



70th ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 April

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

Gary Younge - University of Manchester

Monday 12 April 6-7pm

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Gurminder Bhambra - University of Sussex

Remaking the Future



PLENARY PANELS

Austerity Panel:

Fran Darlington-Pollock - The Equality Trust
Akwugo Emejulu - University of Warwick
Kayleigh Garthwaite - University of Birmingham
Guy Standing - SOAS University of London
Sylvia Walby (Chair) - City, University of London

Environment Panel:

Alice Mah - University of Warwick
Leon Sealey-Huggins - University of Warwick
Nigel South - University of Essex

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REMAKING THE FUTURE

BSA Annual Conference 2021
Tuesday 13 - Thursday 15 April 2021

Abstract Book DAY 1 – TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021

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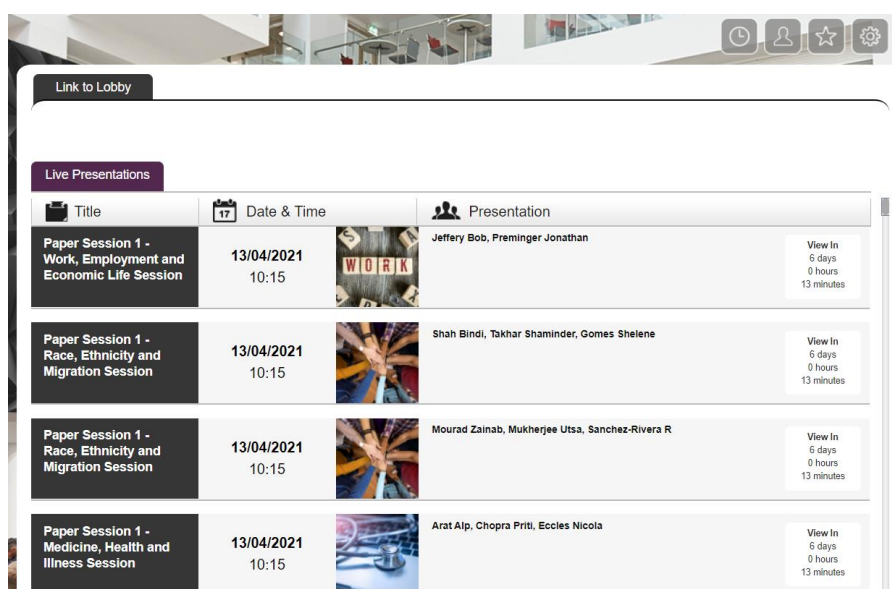
In this book, you will find the full abstracts for every session for the day. You may save a copy of this PDF document to your desktop or device for reference throughout the day. You can also use the search function (CONTROL+F) to search within this document for names, subjects and titles.

The link to the Conference Programme in the BSA Conference Lobby will update each morning to show the events of that day. To view abstracts for the full conference, please visit the Resources area.

To choose and watch sessions, please go to the AUDITORIUM.

You can access the auditorium from the BSA Conference Lobby. All sessions are listed by stream and author name. You can search for presentations you wish to see and can add them to your 'agenda' for the conference.

If you have any trouble accessing sessions, **please visit our Help Desk** from the BSA Conference Lobby.



Link to Lobby			
Live Presentations			
Title	Date & Time	Presentation	
Paper Session 1 - Work, Employment and Economic Life Session	13/04/2021 10:15	Jeffery Bob, Preminger Jonathan	View In 6 days 0 hours 13 minutes
Paper Session 1 - Race, Ethnicity and Migration Session	13/04/2021 10:15	Shah Bindi, Takhar Shaminder, Gomes Shelene	View In 6 days 0 hours 13 minutes
Paper Session 1 - Race, Ethnicity and Migration Session	13/04/2021 10:15	Mourad Zainab, Mukherjee Utsa, Sanchez-Rivera R	View In 6 days 0 hours 13 minutes
Paper Session 1 - Medicine, Health and Illness Session	13/04/2021 10:15	Arat Alp, Chopra Priti, Eccles Nicola	View In 6 days 0 hours 13 minutes

WELCOME

Welcome to the first fully virtual annual British Sociological Association Annual Conference. This year also marks the 70th anniversary of the conference, so perhaps it is fitting that we are looking forward, not just by embracing the possibilities of an online gathering, but also by exploring the theme of: Remaking the Future. This theme was chosen well before we had ever heard of Coronavirus or experienced the many losses of the last 12 months. The conference keynote presentations and panels start that vital process of looking forward and considering, not how we get back to normal, but whether we can become something different.

Our plenary speakers and panels are as follows:

- **Gurminder Bhambra** (University of Sussex)
- **Austerity Panel:** Fran Darlington-Pollock (The Equality Trust), Akwugo Emejulu (University of Warwick), Kayleigh Garthwaite (University of Birmingham), Guy Standing (SOAS University of London), Sylvia Walby (City University of London, Chair)
- **Environment Panel:** Alice Mah (University of Warwick), Leon Sealey-Huggins (University of Warwick), Nigel South (University of Essex), Louise Ryan (London Metropolitan University, Chair)

In addition to these plenaries, delegates have the opportunity to view and discuss presentations on a wide range of topics. The conference is organised in streams designed to represent the major areas of research sociologists are exploring. These streams are open to any topic on which people are currently working, enabling delegates to engage with colleagues in their areas of interest and explore a variety of topics as well. Many of the streams include a Stream Plenary which brings key speakers together to reflect on the conference theme from particular sociological perspectives. There are also a number of open streams (Frontiers) providing a forum for new, innovative and multidisciplinary work.

We have sought to ensure that the conference remains a space of dialogue and interaction, we hope it will be an enriching week – in what remains, including in higher education, challenging times.

Finally, thanks to everyone for contributing to a conference we all hope will be enjoyable and stimulating.

Aminu Audu, Mark Doidge, Janice McLaughlin
BSA Annual Conference Organising Committee

With Thanks and Gratitude

A conference of this magnitude and breadth depends on the efforts of many committed individuals. Great thanks are due to all those who have helped with the organisation of the conference, particularly the coordinators of the conference streams. A special thanks goes to the events team who have worked incredibly hard to bring the conference together in this very different format.

Stream name	Stream coordinator(s)
Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space	Sarah Leaney Maria Silvia D'Avolio
Culture, Media, Sport and Food	Julian Matthews Thomas Thurnell-Read
Environment and Society	Tom Roberts
Families and Relationships	Alison Lamont Charlotte Faircloth Katherine Twamley Julie Walsh
Frontiers	Janice McLaughlin
Lifecourse	Laura Towers
Medicine, Health and Illness	Flis Henwood Sasha Scambler

Methodological Innovations	Helen Lomax Steffanie Doebler
Race, Ethnicity and Migration	Narzarin Massoumi Polina Manolova Sweta Rajan-Rankin
Rights, Violence and Crime	Louise Livesey
Science, Technology and Digital Studies	Cristina Costa Kate Orton-Johnson Emily Ross Julia Swallow
Social Divisions/Social Identities	Alex Law Paul Gilfillan
Sociology of Education	Nicola Ingram Michael Ward
Sociology of Religion	Rachael Shillitoe
Theory	Nick Fox Pam Alldred Fay Dennis
Work, Employment and Economic Life	Jonathan Preminger Rachel Cohen Jill Timms

We would also like to express our appreciation for the support of all our sponsors and exhibitors.

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The BSA would like to thank SAGE Publishing for funding the conference registration of 35 BSA Members at this year's annual virtual conference.

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PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, 13 April 2021 - Day 1

10:15 - 11:30	Paper Session 1 with live Q&A to follow each session
11:30 - 11:45	Break
11:45 - 13:00	Paper Session 2 with live Q&A to follow each session
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	PLENARY – Austerity Panel Sylvia Walby (Chair) Fran Darlington-Pollock Akwugo Emejulu Kayleigh Garthwaite Guy Standing
15:00 - 15:15	Break
15:15 - 16:30	Paper Session 3 with live Q&A to follow each session
16:30 - 16:45	Break
16:45 - 17:45	Stream Plenaries / Special Activities Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space; Culture, Media, Sport and Food; Lifecourse

Wednesday, 14 April 2021 - Day 2

09:30 - 10:30	Stream Plenaries / Special Activities Families and Relationships; Methodological Innovation; Race, Ethnicity and Migration; Science, Technology and Digital Studies; Theory
10:30 - 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	Paper Session 4 with live Q&A to follow each session
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch
13:00 - 14:15	Paper Session 5 with live Q&A to follow each session
14:15 - 14:30	Break
14:30 - 15:45	Paper Session 6 with live Q&A to follow each session
15:45 - 16:00	Break
16:00 - 16:40	PLENARY Gurminder K Bhambra

Thursday, 15 April 2021 - Day 3

09:30 - 10:45	Paper Session 7 with live Q&A to follow each session
10:45 - 11:00	Break
11:00 - 12:15	Paper Session 8 with live Q&A to follow each session
12:15 - 13:15	Lunch
13:15 – 14:15	PLENARY – Environment Panel Alice Mah Nigel South Leon Sealey-Huggins
14:15 - 14:30	Break
14:30 - 15:45	Paper Session 9 with live Q&A to follow each session
15:45 - 16:00	Break
16:00 - 17:00	Stream Plenaries / Special Activities Medicine, Health and Illness; Sociology of Religion; Work, Employment and Economic Life; Early Career/Post Graduate Special Session
17:00 - 17:30	Conference closes Chair of BSA Board of Trustees Closing Remarks

PLENARY

AUSTERITY PANEL

TUESDAY 13 APRIL, 14:00 - 15:00

Fran Darlington-Pollock
(*The Equality Trust*)

Covid-19 illuminated deep chasms in society with the rising yet uneven death counts quickly dispelling narratives of 'the great leveller'. In fact, differences in exposure to, and experience of covid-19 traced deeply entrenched divisions between people and places, particularly those still reeling from a decade of fiscal austerity. And yet, despite a year of an arguably unprecedented awareness of the harm and severity of inequality, political will to truly 'level up' is undermined by a budget of stealthy austerity. Austerity and inequality seem inextricably linked: how then can we fulfil agendas to 'Build Back Better' let alone 'Fairer' or 'Different' while one will continue to beget the other?

Fran Darlington-Pollock is a Lecturer in Population Geography in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Liverpool. As a population and health geographer, Fran's research focusses on understanding inequality in society, with a particular interest in marginalised populations and transitions over the life course. Fran's PhD explored ethnic inequalities in health (University of Leeds) and she also holds a BA (Hons) in Politics and MSc in Social and Spatial Inequalities (University of Sheffield). She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society with the Institute of British Geographers, and of the Higher Education Academy.

IT'S EVEN WORSE THAN WE IMAGINED

Akwugo Emejulu
(*University of Warwick*)

With crushing predictability, 10 years of austerity have devastated public finances and eroded social citizenship rights—particularly for women of colour. And now, because of the pandemic, even more catastrophe is being heaped on those who are least likely to withstand it. In this short talk, I will outline the triumphant of austerity and consider how, despite it all, women of colour resist.

Akwugo Emejulu is Professor of Sociology at the University of Warwick. Her research interests include the political sociology of race, class and gender and women of colour's grassroots activism in Europe and the United States. She is the author of several books including *Fugitive Feminism* (Silver Press, 2021) and *Minority Women and Austerity: Survival and Resistance in France and Britain* (Policy Press, 2017). She is co-editor of *To Exist is to Resist: Black Feminism in Europe* (Pluto Press, 2019).



WHEN DID EMERGENCY FOOD PROVISION STOP BEING SO...EMERGENCY?

Kayleigh Garthwaite
(*University of Birmingham*)

"Emergency" food provision is an increasingly visible and controversial feature of ongoing austerity. But is what we are witnessing now really an emergency? Or is it chronic and permanent?

As Poppendieck (1998) stated in relation to the growth of food charity in the US, what started as a grassroots 'emergency' response became a seemingly permanent landscape of corporate-backed charity that absorbs food surpluses and relieves hunger temporarily. In the UK, the idea of charitable food as an 'emergency' must therefore be re-framed; especially important in a (post) COVID-19 context, where the entrenchment and corporatisation of food aid are becoming more critical and prominent. To date, there has been a lack of explicit attention to the causes and nature of the UK's movement towards the permanence of food banking, similar to the North American context. While analyses of UK food banking have drawn on North



American literature, less attention has been paid to the potential for allied critiques and movements.

Dr Kayleigh Garthwaite is a Birmingham Fellow in the Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology. Her research interests focus on poverty and inequality, social security, and health, specifically investigating charitable food provision and food insecurity. She is currently working on the Covid Realities project, working with parents and carers on a low income to understand their experiences of the pandemic, and tracking how the social security system responds.

PLUNDER OF THE COMMONS: AUSTERITY'S CONCEALED INEQUALITIES

Guy Standing
(SOAS, University of London)



Society is based on three types of property – private, state and commons – and several forms of work, including commoning. The commons have always provided informal social protection, access to shared resources and the means to lessen inequalities. Yet since 1980, especially in the austerity era, the commons have been plundered, by encroachment, enclosure, neglect, privatisation and what is best described as colonisation.

There has been an erosion of five types of commons – natural, social, civil, cultural and the knowledge or 'intellectual' commons. More have been passing into the hands of elites or have been commercialised or reduced by neglect. The neo-liberal attack on all commons has vastly increased inequalities, making conventional measures of inequality increasingly misleading. The book on which this presentation is based draws up a Charter of the Commons to revive the commons and to compensate commoners for their loss.

Guy Standing is Professorial Research Associate at SOAS University of London. An economist with a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge, he is a Fellow of the British Academy of Social Sciences, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, co-founder and honorary co-president of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN), and Council member of the Progressive Economy Forum. Between 2016 and 2019, he was an economic adviser to the Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer, John McDonnell.

He was previously a professor in SOAS, the University of Bath, and Monash University, and Director of the ILO's Socio-Economic Security Programme. He has been a consultant for many international bodies, including UNICEF, UNCTAD, UNDP, the European Commission and World Bank, has worked with SEWA in India, was Director of Research for President Mandela's Labour Market Policy Commission, and has designed and helped conduct basic income pilots in various countries. His books include *The Precariat: The New Dangerous Class*, published in 23 languages; *The Corruption of Capitalism* (Biteback), *Basic Income: And how we can make it happen* (Pelican, 2017), and *Plunder of the Commons: A Manifesto for Sharing Public Wealth* (Pelican, 2019).

Chair: Sylvia Walby, City, University of London

Sylvia Walby is Professor of Sociology, Director of the interdisciplinary [Violence and Society Centre](#) and holder of the UNESCO Chair in Gender Research at City, University of London. She was held positions at Lancaster, LSE, Bristol and Leeds; and visiting positions at UCLA, Harvard, Madison-Wisconsin, Aalborg, and the National University of Malaysia. She is Chair of the REF Sub-Panel for Sociology. She was the founding President of the European Sociological Association. She has an OBE for services to equal opportunities and diversity. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. She is a public Sociologist engaging with governmental and civil society bodies, including the Women's Budget Group. Publications include: [Globalization and Inequalities: Complexity and Contested Modernities](#) (Sage 2009); [The Future of Feminism](#) (Polity 2015); [Crisis](#) (Polity 2015); and (with Towers et al) (2017) [The Concept and Measurement of Violence against Women and Men](#) (Policy Press 2017); and articles on Brexit, the EU, and crisis.



Websites

Personal: <https://www.city.ac.uk/people/academics/sylvia-walby>

Centre: <https://www.city.ac.uk/about/schools/arts-social-sciences/sociology/violence-and-society>

Welcome by Janice McLaughlin, BSA Membership Services Director (Newcastle University)

STREAM PLENARIES

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021, 16:45 - 17:45

CITIES

ALTERNATIVE FUTURES FOR HOUSING: COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANISATION AND RESISTANCE

This session brings together housing academics, activists and community organisers to discuss the causes, consequences and potential solutions to the 'housing crisis' (which of course is not singular). Drawing upon experience working in various international contexts, the panel aims to connect global trends and localised responses. Through sharing examples of community-based organisation and resistance the panel offers alternative futures for housing beyond capital accumulation, addressing concerns such as: the right to the city; community ownership and commons; and gentrification and displacement.

Professor Loretta Lees, (*University of Leicester*)

Loretta Lees is an urban geographer who is internationally known for her research on gentrification/urban regeneration, global urbanism, urban policy, urban public space, architecture and urban social theory. She has been identified as the 17th most referenced author in urban geography worldwide and the only woman in the top 20 (*Urban Studies*, 2017). She has published 13 books, has over 60 journal articles and over 40 book chapters to her name. She is currently Professor of Human Geography at the University of Leicester, previously she was Professor of Human Geography at King's College London. She is a scholar-activist who has lived in London for over 20 years and is a regular commentator on urban issues there eg her TEDxBrixton talk (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gMz1x5_yF2Q). She is also co-organiser of the London Urban Salon and the Leicester Urban Observatory.

Jess Steele, OBE

Jess has nearly 30 years' experience as a local community activist and entrepreneur in Deptford and Hastings and at national level as Deputy Chief Executive of the British Urban Regeneration Association and Director of Innovation at DTA/Locality, including leading the development and delivery of the Meanwhile Project, the Campaign Against Delinquent Ownership, and the national Community Organisers programme. An active social entrepreneur over several decades, she has established community enterprises in publishing, heritage, tourism, childcare, financial management, neighbourhood development, workspace, and homes that are genuinely affordable in perpetuity. Jericho Road Solutions provides coaching to neighbourhood groups and community businesses as well as working with government, funders, corporates and academics on national initiatives to make neighbourhood work easier. It invests profits directly into people and projects in Hastings. Building on her experience of saving Hastings Pier and other community assets, Jess specialises in supporting ambitious local projects to rescue and repurpose the most challenging of precious buildings across England and Wales. She was awarded an OBE in the 2016 New Years Honours for services to community assets in the UK. She is an advisor to Architectural Heritage Fund, supporting local groups to take enterprising approaches to rescuing historic buildings. In Hastings, Jericho Road was a founder investor in the 9-storey creative community at Rock House and has led the redevelopment of the Observer Building. Jess nurtured and coordinated the Heart of Hastings Community Land Trust to support bottom up development and bring local property into community ownership. She is currently writing up a PhD in 'Self-Renovating Neighbourhoods as an alternative to gentrification or decline', due for submission in September 2021.

Elisa Sutanudjaja, (*Rujak Center for Urban Studies*)

Elisa is educated as an architect. She is a co-founder and the executive director for Rujak Center for Urban Studies, a think-act tank focusing on urban and regional issues and based in Jakarta. Elisa's current advocacy is the right to adequate housing and mainstreaming urban kampung in Indonesia's city planning.

Dominic T. Moulden

Dominic T. Moulden is the initiator of the Elephant Free School, a laboratory of Black imagination and freedom as well as a floating academy offering political education, coaching, and training. A community organizer in Washington, DC for over three decades, Dominic was the Resource Organizer for Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC), a collectively-led organization that builds people power and economic and racial equity in the nation's capital. In that capacity Dominic recruited, trained, and coordinated a 34-member team to spearhead the successful campaign to raise \$1.2 million for a building to permanently house the Black Workers and Wellness Center. He continues to organize in his hometown of Baltimore, where he is the 2020-2022 Lucille Gorham Fellow at VOLAR (Village of Love and Resistance), an equitable redevelopment and community wellness collective.

His most recent publications include "Housing Spaces Are the Commons," a book forum response associated with *Society & Space*, as well as the co-authored article, "The Making of the Just City: Housing, Gentrification, and Health"

that appeared in *Housing Policy Debate*. In addition, his writing appeared in *Shelterforce's* "What Does Community Control of Land Mean To You?" essay series in its State of Permanent Affordability issue.

Rita Silva, (*Habita – Association of the Right to Housing and the City*)

Rita has been a housing activist since 2005 based in Lisbon. They started this struggle organising against mass demolitions and forced evictions of informal neighborhoods occupied mainly by migrants, whose land was being bought by real estate promoters. With the years the struggle spread for other problematics and started to connect forced evictions, demolitions, rising rents, the overindebted families, overcrowding and deterioration of housing conditions for many. Together with other activists Rita formed Habita, a grassroots organisation that organises and promotes action, challenging the uneven development of the city, between luxury and tourism, for one side and displacement and housing poverty for the other, resulting in growing inequality. Getting more interested in reflecting about the processes, Rita started a PhD in Political Economy. Currently, they are studying the institutional investors in housing and the role of the state.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF THE BRITISH HIGH STREET

Isabelle Szmigin (*Birmingham Business School*)

Phil Hubbard, (*King's College London*)

From the elegiac coverage of the closure of once iconic bastions of high street retail such as Woolworth and British Home Stores to the stigmatising depiction of boarded up shop fronts, betting shops, takeaways and pay day loan outlets, the High Street has featured widely in recent media representations as a bellwether for the economic and social health of towns and cities across Britain. This stream plenary will explore how recession, austerity, rapidly changing consumer habits and, most recently, the Covid-19 pandemic necessitate the reimagining of the High Street as an economic, cultural and social space.

This stream plenary will address several pressing questions relating to the wider social changes shaping the evolution of the British high street and the social costs of these changes. While the decline of the High Street means a loss of organic social spaces of interaction within communities, there are also opportunities for the High Street to survive, and possibly thrive, in future.

Prof Isabelle Szmigin (Professor of Marketing, Department of Marketing & Deputy Dean of Birmingham Business School) is a widely respected authority on consumer behaviour whose research examines the social and policy issues concerned with consumption. She has recent extensive media appearances (*BBC News*) discussing the economic and social impact of the closure of large retailers.

Prof Phil Hubbard (Professor of Urban Studies, King's College London) is a leading expert in urban social geography whose research explores the city as a site of social conflict. In his recent monograph *The Battle for the High Street* (Palgrave, 2017), he has analysed the changing social and cultural status of High Streets, showing how the policies deemed necessary to revive the fortunes of high streets are mobilised to attack the tastes and cultures of the working-class communities hardest hit by austerity. His recent research has looked at independent books shops as spaces of social interaction.

Lifecourse

INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVES IN YOUTH RESEARCH: PROMISES, CHALLENGES & POSSIBILITIES

Prof Tracy Shildrick (*Newcastle University*)

Dr Karenza Moore (*University of Salford*)

Dr Benjamin Hanckel (*Western Sydney University*)

Temidayo Eseonu (*University of Manchester*)

Sophie Atherton (*University of Manchester*)

Youth intersections are multilayered and multifaceted. This plenary interrogates how youth research - and knowledge of youth and young people's lives - are produced within and across the sub-disciplines of sociology. Clearly focused on the future of youth studies, this plenary will ask how we can better accommodate productive conversations across these sub-disciplines to examine 'youth' (sub)cultures and transitions, and in turn, better understand the interplay of youth and

gender, sexuality, social class, race/ethnicity, dis/ability and geographical location, as these relate to young people's identities, lived experiences, and life transitions.

The plenary, a roundtable format of contributors from diverse backgrounds and across academic career stages - will discuss what intersectional work might mean for youth studies, and researchers working with young people. The plenary will consider the tensions as well as the opportunities this can present for attending to and engaging with difference and diversity across the work we do and addressing marginality, particularly in relation to the young people whom are the participants and beneficiaries of our research work.

Facilitator: Dr Caitlin Nunn (Manchester Metropolitan University)

SPECIAL EVENT

TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021, 14:00 – 14:30

21st Century Standpoints Event

CARS: BOOK LAUNCH WITH YUNIS ALAM AND LES BACK

This event takes place in the Bristol University Press Exhibition Booth which can be accessed from the Exhibition Hall.

Don't miss the launch of *Race, Taste, Class and Cars* by Yunis Alam and meet the 21st Century Standpoints series editors at the BSA. Yunis Alam will be reading an excerpt from his latest book, and the editors will talk to prospective authors about how to submit proposals to the series.

21st Century Standpoints: Accessible, social and political commentary from Policy Press and the British Sociological Association. What are the 21st century challenges shaping our lives today and in the future? This exciting series showcases lively, disruptive, progressive writers who reach beyond the academy.

ABSTRACTS BY SESSION

Day 1: Tuesday 13 April 2021

Please visit the Resource centre for abstracts from Days 2 and 3.
You can access the Resource Centre from the BSA Conference Lobby.

Paper Session 1

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

10:15 - 11:30

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

Waiting for tomorrow: Walking in the post-disaster city

Eirini Glynou-Lefaki

(Gran Sasso Science Institute, L'Aquila Italy)

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

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

Alex Kirby-Reynolds

(University of Sheffield)

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

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

Maggie Laidlaw, Marcus Nicolson

(Glasgow Caledonian University)

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

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

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

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

Bethan Prosser

(University of Brighton)

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

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

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

Culture, Media, Sport and Food

Symbolic Space and Symbolic Domination in Three Nations

William Atkinson

(University of Bristol)

This paper reports on a comparative analysis of class, lifestyles and symbolic domination in three nations: Sweden, Germany and the US. Drawing on data from a specially commissioned survey and inspired by Pierre Bourdieu's analysis of 1970s France, it presents a model of the 'space of lifestyles' for each country and its homologies with indicators of social position. Mapped using multiple correspondence analysis and based on comparable indicators, the core conclusion is that, while there are some differences in substance, the fundamental structures of the three spaces and their relationships to class are the same – and, what is more, similar to those discovered by Bourdieu – and thus indicative of general features of Western capitalist societies. We are able, moreover, to document the prevalence and correspondence of symbolic domination in the spaces, finding that it is typically those with least cultural capital who tend to feel looked down upon by others.

Reimagining our future: Culture for all

Maria Barrett

(University of Warwick)

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

Virtual displays of cultural taste: The ritual of livestreamed concerts

Femke Vandenberg

(Erasmus University Rotterdam)

The research examines the audience experience of virtual music concerts, in a time when all place-based concerts are cancelled due to the COVID-19 "lockdown". Through content analyses of the comment sections of livestreamed concerts, it compares the differing ability of three cultural taste patterns (popular, highbrow, folk) to provide a collective ritualistic experience in a virtual space. By combining neo-Durkheimian insights on rituals with a Bourdieusian notion of

socially situated taste, it not only aims to analyse one of the most prominent modes of cultural participation during the lockdown but also adds to our understanding of the collective experience of online participation, something specifically pressing in times when all large scale events are forced to be held online.

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

Neta Yodovich, Tally Katz-Gerro
(University of Haifa)

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

Families and Relationships 1

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

Anis Ben Briq
(Hamad Bin Khalifa University College of Public Policy)

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

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

Ranjana Das
(University of Surrey)

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

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

Patricia Hamilton
(Thomas Coram Research Unit, University College London Social Research Institute)

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

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

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

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

Families and Relationships 2

He said yes: New perspectives on marriage proposals

Daniela Pirani, Vera Hoelscher
(University of Liverpool)

To date, research on marriage proposals has focussed on heteronormative practices (Howard, 2008; Ogletree, 2010; Otnes & Scott, 1996; Sassler & Miller, 2011) and with the hyper-gendered and conspicuous performances of 'the perfect day' (Carter & Duncan, 2017). Yet, with the advent of fourth-wave feminism, the #MeToo movement and the rise of gay marriage, this is changing, as shown by work on the transformation of wedding rituals (Mamali & Stevens, 2020). As part of an exploratory, qualitative study that combines netnography in themed forums and website and 23 in-depth interviews, we look into the experience of women proposing. While have been investigated in same-sex relationship commitment rituals (Heaphy et al, 2013), no attention has yet been given to women subverting one of the rituals of heterosexual marriage. At an early stage of theorisation, we use display work (Finch, 2007) to understand how women legitimise their proposal. With a focus on how gift-exchange and unobtrusive consumption, we look at how women re-enact the normative framework of the proposal, negotiating the expectations of their partner as well as those of families. This study provides insights on the changes of marriage as an institution, and it expands the documented imagery around this ritual beyond the lavish wedding.

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

Hong Yang
(University of Edinburgh)

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

and intimacy in Chinese-British marriage from the perspective of both wife and husband. Specifically, following 3 questions are proposed:

- (1) how are daily operations of a family discussed and performed, including relocating plan making, housekeeping, child upbringing, in-law relationships building, financial management, couple quality time and sexual life?
- (2) what do couple's power dynamics look like in the process of discussing and managing household activities?
- (3) how are power dynamics and couple's intimacy interacting with each other?

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

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

Lifecourse

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

Glenys Caswell

(University of Nottingham)

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

Culture and Attitudes Towards Euthanasia: An Integrative Review

Anjana Karumathil, Ritu Tripathi

(Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru)

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

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

Caitlin Pilbeam

(University of Oxford)

End-of-life literature is dominated by narratives of inevitable deterioration and death, focusing on clinical spaces and terminal illnesses like cancer during final days/weeks of life. Advanced care planning is seen as key in preparing for death. In heart failure, health can fluctuate over years through turbulent trajectories from diagnosis to (sometimes unexpected) death. How does one go about making decisions and living whilst dying with heart failure?

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

Throughout the process of living whilst dying with heart failure, bodies, lifeworlds, and priorities fluctuate. Participants continuously experiment with how they move through daily life, negotiating ways of living that they deem meaningful. Building on work by Scarry (1985), Mattingly (1994), Mol (2010), and Ingold (2010), I show that unmaking/remaking

involves active bodily movement and motivating future-oriented narratives. Over time, participants gradually slow and settle into stillness, as they turn away from making altogether and towards 'being done' with living.

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

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

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

Alp Arat

(Cardiff University)

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

Alterity and my intercultural sense of self in counselling practice

Priti Chopra

(University of Greenwich)

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

The Homeworking Myth

Nicola Eccles

(Wellspace)

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

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

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

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

'commute' and work identity. Finally we will consider how employers can support individuals to work at home happily and productively.

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

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

Tara Asgarilaleh
(University of Cambridge)

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

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

Ruby Lai
(Lingnan University)

This paper demonstrates the significance of "sisterhood" for healthcare organizations, social networks, and self-help initiatives in enhancing women's reproductive health. Researchers in the field of reproduction have examined how the rights-based approach has advanced the legalization and provision of abortion globally; however, non-rights-based approaches as means to facilitate reproductive healthcare are still underdocumented. Focusing on China, where social movements and advocacy for human rights have long been repressed, this study explores how "sisterhood", deployed by women as a form of homosocial relational resource, has substituted the rights discourse and become a discursive, networking, and organizing strategy to achieve reproductive well-being at the individual and collective levels. The data was collected through ethnographic observations in multiple medical facilities, in-depth interviews with 62 women who had had abortion and 18 medical workers in two cities in China, and content analysis of online materials conducted between 2013 and 2019. The findings illustrate the role of sisterhood in three contexts, namely, medical facility, peer groups, and online platforms. It is observed that women proactively cultivated stable or occasional homosocial relationships to cope with the challenges and risks brought about by an unintended pregnancy. These relationships, which are authentic and affectionate, not only assisted the delivery of abortion and other healthcare interventions but also helped women to rebut abortion stigma and manage their emotions. Nevertheless, the sense of apolitical sisterhood could hardly be transformed to critical reflection on the policies and system which created the structural constraints that limited the women's reproductive autonomy.

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

Marcin Smietana
(University of Cambridge, Reproductive Sociology Research Group)

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

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

Shazia Yasmin, Jaleel Miyan
(University of Manchester)

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

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

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

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

Methodological Innovations

QUALITATIVE METHODS, WALKING AND SOCIAL CHANGE

"Prison is the easy bit, it's coming home that's hard": An exploration of methods for engaging with criminalised individuals as they adjust to life after punishment in the absence of face-to-face interaction

Julie Parsons, Chloe Pettit
(University of Plymouth)

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

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

Louise Ryan, Jon Mulholland
(London Metropolitan University)

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

type of research. Our paper contributes at the nexus between the emerging body of literature on unplanned QLR and scholarship on asynchronous, e-mail based interviewing.

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

Carol Taylor, Nikki Fairchild
(University of Bath)

We take up Tsing's (2015) call to develop 'arts of noticing' to explore how walking in the now can bring back curiosity in research and open up opportunities to reimagine more capacious futures. Theoretically, we explore walking as a somatechnics of bodily mattering. Methodologically, we develop a relational-materialist sociological approach. Navigating a theory-practice line the paper speaks to modes of feminist indiscipline as ongoing praxis to un-discipline normative qualitative research practices. Our context is the Anthropocene's destruction of the natural world and precarity of ecosystems arising from capitalism and White, Western colonialist 'progress' imperatives. We contest these orientations and ask: How can walking in the now help reimagine better futures? Drawing on a number of walking experiments, including walking in the post-industrial city, walking with whiteness, walking with wild spaces, and walking with teachers we pose walking as a transdisciplinary means to attend to relational human-nonhuman connections and 'unheard' voices. Envisaging walking as a somatechnic methodology of slow relationality – of micro-moments of noticing – encourages us to 'stay with the trouble' (Haraway, 2016). Walking somatechnics choreograph bodily engagements anew with landscapes, environments, natures, cities; they 'stretch our imagination to grasp its contours' (Tsing, 2015: 3). Walking the now reimagines futures through the embodied doing of research as sensory, affective, relational, political practice. It is an affirmative critical response to Barad's (2007: 49) statement that 'knowing does not come from standing at a distance and representing but rather from a direct material engagement with the world'.

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

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

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

In this paper, we critically reflect on the methodological and ethical issues we encountered while conducting walking interviews with ageing migrants in Britain, as part of a longitudinal, multi-sited, multi-method research study, embedded into the large ESRC-funded Sustainable Care Programme. We argue that an 'ethics of care' (Gilligan, 1982; Tronto, 1993; 2013) approach to research can help in responding to ethical challenges. Through this lens, we explore: (1) safety and convenience; (2) working with NGOs (3) walking interviews as part of a longitudinal design; (4) limitations. With the majority of our participants being 80 years old and over, this paper contributes significantly to the methodological literature on researching old age and migration.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

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

Bindi Shah, Les Carr
(University of Southampton)

The brutal killing of George Floyd in May 2020 has highlighted systemic racial inequalities in the USA and galvanised protests both in the USA and around the world. A feature of these mobilizations, at least in the USA and the UK, has been participation from people of all races protesting in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. In this exploratory study, I examine efforts among South Asian Americans to build allyship and investigate the possibilities and limits to engendering cross-racial solidarity. Specifically, I ask a) how do South Asian Americans frame solidarity and allyship with BLM?; and b) how does the construction of South Asian American activism exhibit differentiated experiences of age/generation, class, gender, ethnicity, and religion amongst South Asians? At a time when most countries were in 'lockdown' social media played a critical role in mobilizing various groups, disseminating educational events and resources, and shaping the 'conversation'. Through thematic analysis of data from two social media

platforms – Twitter and Instagram - spanning 4 months from 25 May to 25 September 2020, I argue that the prospects for cross-racial solidarity are shaped by racial hierarchies in the USA, South Asian Americans' relatively privileged position by virtue of class, caste and immigration status, and the Model Minority myth. However, young South Asian Americans are also addressing colourism and casteism that lead to anti-Blackness within South Asian communities. These processes engender complex inter-minority relations in the USA, and prospects for cross-racial alliances that are contingent on political commitments.

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

Shaminder Takhar

(London South Bank University)

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

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

Shelene Gomes, Scott Timcke

(University of Havana)

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

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

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

Zainab Mourad

(Western Sydney University)

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

discourses, it is expected that this paper will bring light to this issue with the potential for further exploration of how this manifests at the micro-level.

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

Utsa Mukherjee

(University of Southampton)

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

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

R Sanchez-Rivera

(Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge)

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

Rights, Violence and Crime

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

Pankhuri Agarwal

(University of Bristol)

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

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

Aminu Musa Audu

(Institute Of Community Policing)

The government and people of Nigeria have been striving to contain the menace of insecurity, occasioned by the insurgent Boko Haram since 2007. Most especially in the Northern part of the country, the group has notably used various operational approaches ranging from suicide bombing, gun attacks, disguising and issuance of threat messages,

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

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

Alistair Fraser, Andy Clark
(University of Glasgow)

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

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

Patricia Hynes
(University of Bedfordshire)

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

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

Social Divisions/Social Identities

Near Future Societies - what science fiction has to say

David Byrne
(Durham University)

Science fiction authors, notably Kim Stanley Gordon, Cory Doctorow, Malka Older, have imagined plausible close near futures which deal with science and technology close to the their present state and engage with how politics, governance, the economy, and culture intersect with them in shaping the trajectories of society. Kim Stanley Gordon's primary engagement is with the relationships among all of these and impending climate catastrophe. Doctorow's with the use of information technology in surveillance. Older's with the use of information technology as the platform for political decision making. All do so in a context of inequality of power. This paper will discuss how these and other

imaginings of near futures can be used as framings for social engagement towards the construction of futures. This is not new. There is a history of speculative future fiction informing political thinking and action. The argument will draw on complexity theory and crisis theory's framings of how actions can shape system trajectories towards very different end states and pay particular attention to the ways in which these authors define and describe actions at varying levels which have system determining consequences.

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

Lyndsey Kramer
(University of York)

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

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

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

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

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

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

During July and August 2020 we conducted 30 in-depth, semi-structured interviews with stakeholders across Scotland's rural and island regions regarding the impacts and future implications of Covid-19 and lockdown. Interviewees included members of local and national government, representatives of community organisations and leaders of key sectoral organisations.

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

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

Sociology of Education 1

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

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

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

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

Katherin Barg, William Baker
(University of Exeter)

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

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

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

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

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

Achala Gupta
(University of Surrey)

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

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

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

Explaining SES gaps in field of study choice

Carina Toussaint, Alexander Patzina
(Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Research still shows that given the same performance in school students with a low socioeconomic status (SES) are less likely to enrol at a university and choose different fields of study compared to high SES students. As these vertical

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

Sociology of Education 2 – Special Event

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

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

Sol Gamsu, Rebecca Boden, Jane Kenway

(Education Study Group, Tampere University, Melbourne University)

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

Fee-paying independent schools and charitable status

Matilda Clough

(University of Liverpool)

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

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

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

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

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

Cooking the class books: accounting for private education in England

Malcolm James

(Cardiff Metropolitan)

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

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

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

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

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

Roy Lowe

(Independent Scholar)

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

Theory

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

Joe Davidson

(Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge)

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

mediate between the great futural desires generally associated with utopianism and the more recent crisis of the future articulated in social theory, with the aim of discerning how the impulse towards a better future can be restated in an unpropitious cultural context.

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

Anja Finger

(No current affiliation)

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

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

Charles Masquelier

(University of Exeter)

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

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

Liz Stanley

(University of Edinburgh)

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

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

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

SOCIAL ACTIVISM AND TRADE UNIONISM

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

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

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

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

The decline of collective IR and opportunities for citizenship

Jonathan Preminger, Assaf Bondy
(Cardiff Business School)

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

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

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

We suggest that economic inclusion can increase political inclusion, not just at the micro level of creating space for citizenship practices but also at a macro level of concrete influence on the regulation of work and the employment relationship. In other words, we join Hyman (2016) and others in reviving the idea of economic democracy and explore the potential within emergent collective IR frameworks for increasing political and social inclusion even when formal citizenship is denied.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAINS, EXPLOITATION AND STANDARDS

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

Olimpia Burchiellaro
(University of Westminster)

Homocapitalism describes how seemingly benevolent displays of corporate 'LGBT solidarity' can reproduce hierarchies and obscure the ongoing homophobia, oppression, exclusion and inequality experienced by LGBT people worldwide. Moreover, the promise of futurity inherent in homocapitalism engenders aspirations for upward social mobility by hailing (some) LGBTs as model capitalist subjects, reducing the space for radical queer critique (Rao, 2020). Yet more research is needed to understand its full extent in the Global South and how local activists respond to this via engagements that

are intentional and ultimately strategic. Moreover, whilst the growing field of 'Queer IR' (Rao, 2018; Weber, 2016) has engaged with the state, UN and foreign policy discourses, the role of transnational corporate actors in LGBT politics has yet to be fully explored. The paper analyses the kinds of futures opened-up by homocapitalism by examining the relationship between LGBT rights, corporate power and hierarchy in Global South contexts. In particular, it will ask whether corporate support for LGBT rights (re)produces hierarchies, exclusions and inequalities; how local activists negotiate these (global) commitments in pursuit of their own goals; and how homocapitalism manifests across different national, regional and local contexts. As corporate involvement in LGBT politics becomes increasingly global in its reach and ambition, the paper aims to generate new insights and theorisations into the relationship between (homo)capitalism and (LGBT) politics, and discuss the role of ethnography in understanding global processes at a national, regional and local level.

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

Daniel Edmiston

(University of Leeds)

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

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

Stefanie Gundert, Michael Gebel

(Institute for Employment Research (IAB))

Poverty as a social problem has been attracting considerable attention in recent years. From a life course perspective, poverty can be conceptualized as a dynamic, often transitory phenomenon. Transitions into poverty are frequently the result of critical life events. While unemployment is one of the most important risk factors, employment is commonly regarded as a safeguard against poverty. This view is challenged by recent debates on in-work poverty where there is a growing perception that not all types of employment are equally effective in reducing poverty. In this respect, non-standard employment is seen as particularly problematic, as it can contribute to precarious living conditions. Previous research has shown that workers in fixed-term jobs are more often at risk of poverty than permanent workers.

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

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

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

Adel Pasztor

(Newcastle University)

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

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

Paper Session 2

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

11:45 - 13:00

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

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

Benjamin Mulvey

(Education University of Hong Kong)

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

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

Dillon Newton

(Independent Scholar)

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

The local experience of social integration

Anna Paraskevopoulou

(Anglia Ruskin University)

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

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

Environment and Society

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

Claire Hoolohan

(University of Manchester)

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

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

Francesca Kilpatrick

(University of Brighton)

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

Families and Relationships

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

Juliet Hall

(University of Plymouth)

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

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

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

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

Paul Hodkinson

(University of Surrey)

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

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

Emma Hyde

(University of Leeds)

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

Frontiers

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

Marjukka Laiho

(University of Eastern Finland)

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

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

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

How do we measure current retirement migration trends?

Marion Repetti, Marion Repetti, Toni Calasanti, Chris Phillipson

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

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

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

Natalia Slutskaya, Annilee Game, Tim Newton, Rachel Morgan

(University of Sussex)

Extensive dirty work literature focuses on the narrative devices adopted by workers in response to stigmatisation. In this article, we draw on this literature but seek to contribute a more holistic understanding by focusing on the interplay of affect and temporality in workers' adoption of such responses. Drawing on Povinelli (2011), our ethnographic study of street cleaners and refuse collectors moves beyond the static and a-temporal assumptions of previous research by inviting attention to the centrality of 'social tense'. We illustrate how affect shapes 'essential' workers' use of discursive resources in the face of social shifts that render normative values, formerly relied upon for legitimisation and esteem, close to obsolete. The sense of two normative social worlds colliding (a 'trembling of recognition') leads these workers to form adherences to past narrative strategies, and hinders the possibility of different choices or engagement with available resources. The implications of our findings for key worker recognition are discussed.

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

Maureen McBride, Sarah Ward

(University of Glasgow)

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

Lifecourse

Using fiction to reimagine futures and intergenerational solidarity

Melanie Lovatt, Valerie Wright

(University of Stirling)

We are living in a time of social and environmental upheaval. Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities, and increased anxieties and uncertainties about the future. Age-based inequalities during the pandemic have been laid bare by the care home crisis and there are fears of a 'lost generation' of younger people whose studies and employment prospects have been damaged. Such inequalities risk intensifying intergenerational conflict narratives that, in the wake of the 2016 EU Referendum, the 2019 UK General Election and the climate emergency, portray 'older

people' as 'stealing the futures' of 'younger people'. In this paper we present initial findings from a series of intergenerational reading groups that were designed to reimagine a future in which everyone's lives and futures are valued, regardless of age. Four groups met once a month for five months and discussed novels of various genres that depicted themes of age, intergenerational relationships, and time. Participants used these fictional narratives to reflect on what social conditions, relationships and policies might be required to realise a world in which intergenerational solidarity could flourish. Drawing on Levitas' concept of 'utopia as method' (Levitas 2013) we consider the ability of fiction to not only critique current hegemonic, exclusionary narratives of time and age, but to unlock emancipatory narratives of the future and future societies.

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

Sheila Quaid

(University of Sunderland)

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

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

Laura Way

(University of Lincoln)

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

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

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

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

(Robert Gordon University)

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

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

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

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

Iain Crinson

(St Georges, University of London)

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

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

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

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

Edmee Ballif

(University of Cambridge)

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

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

Claire Feeley

(University of Central Lancashire)

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

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

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

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

the midwives' experiences were characterised by supportive working environments: 'normalised practice', 'togetherness' and 'the sublime'.

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

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

Mari Greenfield

(King's College, London)

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

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

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

Considering pregnancy as cancer: Implications for the sociology of reproduction

Emily Ross

(University of Sheffield)

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

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

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

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1 – Special Event

BEYOND STOP AND SEARCH

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

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

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

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

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

Katy Brown

(University of Bath)

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

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

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

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

Katy Brown

(University of Bath)

In the British referendum on EU membership (Brexit), both official campaigns, whether 'in' or 'out', attempted to outwardly distance themselves from Nigel Farage and UKIP. Unsurprisingly, Britain Stronger In published numerous videos ridiculing Farage, while on the other side, despite advocating the same position in the referendum, the Vote Leave CEO argued that 'it was essential that Vote Leave was a non-UKIP based campaign'. Equally, Michael Gove, a prominent figure in Vote Leave, claimed that he 'shuddered' upon seeing UKIP's now-infamous 'Breaking Point' poster. Despite such distinctions, the shared themes and discourses purported by the official campaigns and UKIP undermine these distancing tactics.

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

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

William Shankley, James Laurence

(University of Manchester)

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

implications for the theorizing of harassment and support the inclusion of community-level measures in national policy to reduce harassment.

Rights, Violence and Crime

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

Kirsty McGregor

(University of Brighton)

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

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

Venacularising the sexual and reproductive health rights of adolescents in Ghana

Peace Tetteh

(Department of Sociology, University of Ghana)

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

Public Inquiries and the Societalization of Child Abuse Crises

Katie Wright

(La Trobe University)

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

Canada, and Australia – has been critical to both state responses of crisis management following revelations of widespread institutional child abuse, and to strategies of remaking childhood futures.

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 1

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

Alexis Bedolla

(University of Bristol)

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

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

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

Fabian Hempel

(University of Bremen, Germany)

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

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

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

Herminder Kaur, Brigita Valantinaviciute, Myrna Papadouka, Rima Saini

(Middlesex University)

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

misinformation they encounter. With scarce data on BAME groups we know little about the digital divides they experience and discuss how this is possible to research in lockdown conditions.

The viral society: covid-19 and digital computational media

Tomoko Tamari

(Goldsmiths, University of London)

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

Science, Technology and Digital Studies 2

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

Andrew Cox

(University of Sheffield)

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

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

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

Kieran Cutting, Dean Pomeroy

(Open Lab, Newcastle University)

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

In this presentation we interrogate EPCOT and its spiritual successors' visions of the future. We argue that these visions construct societies of control (Deleuze, 1992), where individuals appear free but their desires are endlessly deferred to an ambiguous impossible future. These visions not only collapse possibilities on their own terms, but by their very nature

reproduce memetically, destroying alternative visions of the future as they self-replicate. As we find ourselves living inside of these increasingly reactionary visions, we attempt to locate an egress: how can we imagine new possibilities, potentials and visions of the future not founded upon the whims of technocapitalists?

Software, Sovereignty and the Postneoliberal Politics of Exit

Harrison Smith
(University of Sheffield)

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

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

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

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

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

Social Divisions/Social Identities 1

A Feminist Intervention in Elite Studies

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

We seek to make a feminist intervention in the field of elite studies. In a global context of intensifying concentrations of wealth and income amongst "the 1%" (Piketty, 2013), there is a growing body of research on elites (Atkinson et al, 2016; Dorling, 2014; Schimpfoss, 2018; Knowles, 2017; Sayer, 2014; Friedman and Laurison, 2019; Khan, 2010; Ho, 2009). In this presentation, we will review the field and explore the contributions that a feminist intervention could make, asking questions such as: what are the racial geographies of affluence? What is the role of gender in wealth accumulation and elite social reproduction? What are the colonial and imperial continuities in elite formations? Drawing on our experiences of researching underexplored factions of elites in Britain today (wealth elites in the North of England, and the aristocracy and British monarchy), we aim to complicate how the social sciences approach elites, and work towards a more detailed and intersectional engagement with power and its (re)production.

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

Louise Folkes
(University of Gloucestershire)

Discussions around social mobility have increasingly gained traction in both political and academic circles in the last two decades. There is an emphasis within the political discourse on certain 'types' of people who need to 'improve' and

become socially mobile, namely the maligned working-class. The current, established conceptualisation of social mobility reduces 'success' down to individual level of educational achievement, occupational position and income. For many in working-class communities, this discourse is inaccessible and/or undesirable.

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

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

Imane Kostet

(University of Antwerp)

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

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

Karen Cuthbert, Sharon Elley, Joe Hall

(University of Sheffield)

Drawing on empirical data from the current ESRC funded project Living Gender in Diverse Times, this paper will explore some of the key discursive threads in young people's talk around gender, sex and sexuality. Reflecting on data from twenty focus groups and fifty interviews conducted with young people (aged 16-24) from across the UK (recruited from a range of schools, further education colleges, universities and youth groups), the paper will consider how concepts and categories of sex, gender, and sexuality were imagined and deployed by young people. In particular, the paper will explore how ontological boundaries and distinctions between these were set and reaffirmed, and also resisted and breached, and examine the ways in which young people navigated broader discursive currents available to them relating to the conceptualisation of gender and sexual categories. The paper will also trace young people's imagined trajectories of progress with regards to gender and sexuality. Whilst citizenship rights around sexualities were largely presented as a fait accompli by the young people in our research, 'gender diversity' was envisaged as something more tenuous, with ambiguities and 'sticking points'. The paper will discuss issues of temporality and generation, as we pull out the ways in which 'progress' is imagined through past present and future times.

Social Divisions/Social Identities 2

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

Donna Peacock, Faye Cosgrove

(University of Sunderland)

Analysis of recent Criminal Justice policy reveals a polarised victim-offender dichotomy based upon penal populism. This approach has deified the victim, and has simultaneously demonised and vilified the offender, and therefore as a

result has failed to recognise victimisation and vulnerability within the offender population, or to prioritise the support of vulnerable offenders.

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

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

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

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

Marie Sepulchre

(Uppsala University)

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

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

A quantitative and qualitative content analysis was performed on a selection of newspapers articles published between 2006-2020 in Sweden and the US (ca. 1400 articles). The analysis shows important differences with respect to the definition of 'disability' and the cases of 'disability discrimination' that were covered. Further, it notes a trend going from general discussions about disability discrimination to reports of specific lawsuits in Sweden, and a trend going in the opposite direction in American newspapers. Finally, the paper compares how newspapers in both countries covered disability discrimination in the context of the covid-19 outbreak.

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

Sharon Smith

(University of Birmingham)

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

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

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

Sociology of Education – Special Event

ACADEMIC CAREERS: PAST, PRESENT, FUTURE

John Holmwood, (University of Nottingham), Kate Woodthorpe, (University of Bath), Graham Crow, (University of Edinburgh), Katucha Bento, (University of Edinburgh), Mark Doidge, (University of Brighton), Maggie Laidlaw, (Glasgow Caledonian University)

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

Theory – Special Event

BECOMINGS: BODIES, MATTER AND THE PRODUCTION OF SOCIAL FUTURES

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

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

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

New materialists regard the material world and its contents not as fixed, stable entities, but as relational and uneven, emerging in unpredictable ways around actions and events (Potts, 2004: 19). Bodies do not possess fixed attributes, but rather manifest emergent and contingent capacities, deriving from their interactions from moment to moment with other matter (DeLanda, 2006: 10-11). These include capacities that produce dis/advantage and material inequalities. Social futures, from perspective, are ontologically unknowable. We must ask not what bodies, social collectivities and non-human matter are, but what they can do in a specific context, and what they can become. The papers in this symposium explore aspects of these becomings, both to understand the present, and to assess how sociology may engage with an unfolding social future.

Relational encounters and vital materiality in studies of organization

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

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

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

Fay Dennis
(*Goldsmiths, University of London*)

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

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

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

Nick J Fox, Pam Alldred

(University of Huddersfield, Nottingham Trent University)

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

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

INEQUALITIES

Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women employed in the garment sector in Bangladesh

Pamela Abbott, M Azizul Islam, Shamima Haque

(University of Aberdeen)

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

Minor Refugees in the Global Textile Industry

Basem Mahmud

(University of Granada)

What role do minor refugees play in the textile industry? How does their status affect their everyday lives and plans? This contribution aims to reflect on these questions based on a case study of the textile industry in Istanbul. It is qualitative research conducted in Istanbul with minor Syrian refugees working in this industry. So far, in-depth and semi-structured interviews have been conducted and analyzed with 13 minor refugees working in the textile industry in Istanbul and five interviews with one parent. The results indicate that the minors suffer from continuous scolding, in many cases accompanied by physical violence, without the capacity for self-defense. They also do not have clearly-defined work, and in most cases, they are not allowed to learn a specific skills. The work they carry out is known as Ortaci (tr: runner/errand boy). Most of these minors are aware that their relatives depend on their incomes and therefore

try to manage their relatives' sense of guilt (for having let them work in under these conditions) by never complaining. All of this has severe consequences for their physical and psychological development, and of course, their future work.

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

Jill Timms

(Coventry University)

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

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

Tiago Vieira

(Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

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

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

DIGITAL AND PLATFORM WORK

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

Wenqi Huang

(Marymount Manhattan College)

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

Knowledge workers' experiences of digital microwork: Preliminary findings

Bianca-Ioanidia Mirea

(Leeds University Business School, UK)

This study aims to explore how platform ('gig') workers make sense of their engagement with microwork, a form of work fragmented into a series of small tasks outsourced via online platforms. Most studies on platform-mediated work have overwhelmingly focused on manual labour in the ride-hailing (Uber) and delivery sectors (Deliveroo). There has been little research on the experiences of platform workers undertaking creative knowledge work. To address this gap, this study sets out to explore the motivations and aspirations of platform workers to engage with microwork in the subtitled

industry. Furthermore, this study also sheds light on why workers report positive experiences of microwork despite working in conditions which researchers deem to be precarious, conducive to deskilling or even exploitative.

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

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

Joanna Octavia

(Warwick Institute for Employment Research)

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

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

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

On the Political Economy of Digitality in Public Employment Services

Aisling Tuite, Ray Griffin

(Waterford Institute of Technology)

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

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

What emerges is a sense that the political economy of digital-algorithmic welfare represents a rupture of the old order of Esping-Andersen's (1990) three worlds of welfare. Framed as a response to crisis, reform of welfare through instruments of macro-economics (bailouts, debt-markets, international trade-agreements) and business practices (digitisation, benchmarking, shared technologies) pushes welfare systems towards isomorphism. We draw on Boltanski and Thévenot's (1991) orders of worth and tests of legitimacy where digital welfare systems are the 'foreign object' that recomposes orders of worth.

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

Paper Session 3

Tuesday, 13 April 2021

15:15 - 16:30

Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space

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

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

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

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

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

The Covid-19 pandemic has inequitable impacts on populations both within and between countries. Global South countries such as Kenya were initially considered to be particularly vulnerable, with informal settlements believed to be at the highest risk due to overcrowding, restricted sanitation, limited fresh water access and inadequate or no healthcare facilities. While numbers of positive cases and deaths have been low in such locations, Covid-19 measures and restrictions can intensify the challenges faced by people in informal settlements, as they lose sources of income without welfare or financial safety nets, while simultaneously facing food shortages and higher prices. At the same time, the creative resilience and adaptability of people in informal settlements when facing challenges has often been neglected, as has the significance of community knowledges and networks in negotiating previous health crises, such as Ebola. Focusing on Korogocho, an informal settlement in Nairobi, Kenya, this paper draws on a) qualitative fieldwork undertaken immediately before national Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, and b) ongoing data collection through fortnightly interviews with 22 community members, conducted by local group Kombi Green. The paper explores residents' experiences of Covid-19 restrictions. It examines the impacts of restrictions on community resources, spaces, relationships, networks and inequalities, in order to understand the extent to which levels of resilience are weakened and/or strengthened during periods of insecurity and uncertainty.

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

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

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

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

Aided by critical theorists, feminist and urban scholarship, the paper seeks to address the impact of ordo- and neoliberal restructuring of residents' spaces of reproduction (home, neighbourhood, public, social spaces) on their practical relation to the world. In what sense do they feel involved, responsible and capable of contributing to social change within their immediate surroundings? On the micro scale, how do different residents (re)produce social relations of power, solidarity,

care, exclusion, hierarchy, individualization or indifference? How can these processes be understood with the concept of alienated social reproduction? Lastly, what does this imply for the future making of residents' social relations? Especially in times marked by polarized civil society responses to a health- and economic crisis, with local solidarity initiatives grappling with limited reach, it is crucial to understand residents' stratified sense of power(lessness) to reproduce, care for or change their surrounding social relations.

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 1

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

Kalyan Bhandari

(University of the West of Scotland)

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

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

Helen Holmes, Nick Crossley, Graeme Park

(University of Manchester)

In this paper we draw on a pilot project exploring the revival of rave music in the UK and its heritage as part of the creative and cultural economies. Drawing upon interviews with music professionals and members of the public who were clubbing in the 1990s and still are now, we illuminate the importance of the body in the heritage rave scene. The paper focuses on the ageing body, both that of the clubber and the DJ, and how this impacts upon the lived, collective experience of clubbing. With regards the DJ, we discuss how the craft of DJ'ing has changed since the 1990s, requiring a very different, much more focused and often more sober body. This is in part due to the professionalisation of DJ'ing, rave music and the creative economy per se, but is also due to age. With the clubber the experience is about physical and mental recollection; reliving times, music and dances of old. We argue that part of the craft of DJ'ing is to perform a non-contact form of bodywork – using music and mixing as a means of eliciting a specific and importantly, collective, bodily response. We reflect upon how COVID is re-making rave's revival - having a huge negative impact upon the music and events sector as a whole, whilst also forcing the creation of new forms of collective, yet often disembodied, rave experiences through online platforms and streamed events.

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

Anton Popov

(Aston University)

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

Pubs, Social Change and the Sociological Imagination

Thomas Thurnell-Read

(Loughborough University)

Whilst the public house has a long history and is widely accepted as being woven into the cultural fabric of British society, recent and complex social upheavals mean that the position of the 'traditional' pub is increasingly precarious. Extensive

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

Culture, Media, Sport and Food 2

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

Dina Benderra

(University of Cambridge)

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

Within these new aesthetics, both filmmakers contribute to an institutionalised discourse on power dynamics, in Sciamma's film, patriarchal domination and in Ly's case, police brutality. This social critique, delocalised in its audience target (now bourgeois, white and urban) pushes me to question: What does the representation of these banlieue spaces, themselves the product of a post-colonial urban policy, tell us about the discursive mission of the French film institution as ideological state apparatus?

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

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

Julian Matthews

(University of Leicester)

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

Environment and Society 1

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

Mary Essiaw, Isaac Yeboah, Andrew Conduah

(University of Professional Studies, Accra)

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

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

Xavier Lemaire

(University College London)

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

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

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

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

Thomas Roberts

(University of Surrey)

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

Environment and Society 2 – Special Event

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

Loubna Ou-Salah

(University of Antwerp)

There is a broad consensus that environmental change influences migration decisions. However, research on how migrants perceive the impact of these changes on their migration trajectories as well as how this varies across regions/countries of origin is lacking. Based on 53 in-depth interviews, we compare how these different migrant groups

in Belgium, coming from Morocco and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), perceive environmental change and discuss retrospectively its role in their own migration decisions. This qualitative, comparative approach further clarifies and disentangles the relationship between natural environmental factors and other drivers of migration and how this varies across two distinct sending regions/countries. Results highlight how environmentally induced migration depends on specific migrant group characteristics. We find that the fragmented nature of migrants' journeys and, consequently, the gradual development of migration decision-making processes significantly complicate how migrants face and experience environmental changes. Our analyses indicate that existing migrant networks and prevailing cultures of migration prefer different adaptation strategies, and thus facilitate or impede environmental migration. Moreover, being aware of environmental changes does not automatically lead to the development of migration aspirations or international migration. Most participants of this study mentioned to have migrated, both internally and internationally, for economic, educational and political factors, not even reflecting on environmental factors, and following legal frameworks that organize migration and the prevailing positive cultures of migration in these regions. This finding suggests that the individual migratory decision-making process, and the related complexity, should get more attention in future research on environmental migration.

Families and Relationships

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

Anthonia Ishabiyi
(University of KwaZulu-Natal)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Frontiers – Special Event

'THE PROMISE OF POLITICS': RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE MAKING AS A THEATRE OF JUSTICE AND REMEMBRANCE

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

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

the potential of research to confront the ontological harm of elite knowledge making practices. We do so through a range of topics: transnational activism, youth asylum seeking, historicized accounts of elite knowledge making, and reflections on the challenges for sociological research - in the hope of realising the promise of politics in the academy and beyond.

Stateless Youth and Political Imaginaries of the Future

Caroline Breeden

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

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

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

Jo-Anne Dillabough

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

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

The Promise of Politics in Archival Research on Genocide

Simina Dragos

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

If "[t]he future is bound to the chains of the past" (Mignolo, 2011, p.31), we must look to the past in crafting political change for the future. Normative knowledge about the past is often filtered through archives. Yet archives can also be subversive when they become sites of political interrogations and interventions (see Tesar, 2015), particularly in the case of genocides whose victims never saw justice, reparation or recognition. Drawing on genealogical research about the representations and knowledge legitimizing the Roma Holocaust in Romania, I propose a hermeneutical approach in which history, as a set of discourses (Gardner, 2010), and archives, as repositories of discourses, become arenas for political negotiation of meaning. I explore four political promises of archival research. Firstly, the archive provides a space for challenging procedural forms of justice, and for searching recognition and reparation for the victims. Secondly, oral testimonies re-centre victims as political actors who carry the promise of politics in memory. Thirdly, genealogies can facilitate analyses of the continuities and ruptures in modern nation-state building, thereby creating space for political questioning and thinking new political imaginaries. Fourthly, archival research promises a re-negotiation of the 'cultural archive' (Wekker, 2016), opening the struggle over future collective imaginaries. To explore these, I use archival state documents, academic representations and oral history interviews. Ultimately, the promise of archival research is a promise of 'counter-history' (Nora, 1989) - one that can move us toward justice, challenging the representational systems which upheld genocide as a state-building project.

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

Lakshmi Bose

(University of Cambridge, Faculty of Education)

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

Lifecourse –Special Event

DEATH AND ITS AFTERMATH IN THE 2020S: WHY A SOCIOLOGICAL LENS IS NEEDED MORE THAN EVER

Kate Woodthorpe, Kathryn Almack, Erica Borgstrom, Glenys Caswell, Jane McCarthy, Antu Sorainen
(University of Bath)

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

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

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

Medicine, Health and Illness 1

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

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

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

This paper draws on findings from a meta-ethnography of household member perspectives on weighing and measuring school children (Prospero protocol CRD42020196637). We searched for and retrieved 17,270 papers in seven

databases (January 2004 to June 2020). Following review, twenty papers were identified as eligible for inclusion, data extraction, and quality assessment. We created a 'lines-of-argument' synthesis incorporating contributions to analyses from a panel of qualitative researchers to ensure interpretive depth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The use of phronesis in social prescribing during Covid-19

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

In UK policy, there is an increased focus on preventing "non-clinical" use of primary care for those with non-medical need such as loneliness and social isolation. Social prescribing has been positioned as a preventative measure that can address these needs and empower individuals to self-manage. This has, arguably, stretched the resources of the third sector, as more clients are referred into their services. In the context of Covid-19, social prescribing services and the third sector have had to rethink their service delivery.

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

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

Medicine, Health and Illness 2

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

Ana Bravo-Moreno
(University College of London)

This paper draws on ethnographic research conducted in the UK and Spain. It analyses the experiences of 60 women who chose to become mothers with the assistance of reproductive technologies (ART). All the women intended to have a natural birth in hospital and they reported that hospitals categorised their pregnancies as high-risk on the basis of their

age (35-47 years) and the use of ART. Furthermore, for half the participants the genetic material was from a woman and a man in their early twenties.

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

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

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

Yuliya Hilevych

(University of Lincoln & University of Cambridge)

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

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

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

Ashley White, Abigail Mcniven, Lisa Hinton, Felicity Boardman, Louise Locock

(University of Oxford)

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

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 1

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

Alessio D'angelo

(University of Nottingham)

The experience of migrants crossing the Mediterranean has been represented as that of passive components of large-scale human flows driven by conflicts, migration policies and smuggling. Informed by an ESRC-funded research project,

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

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

Mini Chandran Kurian

(University of Edinburgh)

While there exists a significant body of scholarship on migration broadly conceived, return migration has received little attention; within this context, the growing phenomenon of return migration to the global south, and in particular, to India, remains nascent territory. Addressing this lacuna, this paper foregrounds the liminal spaces occupied by transnational returnees to India, their notions of home and belonging, and their conflicted subjectivities. Poised between remembering and forgetting, straddling real and imagined worlds, they find themselves experiencing simultaneous belonging. In this paper, I draw on the findings of qualitative fieldwork conducted with 16 highly-skilled Indian returnees living in gated communities in Bangalore, who represent an elite class of professional migrants. Situated within fluid social spaces that are constantly re-forming because of their embeddedness in multiple societies, these returnees inhabit liminal spaces of identity and disparate habitats of meaning.

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

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

Lena Nare, Elina Paju

(University of Helsinki)

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

Emergent solidarities and alternative futures on the move

Rachel Rosen

(University College London)

Accounts of children and young people who have migrated to the UK on their own have aptly demonstrated that their futures are held hostage by a restrictive migration regime. Prolonged periods of uncertain waithood for refugee status, combined with anti-migrant sentiments in the hostile environment, can foreclose the possibility of even having a future. Imaginaries of the future are constrained or erased, with all focus on the moment of 'acceptance' via recognition of asylum claims. At very least, such status is viewed as central to a stable sense of self and future. In this paper, I do not dispute the violence of restrictive migration regimes on the futures of these young people, nor the profound disruptions to imaginaries of the future caused by contradictory messages of immigration control and the rights of children at the brink of social adulthood. Instead, in thinking with research data from Children Caring on the Move (CCoM), I seek to

complicate such understandings. The small spaces of hope and connection forged between young people on the move provide glimpses of the ways in which geopolitical boundaries can be exposed for their fabrication and violence. Attending to young migrants' care for and about others in the context of waithood, and emergent projects of common cause forged to challenge the conditions under which such care occurs, not only exposes the rough surfaces of racialized capitalism's seeming stronghold but suggests what might be involved in forging enduring solidarities to challenge injustices in order to build alternative futures together.

Race, Ethnicity and Migration 2

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

Ashlee Christoffersen

(University of Edinburgh)

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

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

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

Scarlet Harris

(University of Glasgow)

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

Labour, Antisemitism and Anti-Racism

Brendan Mcgeever, Ben Gidley, David Feldman

(Birkbeck, University of London)

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

But this raises new questions: what is distinctive about antisemitism as a form of racism? And perhaps more urgently, what are the implications for anti-racist politics? Labour's antisemitism controversy, we argue, reveals a deepening divide among the forces that resist racism. Half a century ago, opposition to antisemitism and other racisms were closely aligned, intellectually and politically. Today these connections are slender, and for many, there has been a parting of

ways. This paper explores the possibilities of a multi-directional anti-racism. The obstacles that stand in the way are as conceptual as they are political, and these difficulties are not Labour's own; they reflect important features in the way racism is understood today. Within Labour and beyond, definitions of antisemitism, anti-Black racism and Islamophobia abound, yet all too rarely are they joined up. This paper charts this complicated history and offers resources for thinking antisemitism and racism together, both for sociology and for politics more generally.

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

Ella McPherson, Mónica Moreno Figueroa, Hande Güzel

(University of Cambridge)

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

Science, Technology and Digital Studies

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

Ausma Bernotaite, Marcella Siqueira Cassiano

(Griffith University; University of Alberta)

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

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

Phillip Brooker

(University of Liverpool)

As social life has spread across the internet (a phenomenon amplified though not kickstarted by the COVID-19 social lockdown) various groups of social researchers have explored the potential for methodological tools and conceptual lenses through which digital objects and interactions might be rendered for analysis. However, as yet, few social researchers have directly engaged with the technologies through which these forms of digital life are generated; namely, computer programming languages. This talk, therefore, seeks to announce Programming-as-Social-Science (PaSS) as an emerging research practice, whereby social researchers might use and leverage knowledge and skill with computer programming as their work. Though there are obvious relevancies of such skills in the grabbing and analysis of different

types of (digital) data, the proposed remit of PaSS goes beyond this into other areas including supporting our own research communities through methodological innovation, finding new ways to involve people in the teaching and practice of sociology, opening up new sociological in-roads (e.g. EPSRC funding competitions), and placing sociologically-influenced design ideas in the world (e.g. not just critiquing biased algorithms, but rebuilding them). As such, PaSS is as much about understanding the (digital) world as it is engaging and participating in it. This talk will also reflect on several consanguineous issues, including: the practicalities of integrating PaSS into academic life, the ethnomethodological foundations of these ideas (e.g. breaching experiments, PaSS as hybrid study), the role of design in sociological research (Lupton, 2018), and PaSS as a sociological maker-space (cf. Beer (2014) on "Punk Sociology").

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

Xiufeng Jia

(University of Sheffield)

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

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

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

Dylan Cassar

(University of Edinburgh)

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

Social Divisions/Social Identities

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

Herminder Kaur

(Middlesex University)

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

and offline and intra-disability and intersectional differences are relevant when thinking about how we can remake the future for people with disabilities to increase their inclusion in offline and digital spaces.

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

Ikuko Tomomatsu

(TOMO Lab LLC)

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

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

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

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

Chloe Wakeham

(Swansea University)

Over the centuries, the language surrounding trauma has shifted in meaning from being used as a descriptor for a physical wound, to later incorporate the contemporary definition which includes psychological wounds. By today's definition, trauma has been described as a product of modern culture which may explain the expansion of the word trauma, which is sometimes used to describe everyday life experiences. On Twitter and Tumblr, people are encouraged to engage with trauma related hashtags, to help them identify other members of the online community, who share similar issues with them. An illness identity may be an alternative way for a person to describe themselves, which may provide some cultural meaning, which will be explored throughout the study. While this might provide validation around such issues, there is a possibility that such communities may feed the growing pathologisation and medicalisation of everyday life. This study aims to 1) make sense of the cultural meanings and uses and language surrounding the word trauma 2) trace the historical origins and pathways into online discourse. This is a mixed methods study, which incorporates aspects of Ethnographic Content Analysis and Netnography, which enables historical tracking (i.e. tracking discourse), identifying themes and meanings behind social media posts. Ncapture for Nvivo and screenshots were used in order to download, transcribe and analyse relevant content from Twitter and Tumblr. Open-ended interviews will take place over Zoom or Skype over the next coming months.

Sociology of Education

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

Nomisha Kurian

(University of Cambridge)

This presentation is based on my article in the Journal of Peace Education -

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17400201.2020.1728237>

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

fractures and gaps within school violence prevention efforts in an understudied non-Western context, the presentation aims to offer insights into the structures and norms perpetuating violence against children and the need for criticality, context and reflexivity in efforts to build safer schools and societies.

Citation used in abstract:

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

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

Sylvia Nienhaus

(University of Osnabrueck)

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

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

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

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

Jessica Oddy

(University of East London)

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

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

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

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

Rachael Shillitoe

(University of Birmingham)

Drawing on data from a child-centred, ethnographic study of assemblies in English primary schools (both faith and community), this presentation examines 'the good' in everyday school life. Reflecting on how schools attempt to cultivate children's ethical subjectivities (using both religious and nonreligious frameworks) and how children respond to such strategies, this presentation explores how 'the good' is understood, mediated and performed in daily life. The ways in which the good is constructed and enacted in relation to childhood exemplifies the dreams, wishes and desires we have for our social worlds with children standing as the moral visions for the betterment of society. However, examining the good in relation to childhood is also revealing of the anxieties, hopes and aspirations adults have in terms of children's moral formation. When faced with periods of environmental insecurities, political upheaval, increasing populist rhetoric

and growing inequality, children represent opportunities to project, plan and realize a different and better reality than the one we currently live in. In this presentation, I demonstrate how paying close attention to the school as a space in which 'the good' is explicitly performed and taught while also paying attention to how children internalize, contest and negotiate the values embodied in this vision, creates an opportunity to view different ideas of what the 'good life' is and the different resources and actions through which this good life is subsequently sought for and achieved.

Work, Employment and Economic Life 1

SOCIAL WORK AND CARE

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

Annabel Goddard
(Loughbrough University)

Crisis Only Contact: New Normal Social Work.

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

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

Krzysztof Jankowski
(University of Glasgow)

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

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

Employing landscape situates fully-rounded subjects in the full context of the neo-liberal city, while avoiding reducing people down to being just 'precarious workers'. The initial analysis contributes to understandings of how class, ethnicity, and gender stratify people in the context of a highly contingent employment scheme. The discussion enlightens on how young people of different backgrounds 'remake their future' in a landscape of unreliable opportunities. It also investigates how these people develop a 'feel for the game' and come to adapt and accept the prevailing circumstances of precarity. The paper draws on on-going ethnographic and interview data about experiences of non-permanent work in London. The fieldwork began in September 2020.

Crises Collide: Capitalism, Care and Covid-19

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

The public health and economic crises created by Covid-19 have rendered pre-existing race and gender inequalities more visible. The authors consider these crises, and the responses of UK governments, through a social reproduction lens. We use the term 'social reproduction' to refer to the daily, intergenerational work of reproducing society, through the care, socialisation and education of human beings as people (Ferguson, 2020). The pandemic has highlighted capitalism's neglect of social reproduction; in the UK, a decade of austerity has eroded critical public health and care

infrastructure, increasing vulnerability to the risks of Covid-19, while support for all forms of unpaid care work remains minimal. Women shoulder the burden on both fronts.

Black and minority ethnic women in particular, overrepresented in the key worker roles which have been indispensable to the battle against the virus, are more at risk of contracting and dying from Covid-19 than their white counterparts. In failing to value social reproduction and acknowledge its gendered and racialised nature, the UK government's response has been 'gender-insensitive' and has neglected (indeed, initially suppressing) startling data about the impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities. Reflecting on evidence compiled by the Women's Budget Group, this paper argues that the pandemic may mark a critical juncture for late stage neoliberal capitalism. We consider the opportunities presented by the Covid-19 crisis to debate and reconstruct a post-pandemic economy and society which can address the inequalities inherent to a capitalist system which relies on unpaid and low-paid social reproduction

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

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

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

Work, Employment and Economic Life 2

CLASS, HIERARCHY AND WORK

Exploring The Class Ceiling in the UK Civil Service

Sam Friedman
(London School of Economics)

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

Welfare marketisation in action: Outsourcing the State of Exception

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

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

We draw on two comparable but different datasets composed of 82 visits to public employment offices, and 29 reports of private contractors employment service offices. The method is both ethnographic and administrative in nature- written

notes of site visits undertaken by a range of academic researchers and public servants, over six years. Informed by this, the study captures a street-level observation of public service provision marketisation in action to complement traditional epistemologies of policy evaluation from orthodox economics and sociology.

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

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

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

Daniel McArthur, Hecht Katharina
(University of Oxford)

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

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

Charles Umney, Ian Greer
(University of Leeds)

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

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

We argue that marketization initiatives can be understood as a means of class discipline: they have subjected workers to the effects of competition while protecting capital from them. Class discipline is important to capitalist states, and this partially explains why marketisation remains on the agenda despite its evident problems. Moreover, marketization has created new procedures and mechanisms which are insulated from democratic accountability.