of a previous era. In this talk, Ruha Benjamin takes us into the world of biased bots, altruistic algorithms, and their many entanglements, and provides conceptual tools to decode tech promises with historical and sociological insight. When it comes to AI, Ruha shifts our focus from the dystopian and utopian narratives we are sold, to a sober reckoning with the way these tools are already a part of our lives. She argues that higher education is ground zero for reimagining the default settings of technology and prefiguring a world in which everyone can thrive.

**Ruha Benjamin** is Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, founding director of the Ida B. Wells Just Data Lab, and award-winning author of *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* (2019), *Viral Justice: How We Grow the World We Want* (2022), and *Imagination: A Manifesto* (2024). Ruha earned a BA in Sociology and Anthropology from Spelman College, MA and PhD in Sociology from UC Berkeley, and postdoctoral fellowships at UCLA's Institute for Society & Genetics and Harvard's Science, Technology & Society Program. She is the recipient fellowships and awards from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Marguerite Casey Foundation Freedom Scholar Award, and President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton. For more info, visit [www.ruhabenjamin.com](http://www.ruhabenjamin.com)



**Chair: Jennifer Remnant, University of Strathclyde, BSA Vice Chair**

# Paper Session 9

## 14:30 - 16:00

### BSA Publications Special Event 1 - Room 1

#### **The 'Selfish Element': How Sperm and Egg Donors Construct Plausibly Moral Accounts of the Decision to Donate**

*Leah Gilman (University of Sheffield), Vicki Harman (University of Surrey, Sociology Journal Editor in Chief)*

In this session the winner of the 2023 SAGE prize for Innovation/ Excellence for Sociology, Leah Gilman, will tell the story of writing her award-winning paper:

Gilman, L. (2022). The 'Selfish Element': How Sperm and Egg Donors Construct Plausibly Moral Accounts of the Decision to Donate. *Sociology*, 56(2), 227-243.

#### Paper Abstract

Multiple sociological studies have demonstrated how talk of 'good' motives enables people to maintain the presentation of a moral self in the context of stigmatised behaviours. Far fewer have examined why people sometimes describe acting for the 'wrong reasons' or choose to qualify, or reject, assumptions that they are motivated by a desire to 'do good'. In this article, I analyse one such situation: sperm donors who describe being partially motivated by a 'selfish' desire to procreate, a motive which these same men frame as morally questionable. I argue that such accounts are explicable if we consider the (gendered) interactional and cultural contexts in which they are produced, particularly the way interactive contexts shape the desirability and achievability of plausibility and authenticity. I suggest that analysis of similar social phenomena can support sociologists in better understanding the complex ways in which moral practices are woven into social interactions.

Full paper: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/00380385211033153>

This talk will be followed by comments from discussant Vicki Harman (Editor in Chief, Sociology), providing reflections on the paper and stimulating further conversations on the craft of sociological writing. After this there will be a live Question & Answer session chaired by Rob Meadows (Editor in Chief, Sociology).

In the final part of this event, Rachel Brooks, the President of the British Sociological Association, will announce the winner of the 2024 SAGE prize for Innovation/ Excellence for papers published in the journal *Sociology*. Nominations can be found here: <https://www.britisoc.co.uk/opportunities/sage-prize-for-innovationexcellence/>

**Chaired by:** Robert Meadows, University of Surrey, Sociology Journal Editor in Chief

### BSA Publications Special Event 2 - Room 11

#### **War Narratives: Traumas and the Possibility of Hope**

*Akiko Hashimoto, Olga Zhmurko, Yen-Yu Lin, Christina Simko  
(Portland State University, Masaryk University, DePauw University, Williams College)*

Wars, and human suffering associated with them, have caused profound traumas and fears, at both individual and collective levels. This panel will discuss how our cultural imaginaries about wars frame the meanings of their causes and consequences as well as structure emotional responses to wars in the past, present, and future. It brings together leading cultural sociologists who have studied wars across different geographical locations and temporalities, who will discuss, for example, perpetrator

traumas in Japan, fears about future wars in Taiwan, identity disruption and repair regarding the war in Ukraine, and so forth. Collectively, the conversations among the panelists and with the audience will also explore what types of war narratives may facilitate healing and hope, and how.

**Chair: Ming-Cheng Lo, University of California-Davis**

### **Inheriting Perpetrator Trauma: Intergenerational Memory of the Sino-Japan War**

*Akiko Hashimoto*  
(Portland State University)

The legacy of a perpetrator past has always occupied a troubling place in Japan's national culture. As in many post-conflict societies, remembering dark history has been shrouded in uneasy remorse, trepidation, and reticence. Almost eight decades after World War II ended, the task of remembering Japan's perpetrator past has now passed on to the postwar generations who have become the carrier groups of perpetrator trauma. This paper explores the cultural trauma of war inherited by the children of veterans who fought in the Sino-Japan War, whose lives were indelibly marked by their fathers' legacy of violence and guilt. I examine two recent memoirs by second-generation writers that probe their fathers' broken lives, published by Murakami Haruki and Henmi Yō. I apply cultural trauma theory to the analysis, as well as comparisons with German counterparts. The broader implications of haunted legacies on the geopolitical tensions in Northeast Asia today will also be considered.

### **Narrating Cultural Traumas Caused by War from a Cultural and Sociological Perspective**

*Olga Zhmurko*  
(Masaryk University)

The war in Ukraine and the related traumatization and transformation of all social spheres - without exception - are driving the rethinking and decoding of established cultural discourses. In Ukrainian society, this includes reflection on the cultural trauma caused by the long period of being under pressure from the colonizing systems of previous centuries. The current "big" war, as it is now called in Ukraine, is also seen as the basis for performative action aimed at decolonizing its cultural past and present. This collective reflection takes place during the active phase of the war, which means that the process of re-traumatization is ongoing, allowing us to record only certain milestones in this process in the moment. I present some examples of public narratives intensified by the brutal war unleashed by Russia, which represent a desire among Ukrainians to separate themselves from the aggressor, eliminating borders with them even symbolically, that would outline the collective identity of a nation that is trying to preserve itself.

### **The Light in the Crack: The 10th Anniversary of Sunflower Movement in Taiwan**

*Yen-Yu Lin*  
(DePauw University)

March 2024 represents the 10th anniversary of the largest social movement in Taiwan in the 21st century - The Sunflower Movement in 2014, a movement that rejected China's economic and political integration. This paper discusses the case of Taiwan and analyzes the new, if not controversial, challenges emerging in the past ten years. Those challenges include 1) The decline of the "Third Path," 2) The collective fear of future wars, and 3) Invisible racism within the Taiwanese society. Embracing the dark side of self has always been challenging for all human beings. I argue that only through recognition of the wrongs of the present will Taiwan achieve true consolidation of democracy and outgrow the historical traumas of the past.

### **Memorials and the Temporality of Healing**

*Christina Simko*  
(Williams College)

This talk examines the association among trauma, hope, and healing through the lens of several U.S.-based memorials. It focuses in particular on the soon-to-be-constructed Global War on Terrorism Memorial, which will be situated adjacent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the national mall in



Washington, D.C.: a site widely understood as sacred ground. As the memorial's planners acknowledge, the conflict it commemorates is still ongoing. The so-called Global War on Terrorism began in the aftermath of September 11, 2001, and still has no end date. In this way, the planned memorial embraces (and perhaps accelerates) what memory scholars have described as a rush to memorialization: casting an event in stone before policymakers have even declared its conclusion. Starting with this case, I ask: Can a society responsibly memorialize an ongoing war? And, more generally, is memorialization even compatible with ongoingness? I engage these questions by situating the planned Global War on Terrorism Memorial in conversation with the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The latter site addresses another form of ongoing violence: namely, the legacies of slavery, in the form of mass incarceration, police brutality, and racial bias in the criminal legal system. In doing so, it provides a model for working through past trauma, capturing the legacies of the past in the present while also mapping a path toward alternative futures.

## Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2

### **The Gamification of Love: Contrived Contingency in Commodified Intimate Relationships of the Chinese Idol Industry**

*Xinyue Shen*

*(Department of Asian Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem)*

Following Malaby's socio-cultural approach to analyzing games in terms of conditions of contingencies (Malaby 2006, 2007), this article aims to articulate how the Chinese idol industry supplies its participants (namely, fans) with an experience of love and intimacy by setting the conditions of intimate interactions between idols and fans. Based on participant observation and semi-structured interviews, this article will start by elucidating how the spatiotemporal magic circle is established by both material and digital infrastructures of the idol industry. Meanwhile, rules of social interactions set by the industry and the various character settings of individual idols promise fans both a certain predictability in the modes of responses from idols and a semiotic contingency that the meanings of responses are open for interpretation. Finally, the article will discuss the relation between such a mode of contrived contingency and the structure of contemporary intimate relationships, thus contributing to the discussion of the gamification of society under the capitalist-economistic logic.

### **The Detachment of Symbolic Meanings in Appropriation: A Chinese Case of Clothing Practice**

*Pengze Bai*

*(Department of Sociology, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR)*

Drawing on in-depth interviews and six months of ethnographic immersion in Chengdu, China, this paper discerns how Chinese young women appropriate and detach symbolic meanings, as mediated through three clothing practices: (1) "JKS," (high school student uniforms); (2) "Lolita dress" (doll-like and Gothic dress); and hanfu (ancient Chinese clothes). Recent research on appropriation emphasises how people personalise and domesticise commodities by adding cultural significance. Contrasting and complementing this work, the present paper demonstrates the importance of detaching commodities' cultural resonances during appropriation. JKS, Lolita dress, and hanfu appropriation follows two principles for wearers, offering both (a) distinctive symbols that imply a pre-determined identity and (b) an aesthetically satisfying appearance. Data show that, although some consumers intentionally pursue the symbolic identities associated with the clothing, many consumers actively dissociate themselves from these symbols because they enjoy the aesthetic value of the clothes alone. They would not choose the clothing items in question if such detachments failed. I therefore argue that appropriated commodities are not received whole-form and onto a blank canvas. Rather, the consumer's agentic capacity is expressed through active detachment from existing cultural meanings.

## Emerging Themes 1 - Room 3

### **Media as Mirror: Protest, Crisis, and Media Freedom in Serbia**

*Emma Brandt*  
(Northwestern University)

In Serbia, economic disappointments from the post-socialist "transition" as well as the prolonged reign of a single party, the Progressive Party, have led to a deepening feeling of crisis. Young people hold little trust in institutions and often view emigration as the preferred solution, not being able to envision the necessary economic and political changes in their own country. In recent years, much political dissatisfaction has been focused on the media, both the state's role in suppressing media freedom and the media's failure to live up to ethical standards. This dissatisfaction is expressed through the idea of media as a mirror, reflecting the problems in society. Drawing on a year of ethnographic work, including interviews and participant observation, in Serbia, this paper theorizes the description of media as a mirror and the ways in which this metaphor both expresses and channels political dissatisfaction, including the range of possible solutions it implies. Understanding how citizens articulate political dissatisfaction using discussions of media has implications for the study of authoritarian and semi-authoritarian public spheres, as well as the intersection of media sociology and political sociology more broadly.

### **Conflict Reporting: Intersections of Emotion, Attachment and Morality for Journalists Reporting on Genocide**

*Caitlin Knight*  
(University of Roehampton)

This presentation seeks to add to contemporary debates around how emotion, attachment and morality intertwine in journalism practice and the importance of this consideration when assessing the impact of reporting in cases of war and conflict. It takes as its focus the reporting of genocide as this presents distinct complexities for journalists who must negotiate practical, professional, and emotional experiences that disrupt traditional expectations of their job role. Using interviews, this work centres the voices of print journalists who reported on genocides occurring in Rwanda and Srebrenica in the 1990s. From these interviews emerged themes of inaccessibility, the moral imperative to report on these events, and the intersection with emotional labour on emotional effects of this reporting. By foregrounding the narratives of these journalists' experiences it becomes possible to acknowledge the difficulty of conflict reporting and ultimately challenge previous criticism of Western reporting of these cases of genocide. As we can see with reporting during the ongoing war in Ukraine, there remain tensions with incorporating emotions into reporting of war and conflict and so this presentation seeks to garner discussion around journalists' experiences and future consideration of the role of emotion in journalism.

### **Working Uncategorized Works: Body, Emotion, and Cognition Struggles of Chinese Street-level Bureaucrats**

*Xuzhe Yan*  
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Street-level bureaucrats play an important role in contemporary civil society and political life. However, related discussions mainly arise in areas of public administration and political science rather than sociology. Based on two month-long ethnography studies in Chinese residential communities, this study rediscovers the symbolic and cultural dimensions of SLBs' work, which are incorporated into Chinese political dynamics. First, by distinguishing the "categorized" and "uncategorized" work of SLBs, I define the latter as profoundly rooted in the combination of "campaign-style governance." It not only produces a multitude of boundary-less tasks with less-defined obligations but also reinforces legitimacy through "Voluntary legitimacy accumulation" provided by Chinese SLBs. The 12345-Citizen-hotline and pandemic works will be considered exemplary here. Second, the identity of a "Strong State-agency" emerges in the interaction between SLBs and citizens, going beyond the existing dichotomy between state-agent and citizen-agent. This cultural identity can be negotiated and fluctuated within power relationships in the "People's Work." Moreover, residential community SLBs bear the greatest cost

when serving the entire political system, both physically and emotionally. Under highly strict evaluation, controlled empathy and emotional estrangement become their strategies and outcomes in citizen service. Lastly, I reconceptualize discretion as the agency of work and identity of SLBs. I propose the "Enactive discretion," which asserts that discretion is a series of cultural and political practices that align with the local political dynamics and cultural landscape, rather than only policy implementation from the bottom up. This will provide a more sociological understanding of cultural power in state contestations.

## Emerging Themes 2 Special Event - Room 15

**Sociology is missing from Mainstream Media and Public Debate: What might Sociologists do about this?**

*Priscilla Alderson, Rob Faure Walker  
(University College London)*

Sociology research overflows with valuable analysis and findings that are reported in journals, books and on websites and blogs. For example, Discover Society and Transforming Society present many clear important reports and developing themes. Yet they seldom reach policy makers, the mainstream media and the general public.

As usual, for example, sociology was mainly missing from public information and discussion during the COVID-19 pandemic. How can we fulfil Burawoy's 2004 practical vision of sociology 'as mirror and conscience of society...that transcends the academy'?

We hope BSA members will find an hour during the conference to discuss this problem, its possible causes, and ways forward to promote public sociology. One 2024 BSA conference theme is how can sociology contribute to positive political and social change? A first step would be to have a strong public voice. The Wikipedia entry for Public Sociology records no substantive contributions since 2016. Is Public Sociology still relevant and what could it offer.

Reasons why sociology is missing from the mainstream may include:

- research grants tending to allow little funding for dissemination and promotion of findings;
- sociology not being applied in practice as the physical sciences, healthcare, psychology, law, and economics are (resulting in BSA having less funding and authority than national bodies that regulate practical professions)
- sociologists being encouraged and funded to work on narrow specialisms that can lack wider public relevance;
- sociologists perhaps being overly self-critical and assuming they are not qualified to speak in public beyond their sub-specialty or to comment on broader political and economic concerns;
- the tendency to use arcane language and to emphasise elaborate theories over practical findings;
- the REF's emphasis on fast impact, which encourages minor, superficial, and transient rather than major, profound, and enduring change.

There is the belief that social research can and should be value-free, denying how social life is imbued with values. A false faith in neutrality can deter sociologists from engaging in public debates, or offering sociological analysis when it is most needed on macro topics such as austerity politics, social inequalities, or the climate catastrophe.

Silencing of sociology also comes when government research councils and departments are the main funders of research, setting the questions and methods that discourage the critical analysis which the public needs to hear. Sociologists who depend on government funding are unlikely to publish politically critical reports.

Connected Sociologies is a recent example of how sociology might be made more public and during the session we will explore this and other practical ideas and plans towards building stronger bridges between sociology and public opinion, debate and policy. These discussions might include the pros and cons of a BSA working group on public sociology, sociological think tanks, and innovative promotion through briefing papers, newsletters, social media, the arts, and other promising resources.

## **Families & Relationships - Room 4**

### **'We used to have forest and we were the rich ones': How Migrant Children Experience Friendship and Social Inclusion in an Urban Primary School**

*Boyang Yin*  
(University of Sheffield)

In the last decades, the deep-rooted economic rural/urban dichotomy in China has driven large-scale rural residents to migrate to urban areas in seek of better job opportunities, therefore most of their children have to migrate to the cities with their parents. Whereas, in recent years, with the increasingly disproportionately distributed educational resources between rural and urban schools, compared with being the 'by-products', children are becoming the main driving force for migrant families, especially 'rural middle-class'. However, there has been less focus and emphasis on how migrant children experience the change of class and position and their experience of friendship and inclusion. Based on a 5-month ethnography in an urban primary school in China, this qualitative research used observation, interviews with parents, teachers, and children, and the art-based method (children's drawing) to explore migrant children's experiences of friendship. In particular, this research explored how the intersection of gender, socio-economic background, migration experiences, and language influence children's friendships, how differences are managed routinely in the quotidian world and how can sociology capture or react to the complexity of children's friendships which may also include tensions and strains.

### **What a 'Good Mother' Eats: Food Choices, Sacrifices and the Politics of Provisioning**

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

Socially constructed ideals of a 'good mother' affect women's daily choices, preferences, and planning for food within the family. We use primary semi-structured interview data (collected 12/2022-3/2023) from UP and Goa in India to understand the daily choices that are often made by the women in families and households. We study decisions like what to cook, how much to serve and to whom, who eats first, who eats last, whose food preferences are prioritised etc. to understand the intra-household dynamics and the politics of provisioning within families. While these choices are often in line with the socially accepted meanings of a 'good mother', they are also agentic in nature. As women try to provide socially aspirational and nutritious meals for their children within limited resources, they also make conscious parallel choices about their own meals and daily budgets. Women often skip meals, eat at last, eat left-overs or save better quality foods for other members in the household. We argue that this sometimes leads to a self-created deprivation amongst mothers, negatively impacting their food access and uptake. This gets further exacerbated in case families are facing financial stress or during times of crisis as witnessed during Covid-19. Additionally, the paper studies how children, particularly daughters, come to emulate these everyday choices from very young ages as socially desirable traits of 'femininity' and 'motherhood'. Intersectionally by caste, religion, and gender, we explore if this varies across family types, and how intra-household relationships reinforce or disrupt patriarchal hierarchies.

### **Changing Masculinities and Fatherhoods in Cyprus**

*Andria Christofidou, Genovefa Zafeiridou*  
(University of Cyprus)

Studies focusing on fatherhood and masculinity tend to identify a rise in caring masculinities. At the same time scholars raise questions over social change, hegemony and domination. Reflecting on these issues, this paper presents the findings of an ongoing research on fatherhood, men's (changing) practices and their involvement in everyday family life. The presentation relies on qualitative data that emerged from a) couples' interviews with heterosexual couples who have small children in Cyprus, and b) additional one-to-one private interviews with the men/fathers who participated in couples' interviews. It highlights men's reflections over their own caring practices and their reflections over the caring practices of their fathers to discuss social change, changing masculinities and changing fatherhoods in a context that remains traditional, family-oriented and religious. Considering the insufficient number and quality of public day care units, the intense reliance on family networks, the specificities of maternity

and paternity leave, and the gendered cultural expectations that may affect how men's active engagement in parenting may have changed, this presentation discusses the interplay between care, fatherhood and masculinity, which it locates in ongoing debates on men and social change. The presentation offers a multi-layered analysis that takes into careful consideration how class location, family situation, employment status and sector intersect and may affect a) men's involvement in everyday family life and the development of (caring) masculinities, and b) how conditions and developments in the micro-, meso- and macro-levels alike may affect men's investment in caring masculinities, and gender and sexual equality.

### **Untouchable Lovers: Obsession in Online Tarot Divination Videos as an Emotional Labor**

*Xiaoxin He, Yuhang Chen*  
(Fudan University)

Since 2019, a novel genre of online content, namely tarot divination videos, has gained significant traction on Bilibili, China's largest video platform. Dragon Girl, with over a million fans and a top video exceeding two million views, is a prominent creator, while smaller content creators are shaping the platform's tarot divination landscape simultaneously. Focusing primarily on videos related to romantic relationships, the authors have conducted more than a year of participatory observation, engaged in 20 in-depth interviews, and performed content analysis on the comments associated with the 20 most viewed videos created by the top 10 creators. The majority of the interviewees exhibited addictive behavior related to tarot divination videos in a period of time, for example, watching videos more than four days a week for over two hours each day, and persisting in this habit for over a year. Based on the analysis, viewers were categorized into three distinct groups: 'first love initiates,' 'active participants in flirtations or relationships,' and 'disconnected or abandoned ex-partners.' The research revealed a compelling phenomenon: viewers' obsession with online tarot divination videos represents a unique manifestation of emotional labor intricately interwoven with gender roles, expectations, and inequality within diverse stages of romantic relationships. This engagement demands significant investments of time, money, and mental energy from the viewers, and challenges their scientific beliefs and self-identities from time to time, however often concealed from their untouchable lovers.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 - Room 9**

### **Crisis, Continuity and Change in the British Imamate**

*Riyaz Timol*  
(Cardiff University)

Imams are the largest group of Muslim religious professionals in Britain who work principally within mosques leading prayers, delivering sermons and providing diverse forms of guidance to their congregations. While early imams in the UK were sourced from overseas and functioned primarily as ritual prayer leaders, growing evidence suggests that the contemporary imam's role has been expanded to encompass pastoral care, charity work or outwardly oriented interfaith and civic events. The British imam however has rarely been the subject of in-depth sociological research. Based at Cardiff University's Islam-UK Centre, 'Understanding British Imams' is the largest study ever undertaken of Britain's Muslim prayer leaders based on several years of qualitative fieldwork. Drawing on interviews with 40 imams around the country and survey data collected from more than 2000 imams, this paper highlights the continuity of ethnic and denominational traditions in British Islam, the challenges and opportunities of intergenerational change in the British imamate, and the critical importance of addressing practical issues to do with imams' working conditions, contractual security and continuous professional development. Taken together, the paper sheds important sociological light on the nature and complexity of mosque-based religious leadership in British Islam.

## **“No Ghettos in 2030”: Displacing Lives, Histories, and Communities in Poor Racialised Neighbourhoods in Denmark**

*Amani Hassani*  
(Brunel University London)

In 2018 the Danish government introduced urban policies to regenerate common housing estates (not-for-profit housing) with more than 50% "non-Western immigrants and descendants". These policies were designed to reduce the common housing stock and temporarily or permanently displace up to 11,000 families. These policies have disproportionately affected poor racialised residents and their local communities.

This paper presents emerging ethnographic data focused on the lives and histories connected to areas targeted by these policies. The paper juxtaposes the political narratives of the “unwanted racialised resident” with the narratives of neighbourhood life and history. Using the state-led housing crisis as an entryway to discuss wider themes of racialisation and gentrification processes, the paper suggests taking a longitudinal approach to appreciate the community histories and continuity that the Danish “ghetto” laws are attempting to dismantle. Based on the stories of racialised residents, the paper interrogates the intersection between racialisation and class, and how these relate to the right to the city.

Furthermore, the paper discusses how state-led urban renewal projects create displacement pressures for racialised residents and how these residents experience such pressures. In the Danish context, these displacement pressures are enacted through state-led gentrification efforts as well as increased regulation of racialised residents’ encounters with public services. The paper concludes with an emphasis on the different strategies racialised residents employ to navigate state-led gentrification of their communities.

## **Are the Domes Done: A Comparative Study of Three Mosques in Yunnan Province**

*Ke Liu*  
(School of Architecture, Tsinghua University)

Starting around 2017, a movement targeting Islamic, Arabic and Saudi-Arabic-style buildings began fervently in China. Mosques were the primary targets. Features like domes, minarets, arched windows and doors as well as Arabic decors were dismantled or modified. The public called the campaign “Dome Demolition”. The campaign evoked public resentment in parts of Yunnan Province, home to the largest Hui Muslim population in southern China. Among the affected mosques were Qudong Cultural City Mosque, Shadian Great Mosque and Zhaotong East Great Mosque, all located within historic Hui Muslim communities. Constructed post-2000 with an Arabic style, they all earned a high reputation locally and across Yunnan. As of March 2021, while the domes of Qudong Cultural City Mosque had been demolished, Shadian Great Mosque was yet to face this threat, and Zhaotong East Great Mosque was amidst a tug-of-war over the issue. From an architectural anthropology perspective, this paper describes the history and status of these three mosques, explores various reasons behind their disparate fates, and examines local Hui Muslims’ perceptions and reactions to the Dome Demolition campaign. I find that the fates of the mosques are influenced by factors such as location, political and religious environment, locals’ character and symbolic value embedded in the cultural images. These factors also shaped local Hui Muslims’ decisions to accept, acquiesce to or resist the Dome Demolition campaign. Baitur Rauf Jame Masjid, which won Aga Khan Award for Architecture, reminds us that mosques of Hui Muslim communities call for transcendent thinking and an open mind.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 10**

### **Region Segmentation: Mechanisms Influencing Immigrant Integration and Settlement Intention of Expatriates in China**

*Xiaohan Li*  
(*Jilin University*)

China is gradually shifting from a migrant-sending country to a migrant-importing country. Using data from the Survey on Foreign Residents in China, this paper explores how regional fragmentation affects the residence intention of expatriates in China. Firstly, it uses cluster analysis to categorize the survey cities into three clusters. Second, it compares the regional differences in expatriates' residence intention via five dimensions: time-space, economic, social, psychological, and cultural. Then, the influencing factors and moderating effects of urban clustering and social participation on the willingness to stay are examined. Finally, the mechanisms of South-South and North-South flows are examined. The following conclusions are drawn: First, the logic of foreigners' residence is not subordinate to geographic regions but is closely related to cities' economic and public service supply capacity. Second, transnational migrants in Changchun and Lanzhou have relatively strong human capital, and transnational traders in Yiwu, Guangzhou and Hangzhou follow the market principles and migratory mobility between their home countries and China. Third, the country of departure and entry influence migratory behaviour simultaneously, which is not a zero-sum influence. In addition, the interaction term of the urban clusters and social participation significantly moderates the residency intention. Finally, expatriates whose home countries are developing countries are more likely to stay in China than those from developed countries. In addition, they are more likely to stay in the southern part of China. The regional Segmentation affects not only domestic migration but also international migrants.

### **Cycles of Mobilities: European and North American Migration to Guatemala**

*Alexandra Eleazar*  
(*University of California, Santa Barbara*)

Concerns over the root causes of migration from Latin America have led scholars to analyze the multiple factors shaping the departure of migrants from Latin America within sociology. However, vastly underrepresented in migration scholarship is the documentation of migration to Latin America from the Global North. Although not referred to as migrants, longtime European and North American migrants have settled in Guatemala for over a century (Schoonover 1998). Yet, little documentation exists that directly speaks of migrants and their migration journeys to Guatemala, instead, the long-term residents and property owners are unaddressed or assumed to be temporary visitors. While important sociological contributions have shown how Central American migration to the Global North is navigated, negotiated, policed, and surveilled (e.g. Abrego 2014; Galli 2023; Menjívar and Abrego 2012), to my knowledge there is no empirical sociological work done investigating the inverse pattern of mobility.

Utilizing ethnographic research and interviews in Guatemala, I examine how North American and European migrants negotiate belonging, privilege, and mobility within the country. Further, I unpack how the continuing colonial forces and indigenous dispossession in the region play a role, as these privileged migration journeys are occurring concurrently with the increasing erasure of indigenous rights, criminalization, and displacement. I explore what I call a dual cycle of mobility, in which the migration of privileged individuals to Guatemala (and subsequent price increases and lack of affordable housing) causes an increasing number of vulnerable Guatemalans to migrate, often to the same countries privileged migrants left behind.

### **Return Migration of Overseas Chinese Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic: Emotionality and Agency**

*Yinni Peng*  
(*Department of Sociology, Hong Kong Baptist University*)

Migrant students constitute a significant group in mass migration in the age of globalization. Although most studies of international students focused on their migration motives and adaptation experiences in the host societies, the return migration of international students attracted increasing academic

attention. As the movement of migrants back to their home country, return migration is “a multifaceted and heterogeneous phenomenon” subject to the influences of multifarious factors and shaped by migrants’ personal characteristics and agency. The outbreak of COVID-19 has interrupted the migratory journeys of many international students. Drawing on the qualitative data obtained from online interviewing with 89 Chinese student returnees, I examine how the pandemic shapes the return decisions and processes of Chinese migrant students, with a specific focus on their emotionality and agency in the return process. Instead of defining return migration as the result of rational decision, I argue that emotionality plays a significant role in their return process under the pandemic when the students faced increased challenges, risks and uncertainties. My findings reveal the diversified emotional experiences and coping tactics of Chinese student returnees to deal with the problems and challenges in their return processes.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 Special Event - Room 8**

### **Critical Sociology in Practice: Crisis as a Catalyst for Change in Jammu and Kashmir**

*Serena Hussain, Raja Qaiser Ahmed, Uroosa Mushtaq*

*(Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University, Quaid-i-Azam University, Coventry University)*

This Special Event provides a panel of ground-breaking papers on ‘crisis as a catalyst for change in Jammu and Kashmir’. Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), often referred to as Kashmir, is one of the longest ongoing international territorial disputes. The region found itself at a new crisis point in August 2019, when the Indian-Controlled portion of the state was stripped of its autonomous status by a right-wing Indian ruling party and put under a complete military siege. Scholarly discussion on J&K presents the dispute as one between India and Pakistan, as Kashmir has been at the core of the conflict between the two nuclear powers, resulting in three wars; and frames it through the colonial prism of Hindu-Muslim relations in South Asia. This panel moves beyond such reductive dichotomies, which mask a multiplex of ethno-linguistic identities, political cleavages, social hierarchies and internal bureaucratic processes. The papers add to theory on identity labels and contested spaces; new understandings of how caste hierarchies can be linked with politics of resistance; on the quasi handling of disputed territories and the extractive nature of federalism, contributing to sociological theory on relationships between states and societies; and how majoritarianism exacerbates existing internal group relations within international conflicts. In doing so the panel brings together scholars from both sides of the divided J&K to provide a much-needed inclusive reading of contemporary challenges.

*Serena Hussain*

*(Centre for Trust, Peace and Social Relations, Coventry University)*

In August 2019, the Indian government annexed the semi-autonomous state of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K). This resulted in a strict military lockdown, followed by the incarceration of all of J&K’s democratically elected leaders, and a complete ban on communication channels. This paper discusses research conducted within weeks of the annexation with citizens of the J&K. A prominent theme to emerge from qualitative data collected was that rather than promoting their full integration into the Indian Union, the annexation would result in a greater sense of alienation among J&K’s population. This is discussed against literature on majoritarian governments and their use of rhetoric regarding integrating minority groups; as well as social identity theory, which describes how a perceived threat to ethnic or geographical identities by larger or more powerful groups (or states) can strengthen them. However, the findings also suggested that the annexation has the potential to intensify existent intra-J&K tensions, as different groups position themselves and one another vis-à-vis the current Indian administration and allocate blame on internal power dynamics for the situation that has unfolded. The article provides important insights into how political agendas are imposed upon local and/or minority populations by majoritarian right-wing governments and how this can exacerbate and/or be exacerbated by existing internal group relations and power dynamics.



*Raja Qaiser Ahmed*  
(*Quad-i-Azam University*)

A recent series of protests in Pakistan administered Kashmir (commonly referred to as Azad Kashmir or AJK) has resulted in a scale of social mobilisation which has not been witnessed in almost sixty years. Upheaval regarding overpriced electricity tariffs and exorbitant bills have triggered protests across the length and breadth of the state, which continue unabated. Although hikes in energy bills have been seen in Pakistan as a whole, they have led to a revival of resistance politics in AJK in particular, for a key reason discussed in this paper – AJK is part of the erstwhile state of Kashmir, and as such remains an internationally disputed region. Therefore, under international law, only the residents of AJK can own immovable property, including its rivers. The Pakistani state is now being held to account by this growing social movement for its exploitation of water resources in AJK, particularly through the building of hydroelectric projects. Against this backdrop this paper discusses research on exploitation. Specifically, it explores, how the [unilateral] decisions taken by Pakistan about water as a commodity has been perceived by Kashmiris; and how the changes in recent electricity prices have changed the understanding of federalism and power sharing arrangements among the people of Azad Kashmir vis-à-vis their controlling state i.e., Pakistan? This paper contributes to sociological theory on relationships between states and societies by exploring the quasi handling of disputed territories, the extractive nature of federalism, and its impact at micro and macro levels.

*Uroosa Mushtaq*  
(*Coventry University*)

Questions of social identity are extremely pertinent in contexts of intractable conflicts, and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) is no different. J&K remains one of the world's most contested regions, and even after seven decades of conflict, traditional scholarship uses the blanket terms Kashmir and Kashmiri to refer to discussions about J&K as a whole, providing little space for the contextually subjective fragilities on what is a heterogeneous region, in terms of the populations' cultural groups who have linguistic, religious and geographic differences. This paper discusses research that sought to unpick the subjective meanings attached to the seemingly objective 'Kashmiri' identity label among interview participants within the J&K diaspora. In a British context Kashmiri is utilised as an identity by those who support nationalist demands for self-rule, regardless of their ethno-linguistic background. However, far from being unproblematic, this was frequently challenged within interviews by those who come from the Kashmir valley and speak Kashmiri (Koshur) and did not accept simplified notions of a unified Kashmiri identity for all those who belong to J&K. In other words, they believe Kashmiri identity should be guided as well as guarded by language and territory, rather than political aspirations. Contestation over the ownership of the identity label by the people of J&K has ongoing implications for intergroup mobilisation and joined political activism, thus rather than unifying heterogeneous communities, a single Kashmiri identity has the potential to mask some, and take ownership away from others. The paper adds to theory on identity labels and contested spaces.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 Special Event Part 2 - Room 12**

### **Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity**

*Roisin Ryan-Flood, Kelly Burns, Cristyn Davies, Helen Rand, Sarah Molisso, EJ Caris-Hamer, Laurie James-Hawkins*  
(*University of Essex, University of Sydney, University of Sydney, University of Greenwich, City University London, University of Essex, University of Essex*)

This special event will present chapters from an exciting new edited volume 'Consent: Gender, Power and Subjectivity' that is published by Routledge in November 2023. It takes place over 2 sessions: Paper session 8 (Friday 5 April 10:45) and Paper session 9.

The book explores the concept of consent in different contexts with the aim to consider the nuances of what consent means to different people and in different contexts, particularly in the post #MeToo era.

While it is generally agreed that consent is a fluid concept, legal and social attempts to explain the meaning of consent often centre on overly simplistic, narrow and binary definitions and to view consent as something that occurs at a specific point in time. This book examines the nuances of consent and how it is enacted and re-enacted in different settings (including online spaces) and across temporalities. Consent is most often connected to the idea of sexual assault and is often viewed as a straight-forward concept and one that can be easily explained. Yet there is confusion among the public, as well as among academics and professionals as to what consent truly is and even the degree to which individuals conceptualise and act on their own ideas about consent within their own lives.

*Sarah Molisso*  
(City University London)

This paper demonstrates how consent has emerged as a key feminist issue in South Korea and contributes to understanding how autonomy is thought about in an international context. It will analyse the voyeuristic practice of molka, South Korea's spy-cam epidemic. The majority of these digital sex crimes target women, who are filmed without their knowledge or consent in changing rooms or public toilets, with the footage then uploaded to pornography sites. Within the past five years, femicide, molka, cybersex trafficking, and nominal prosecution rates of perpetrators have contributed to a widespread rise in demands for gender equality, ranging from street filibusters to protests, vigils, and 'sticky-note activism'. As well as offline activism, South Korean women have also engaged in a range of online resistance, including via hashtag activism (including #MeToo), and via the rise of radical feminist factions and movements (including 'escape the corset', and the '4B movement'). This chapter argues that subverting misogyny in this way is an act of regaining the loss of autonomy and consent.

*EJ Caris-Hamer*  
(University of Essex)

For parents, choosing a name can seem as one of the most important things to contemplate related to the birth of a child. Consider though from the individual child's perspective, a situation where their lived experiences in relation to gender does not match the gendered name and/or pronouns assigned to them at birth. Who should exercise autonomy over the choice of what others call this individual? The young person to whom the name 'belongs'? Due to their age, should the parents/guardians retain control of this? How important is gaining parents' consent when it comes to the name a child is known by, and or the pronouns they would prefer? Is 'consent' required at informal stages within education institutions? This chapter explores the difficulties experienced along with inconsistencies across education institutions (in England) and local authorities that those individuals, and their teachers face when students experience development within their identities within what should fundamentally be a safe space for all, including those students who are non-traditional-gender-conforming. What are these complex issues around the concept of 'consent'?

*Laurie James-Hawkins*  
(University of Essex)

Since the #MeToo movement went viral in 2017 attempts have been made to legislate sexual consent, especially for young adults, with these efforts having mixed results when put into practice. However, this attempt to legislate consent has focused on current expert definitions of what it means to consent to sexual activity with little reference to the lived experiences of young adults. In particular, current definitions of consent do not currently take into account the context of heavy alcohol consumption in hookup culture. In reality, most young adults do not define consent as compatible with the current notion of explicit affirmative consent policies which require that explicit (often verbal) consent be given, nor do they practice this brand of affirmative consent in their day to day lives. Our research explores how alcohol impact young adult definitions of consent in short term hookup or casual sex contexts and in the context of a longer-term romantic relationship. We find that alcohol consumption was used to support judgments that consent was present and that it was absent, as well as to support conclusions that a rape had and had not occurred. These results illustrate some of the grey areas around understanding of what consent is and how it is enacted in real life. There is need for more work on what sexual consent means to young adults in the normative context of hookup culture, and to determine the real-world ways in which consent is given and not given to one's sexual partner.

## Sociology of Education 1 - Room 13

### **Students as Consumers: Higher Education Students' Views on Constructing Students as Consumers in European Countries**

*Achala Gupta, Rachel Brooks*  
(University of Southampton)

The rapid expansion of neo-liberal regimes has effectively transformed how students – their role and purpose – are understood in society. Scholars, especially in the Anglophone North, have shown how dominant policy narratives tend to position students as consumers. More recent studies have begun to explore students' views of this construction. However, much of this work focuses on a particular country; thus, how students' opinions may vary across contexts remains largely underexamined. Redressing this gap, this article explores students' perspectives on being constructed as consumers in Denmark, England, and Spain. It discusses similarities and differences across and within these countries. The paper shows that most students find this construction profoundly problematic and counter to the ideals of education as a public good. Yet, different, often contrasting, themes from students' narratives signify the relevance of the funding regime and the level of stratification within HE sectors in shaping students' understanding of consumerist discourse across Europe.

### **The Hyper-Commodification of Higher Education in England: A Longitudinal and Cross-Nationally Comparative Analysis**

*Vikki Boliver, Luany Promenzio*  
(Durham University)

Higher education in England has become increasingly commodified in recent decades, with reductions in public spending on universities and students replaced with tuition fees and loans payable by higher education participants cast as private consumers. A study drawing on 2007 data for nineteen countries including England (Willemse and de Beer 2012) showed that cross-national differences in the extent of higher education commodification mapped strongly on to the welfare regimes typology developed by Esping-Anderson, with Liberal regimes including England the most commodified, Social Democratic regimes the least commodified, and Conservative regimes somewhere in between. We build on this previous study to explore change between 2007 and 2018 in the extent of higher education commodification across the same nineteen countries, encompassing six Liberal (Australia, Canada, England, Ireland, New Zealand and United States), nine Conservative (Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, Italy, Portugal, Spain), and four Social Democratic regimes (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden). We find a substantively large increase in the commodification of higher education in just one of these countries: the Liberal regime of England. The magnitude of this shift is such that we suggest that the English higher education system now stands apart from all other Liberal regimes by virtue of its hyper-commodification.

## Sociology of Education 2 - Room 16

### **Nationalism, Citizenship, and Social Development in Indonesia**

*Suzanna Eddyono*  
(Universitas Gadjah Mada)

Earlier studies have identified stage of nationalism and contesting nationalisms in post-New Order Indonesia. There is an indication that there is a shift from a global ummah to a kind of 'imagined community' at the national level. At sub national levels the religious state emerges through provincial and sub-district policies. Consequently, discourse of citizenship as represented through sharia at sub-national and fatwa suggests the shift in regulating Muslim as well non-Muslim citizens. This study will respond to the main question of in what ways and why do nationalism and citizenship shape social development in Indonesia? It aims to deepen the understanding of how the shifting notion of nationalism and citizenship take place in a plural Indonesia, inform Indonesian educational policy, and referred to for justifying the current practices of social inclusion/exclusion in the educational settings. This paper

contributes to the existing discussions of the shifting notion of nationalism, citizenship and social inclusion/exclusion in Indonesia and beyond.

### **How Does the Course Seemingly Unrelated to Political Propaganda Become Politicised? An Analysis of the Morality and the Rule of Law Class for 7th Grade Students in China**

*Anonymised at author's request  
(Anonymous)*

Over the past decade or so, patriotic education in Mainland China has been the centre of a heated debate. However, most of the extant studies have focused only on ideology and political classes for Chinese university students. Taking patriotic education in Mainland China as a macro background, this paper instead probes into whether and how morality and the rule of law, a course observed to be apolitical at least in terms of most of the main texts in the official textbooks for seventh grade students, has become politicised. Instead of focusing only on the official textbooks, this paper examines the question based on text analysis of the official textbooks, official curriculum standards, slides used by school teachers, exam papers and exercise books, participatory observation and discourse analysis of teacher talk. Four ways in which the course becomes politicised are identified: 1) to prioritise the national identity as the primary teaching objective 2) to utilise nationalism-and-patriotism-related examples and discourses when teaching 3) to imbue the exercise books and exam papers with examples related to China's positive images and quotes from the leader of the party-state 4) to set the answer that glorifies China as the correct and standard answer when grading the exams. It highlights a kind of everyday nationalism and state-building effort that is operated by different actors under the veneer of helping students establish correct values and demonstrates the possible future research agenda that brings back the autonomy and local knowledge of students and teachers.

## **Theory - Room 5**

### **On the Functioning and Types of Metaphorics in Perceptual Assumptions on Society**

*Thai Divone  
(Independent Researcher)*

It can be claimed that many of theoretical sociology's most influential perceptions of societies were based on prior assumptions about society those sociologists had. These assumptions, many a time, were derived from certain metaphorical understandings, for example, "society is a tribunal" or "society is a war on the allocation of resources". But while sociologists and historians didn't neglect the aforementioned metaphorics, they did tend to focus mainly on one "classic" metaphor ("society is an organism") while downsizing the influence of most others. This paper aims to advance the theoretical claim that theoretical sociology needs to broaden the study of the role of metaphorics to include other families of metaphorics and their inter-relationships.

The first part of the paper will suggest a map of eight "families" of metaphorics prevalent in the theoretical-sociological discourse. I will claim that each one of the families presents a unique view of society both in terms of what structures are considered meaningful within society and also in terms of how society can be explored methodically. So, hypothetically, if the metaphor is "society is a text" one will need to "decipher" the society, tending to focus on static and recurring structures each time. In the second part of the paper, I will suggest a number of meta-metaphors in order to describe the ways in which metaphorics influence our perceptions when there is more than one relevant metaphor during a specific perceptual act: so, for example, I'll suggest meta-metaphors to describe the harmonies and dissonances between specific metaphorics.

### **Ideology and Two Sorts of Naturalism: Ideology as dialectically connecting Reasons and Causes or 'Ideology' as 'Inoculation'**

*Dean Curran  
(University of Calgary)*

This paper argues that pointing out that people are systematically in error is not sufficient for ideological critique; rather it must be linked to either a critique of the genesis of the ideas or of the effect that the

ideas are having on society, or nature. In this way, it can be argued that ideology-critique is a means overcoming certain idealist methodologies, through its means of connecting actor's (perceived and articulated) reasons to causes in the world. Insofar as ideology-critique aims to connect reasons to causes, it can be said to pursue a naturalistic critique of idealist approaches. This paper distinguishes between two 'sorts' of naturalism: one 'reductive naturalism', following the Humean tradition, reduces expressed reasons to natural causes. The other, 'non-reductive naturalism', links reasons to the type of beings that humans are and the causes that shape them, while still allowing for a space of relative autonomy of reasons from causes. The paper proceeds to argue that a 'non-reductive naturalist' approach to ideology can dialectically examine the connections between (perceived and articulated) reasons and causes to better illuminate the basis and impacts of sets of ideas. On the other hand, a reductive naturalist approach to ideology not only threatens to distort the basis of beliefs, it also can impart an 'ideological' twist to one's beliefs, as those who defend reductive naturalist ideology-critique are at threat of 'inoculating' themselves against the valuable perspective and reasons in world-views that they have dismissed solely because of their perceived causes and effects.

### **A Genealogy of Paradoxical Modernity in China**

*Xiaoqing Wang*  
(University of Edinburgh)

Modernity, which originated in Europe, has a simultaneously enlightening and destructive face. The paradoxical nature of modernity has been examined by generations of critical thinkers. The multiple modernities approach challenges the hegemonic narrative of the Western project of modernity and provides non-Western civilisations with equal opportunities in dialogue. Yet, the discussions of modernity in the context of China often adopt an uncritical stance and neglect its paradox and complexity.

Drawing on critical thinkers' reflexive insights, this paper examines the dynamics and multifaceted paradox of Chinese modernity. Through the analysis of the debates on modernity in China's political, public and intellectual discourse since the early twentieth century, this paper explores how the paradoxes of modernity have developed, interacted and transformed across the Republican, Maoist and post-Mao eras. The paper finds that Chinese modernity has several distinctive contradictions beyond the common conflicts shared with its Western archetype. A mission of national salvation has been embedded in the project of enlightening, modernising and Westernising the country, making its modernity an unusual combination of nationalism and cosmopolitanism. When Western modernity was modelled, centuries of experiences, developments and variations were compressed and introduced concurrently, resulting in some anachronistic and juxtapositional conflicts. Incompatible modern ideas, from liberalism, democracy and capitalism to socialism, anarchism and Marxism, create tensions between different schools and, occasionally, within an individual scholar. The exploration of the genesis of the inconsistent, uncertain, and yet diverse and dynamic nature of Chinese modernity points to a potentially fruitful means of investigating other non-Western modernities.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life - Room 14**

### **Organisational Norms and Managerial (Dis)Preferences towards Employees Working from Home: Evidence from a Factorial Survey Experiment**

*Agnieszka Kasperska, Anna Matysiak, Ewa Cukrowska-Torzewska*  
(University of Warsaw)

Work from home (WFH) has become an integral part of the professional lives of many people across the globe. Yet, its impact on career progression is still not entirely understood. This article explores how WFH affects workers' career prospects from the gender perspective in the post-pandemic context of the United Kingdom (UK). More specifically, we study how WFH impacts workers' opportunities for promotion and salary increase, their access to training opportunities and employers' assessment of workers' commitment level and competencies. We also investigate whether the observed effects vary depending on the presence of the ideal worker norms and work-family reconciliation measures in the

company. We use data from an online survey experiment fielded between July and December 2022 among 1,000 managers in the UK. The findings indicate that employees who WFH are less likely to be considered for promotion and salary increase, and more likely to be negatively evaluated than on-site workers. These results pertain only to organisations that have more demanding organisational cultures, namely those with stronger ideal worker norms and fewer work-family reconciliation policies. Both men and women who operate in firms with more demanding organisational cultures and engage in WFH experience career penalties, however, they are substantially larger for men. Our findings underline the importance of organisational settings in the impact of flexible working arrangements on careers.

### **Succeeding Against the Odds: A Study of Judy Chicago**

*Ana-Maria Herman*  
(University of Greenwich)

Women artists have been historically underrepresented, and their work undervalued - by art galleries, museums, and auction houses alike. A notable exception is the subversive American feminist artist Judy Chicago, who has broken through the barriers of the art world in a sixty-year career. At the age of 83, Chicago continues to work and show her art in blockbuster exhibitions – something her female counterparts have struggled to emulate. While the significant pay gap between female and male artists has been documented, the ways by which some women artists prosper have not been the subject of academic research before. Through an archival study and historical analysis, this paper examines Judy Chicago career to evaluate how Chicago succeeded in the male-dominated art industry. The paper will include an early framework for understanding how past, current and future women artists might succeed in the art world. While success is perhaps most often defined in financial terms, and importantly so in light of the longstanding pay gap in the art world, the paper will also aim to go beyond simplistic definitions of success so as to explore a wider set of elements that contribute to a longstanding career.

### **Conceptualising the Value of Refugee and Migrant Entrepreneurs in Neoliberal Britain: The Role of Support Organisations**

*Carolynn Low, Maria Villares-Varela*  
(University of Southampton)

In a situation of declining state support for ethnic minority and migrant entrepreneurs (following the dismantling of initiatives such as Business Links under New Labour) and post-austerity service cuts, new actors outside mainstream providers are stepping in to offer support (Jones and Ram, 2012; Villares-Varela and Sheringham, 2020). This paper looks at the role of a wide range of support organisations (refugee third sector, faith-based organisations) in the provision of employment and business support for migrants and refugees. Drawing on qualitative interviews with workers in migrant and refugee support organisations and in faith-based organisations we investigate how these actors understand the significance of work and entrepreneurship for migrants and refugees, the valuation of their skills, and their broader economic and social contribution.

Analysis of the narratives these actors construct around the barriers to labour market entry and importance of work for the integration of migrants/refugees, reveals tensions between a focus on inclusive and humanistic values and a neoliberal conceptualisation of the contribution of migrants and refugees to British society. This paper seeks to situate these understandings in the context of the unequal, marginalised, and frequently unwelcome, position that refugees and migrants occupy in contemporary British society. We contribute to debates on migrant entrepreneurship and business support (Ram et al. 2017) and the broader value of diversity and migrants' work (Nathan 2015; Jones et al. 2018).