



The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2008

# **SOCIAL**WORLDS **NATURAL**WORLDS

Friday 28th – Sunday 30th March 2008, University of Warwick

**Conference Programme & Abstracts**

[www.britsoc.co.uk](http://www.britsoc.co.uk)

# Conference Programme & Abstracts Book

The British Sociological Association Annual Conference  
University of Warwick  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008

## *SOCIAL WORLDS, NATURAL WORLDS*

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## WELCOME FROM THE 2008 ORGANISING COMMITTEE

As the conference organising team we would like to welcome you to the British Sociological Association's 2008 Annual Conference, here at the University of Warwick. We are delighted with the excellent response to the conference theme which has resulted in such a rich and challenging programme.

The theme of the 2008 conference is Social Worlds, Natural Worlds. A key element of many of the contributions is the exploration of the boundaries between nature, culture and society. Themes of the papers simultaneously point up the significance of the relationship between the global and the local. Binary oppositions in these fields have led to the development of contested terrains and boundary maintenance as social and natural science scholars took up their respective positions.

The plenary sessions:

On Friday, Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University) will speak on *'Unnatural Times? The Social Imaginary and the Future of Nature'*

On Saturday, Nikolas Rose (London School of Economics) will speak on *'The Normal and the Pathological: Managing Bodies and Minds in the Age of Molecular Biomedicine'*

On Sunday, Garry Runciman (Cambridge University) will speak on *'Natural, Social, Cultural'*

In addition to a wide range of papers, the conference will be hosting a number of additional events and activities. Many Study Groups have organised special sessions and there are also twelve symposia and panels exploring different dimensions of nature/culture relations. There will be an Eco-Environmental exhibition on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the foyer of the Ramphal building. The exhibition aims to reflect the conference theme and will feature various local groups with an interest in environmental and animal issues. For the first time at a BSA conference there will be a student artwork display in the Mead Gallery. Students have been invited to explore the themes of the conference through the production of video and still photographic images and there will be a prize giving after the final plenary session.

We would like to thank the people who have helped with the organisation of the conference. In particular our thanks go to Liz Jackson and the team at the BSA office as well as Warwick Conferences. In addition we would like to thank conference photographer Dr Max Farrar, Carol Wolkowitz and the judges of the artwork competition and Maud Perrier for organising the eco-environmental exhibition and generally assisting the organising team.

Finally we would like to thank everyone for travelling to the University of Warwick and contributing towards what we hope will be an enjoyable and stimulating conference.

*Gurminder K Bhambra, Bob Carter, Nickie Charles, Christina Hughes, Hazel Rice*  
*Department of Sociology, University of Warwick*

## CONFERENCE LOCATION

The British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2008 is taking place at the University of Warwick, Coventry, CV4 7AL.

Delegates arriving by taxi should request to be dropped off on the conference park at the Rootes Building. Delegates arriving by bus should ask for the Rootes Building/Arts Centre bus stop.

Conference registration will take place in Rootes Building. Delegates arriving by car should use the campus map and the blue roadside A-board signs to either Car Park 7, 8, 8a, or 15 and follow the walkways leading to Rootes Building.

## HOW TO GET TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

### **IMPORTANT: Road works on Gibbet Hill Road**

Please be aware that major road works are scheduled on the access road to the University during your event. Alternative routes onto campus will be arranged and diversion signs will be in place. All road users should be aware that the diversions will lead to increased traffic on the roads & allow extra time for their journeys. More information is available in "Latest News" on [www.warwickconferences.com](http://www.warwickconferences.com) which will be updated at regular intervals as more details become available.

### **By Rail**

Coventry rail station is the nearest station and only four miles from the University. The Euston service runs half-hourly with an approximate journey time of 70 minutes. Services to Birmingham International and Birmingham New Street are frequent throughout the day. There is a large taxi rank at Coventry station and a regular bus service runs to the centre of the campus (further details below).

For further information contact **National Rail Enquiries** Tel: 08745 48 49 50.

### **By Bus**

Getting around the local area is simple and easy with regular bus services that run every ten minutes at peak times. There are a number of bus stops on campus with buses running to Kenilworth, Coventry, Leamington Spa and further afield.

For further information contact **Traveline** Tel: 0870 608 2 608.

#### From Coventry City Centre:

The Travel Coventry services 12 and 12A (which display the destination, University of Warwick or Leamington) run from the city centre bus station, Pool Meadow, out to the University Central Campus passing the Westwood campus en route (travel time approx. 25 mins). Timetable information for West Midland service number 12 can be found at [www.travelcoventry.co.uk](http://www.travelcoventry.co.uk)

Stagecoach also provides a service that passes the University. The Unibus (U1) is a dedicated frequent bus service to Leamington and Sydenham that passes through campus. There is a second version of this route that passes through Kenilworth and is named the U2. The Stagecoach service X17 runs from the city centre, passing the junction of Gibbet Hill Road and Kenilworth Road. The entrance to the Gibbet Hill campus is about 5 minutes walk from this bus stop. The Central Campus can also be reached from this site by following the campus footpath, which takes about 10 mins.

Further information on these services is available from the Stagecoach website [www.stagecoachbus.co.uk/Warwickshire](http://www.stagecoachbus.co.uk/Warwickshire).

### From the Railway Station:

Visitors should follow the signs from the station to Warwick Road (a 2 minute walk) and from there catch the Travel Coventry services 12 or U1 (see above) which travel onto the main campus. The Stagecoach service U1 travels along Warwick Road and onto the Central Campus. It is also possible to catch the Travel Coventry number 42 which goes to Cannon Park Shopping Centre which is a 5-10 minute walk from central campus.

### **By Taxi**

Please consider the environment when planning to travel around Warwick. Public transport links are good in the area and taxis can be an expensive option. A taxi from Coventry Rail Station will cost approximately £10.

**Trinity Cabs** Tel: 02476 631 631

**Allens** Tel: 02476 555 555

**Central Taxis** Tel: 02476 333 333

**City Cabs** Tel: 02476 222 222

### **By Car**

#### Visitors approaching from North – M1

Exit at Junction 21 and follow signs for M69 - Coventry & Birmingham. Ignore the first sign for Coventry; follow M69 which turns into A46 (signed Warwick/Stratford). Take a left at 1st roundabout and go straight over at 2nd roundabout. Turn right at third traffic light controlled roundabout onto A45 Birmingham. At next exit follow signs and take a left onto the A46 to Warwick. After 1 mile, take exit signed University. Turn right at top of slip road, back over A46. Take second exit from roundabout signed University. Straight over crossroads and traffic lights onto Gibbet Hill Road. Go straight over the next roundabout. Turn left at the first roundabout and left again (onto University Road) at the next. Follow this around past the Arts Centre on the right and Costcutter on the left. Rootes Reception is on the left.

#### Visitors approaching from the West – M42

From the M42 Junction 6 take A45 towards Coventry. After approximately 9 miles you will pass a large Sainsbury's Store on your left. At the next roundabout (by Police Station on left & Fire Station on right) turn right. At next roundabout (signed to University and Cannon Park) take second exit (straight on). Turn right at next roundabout signed to University of Warwick. You are now entering the University of Warwick from Kirby Corner Road. Turn left at the first roundabout and left again (onto University Road) at the next. Follow this around past the Arts Centre on the right and Costcutter on the left. Rootes Reception is on the left.

#### Visitors approaching from the South – M40/A14/M6

Exit the M40 at Junction 15 and follow the A46 signposted to Coventry.

Or from the A14 take the M6 to Junction 2 and follow the A46 signposted to Coventry.

Stay on A46 for 8 miles until the exit signposted University of Warwick and Stoneleigh. Turn right at the top of the slip road. Take 2nd exit from mini roundabout signed University. Straight over crossroads/traffic lights onto Gibbet Hill Road. You are now entering the University of Warwick from Gibbet Hill Campus. Go straight over the next roundabout. Turn left at the first roundabout and left again (onto University Road) at the next. Follow this around past the Arts Centre on the right and Costcutter on the left. Rootes Reception is on the left.

#### Visitors approaching from the South – M1, M45

Exit at Junction 17 and follow M45 becoming A45. At large traffic light controlled roundabout, go straight over following the A45 Birmingham. At next exit follow signs to A46 Warwick. Turn left onto A46, after 1 mile take exit signed University. Turn right at top of slip road, back over A46. Take 2nd exit from roundabout signed University. Straight over crossroads and traffic lights onto Gibbet Hill Road. Go straight over next

roundabout. Turn left at the first roundabout and left again (onto University Road) at the next. Follow this around past the Arts Centre on the right and Costcutter on the left. Rootes Reception is on the left.

The AA and the RAC both provide **online route planners** for car journeys:

**The AA:** [http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner\\_main.jsp](http://www.theaa.com/travelwatch/planner_main.jsp)

**The RAC:** <http://www.rac.co.uk/web/routeplanner/>

## **Parking**

If you are travelling by car to the conference please note the University of Warwick has visitor parking places and delegates are advised to park in either Car Park 7, 8, 8a or 15 at the University of Warwick. Delegates parking in car parks 7 and 15 may require an exit code to leave the car park. Delegates should request this code from the Rootes Building reception staff.

## **By Air**

Birmingham International Airport is approximately 30 minutes by taxi (approx. 13 miles). A frequent train service runs to Coventry from Birmingham International station, adjacent to the airport. We are also located approximately 1 hour from Nottingham East Midlands Airport, 2 hours from Luton Airport and 15 minutes from Coventry Airport.



## CONTACT AT THE CONFERENCE

The BSA Office will take messages during its usual opening hours (Monday- Friday 09:00 – 17:00). Any messages for conference delegates will be displayed on the conference message board near the registration desk.

**During the conference** (Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008) urgent messages can be left at the University of Warwick Rootes reception desk. The telephone number is: [+44] (0)2476 522 280. The telephone line will only be answered between 07:00 – 23:00. For emergency messages outside these times please call the main University switchboard on [+44] (0)2476 523 523.

There will be a message board situated near the registration desk where delegates can leave messages for each other.

## REGISTRATION/HELP DESK

Staff will be available in the foyer of the Rootes Building to register delegates at the following times:

<b>Friday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	08:30 – 18:00
<b>Saturday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	08:30 – 17:00
<b>Sunday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	08:30 – 15:30

At registration you will be given your conference pack. Your conference pack will include the conference programme & abstracts, your conference badge and voucher for Friday's welcome dinner if applicable. **The welcome dinner must have been pre-booked** by no later than 13:00 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**During the conference your conference badge must be worn at all times for security reasons and lunch provision.**

Staff will be available in the foyer of the Rootes Building at the University of Warwick, to answer any delegate queries/enquiries.

If there is a **balance outstanding** on your conference booking, you will have to settle the account before your registration pack will be issued. There will be no exceptions to this ruling.

## BSA CONFERENCE OFFICE

The BSA Conference Office will be located in the Rootes Building, next to the BSA registration desks in the foyer of the Rootes Building. BSA staff attending the conference will be Kerry Collins (BSA Company Secretary, Lisa Murphy (Publications Administrator), Margaret Luke (PA to the Chief Executive) and Liz Jackson (Events Officer).

## LATE ARRIVALS

If you are going to arrive after 18:00 please inform the BSA on 0191 383 0839. Please inform us as soon as possible so that a note can be made to inform the University. Alternatively if it is after 17:00 on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008, please leave a message at the University of Warwick reception desk. The telephone number is: [+44] (0)2476 522 280. The telephone line will only be answered between 07:00 – 23:00. For emergency messages outside these times please call the main University switchboard on [+44] (0)2476 523 523.

## ACCOMMODATION/KEY COLLECTION/KEY RETURN

Accommodation will be in either the Conference Park residences or Scarman training and conference centre. There is a left luggage facility in both the Rootes building and Scarman training and conference centre. Please note below the check-in and check-out times. Bedrooms at both the Conference Park and Scarman training and conference centre must be vacated and keys returned by no later than 09:30 on the day of your departure.

### Conference Park

Rootes Social Building, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

**Tel:** Reception: 024 7652 2280 or 024 7652 3936.

From an internal phone: extension \*22280.

[www.warwickconferences.com/conferencepark](http://www.warwickconferences.com/conferencepark)

Check in time from 15:00 at the University of Warwick registration desk in Rootes Building.

### Scarman Training and Conference Centre

Scarman Training and Conference Centre, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL

**Tel:** Switchboard: 024 7622 1111

[www.warwickconferences.com/scarman](http://www.warwickconferences.com/scarman)

Check in time is from 15:00 at the Scarman House reception.

### Leisure Facilities

All residential delegates will have use of the University's Leisure facilities. These include a swimming pool and fitness suite. For more information visit:

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/sportscentre>.

## PRE-BOOKED MEALS

Special dietary requirements, vegetarian and vegan meals have all been pre-booked as on your booking form. If you have requested a special diet, you will be provided with special meal cards on registration at the conference desk. Please hand a card to the catering staff when you require your meals.

### LUNCH

Your conference badge must be worn at all times for security reasons and for lunch provision. All registered delegates can collect their lunch from the food points in the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre. Please note that Sunday Lunch will be served in the Rootes Self Service Restaurant. To avoid queues delegates are encouraged to make use of the full range of opening hours. Lunch times are:

<b>Friday</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	12:40 – 14:20
<b>Saturday</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	12:40 – 14:20
<b>Sunday</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	12:40 – 14:20 in Rootes Self Service Restaurant

## **FRIDAY CONFERENCE DINNER / ENTERTAINMENT** sponsored by C-SAP

The conference welcome dinner will take place at 19:30 in the Panorama Suite, Rootes Building, University of Warwick. Dress code is casual. Admittance to the welcome dinner is on presentation of a dinner voucher on arrival at the Panorama Suite. A voucher will be provided for the welcome dinner to delegates as they register for the conference. The welcome dinner must have been pre-booked by no later than 13:00 on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008. There will be an after dinner speaker, Laurie Taylor, a disco and the bar will remain open until 01:00am Saturday.

## **OTHER MEALS**

There will be limited options for evening meals available on the University of Warwick Campus. On Saturday evening and for those who have not booked the Conference Dinner on Friday evening you will have to make your own arrangements. There are a number of restaurants and bars not far away from the University Campus by taxi or public transport.

**TEA AND COFFEE** will be served in the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre at the following times - **please make full use of the various points to avoid queues**

### **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Coffee break 11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break 15:00 – 15:30

### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Coffee break 11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break 15:00 – 15:30

### **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Coffee break 11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break 15:00 – 15:30

## **SATURDAY NIGHT**

There will be some entertainment options available on-site, including film showings at the Cinema on campus and the Postgraduate forum & Sociologists Outside Academia Pub Quiz. For those of you who have signed up for this in advance there will also be a meal off-site in a local restaurant.

## **CLOAKROOM**

During the conference, the BSA will provide a cloakroom in Rootes Building near the conference registration desk. The opening times of the cloakroom are as follows:

Friday	28 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	09:00 – 18:00
Saturday	29 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	08:30 – 18:00
Sunday	30 <sup>th</sup> March 2008	08:30 – 16:00

## EMAIL

A wireless network connection is available in the Rootes Building and the Warwick Arts Centre. Internet access will be available from terminals in the foyer of the Rootes Building and delegates will be provided with log-in ids on registration.

## PAPER SESSIONS

The parallel paper sessions will take place in a number of rooms based in the Ramphal building, the Social Studies building. Meetings will also take place in the National Grid Room on the first floor of Warwick Arts Centre.

## POSTER SESSIONS

Posters will be displayed in the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre from Friday 28th March. There is a designated poster viewing time: 15:00-15:30 on Saturday where presenters will be available to discuss their work. Additional times may be indicated on individual posters.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

**Professor Kate Soper** (London Metropolitan University) will speak on *'Unnatural times? The social imaginary and the future of nature'* on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 17:00 in the Arts Centre Theatre at the University of Warwick.

**Professor Nikolas Rose** (London School of Economics) will speak on *'The Normal and the pathological: Managing bodies and minds in the age of molecular biomedicine'* on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00 in the Arts Centre Theatre at the University of Warwick.

**Professor W. Garry Runciman** (Cambridge University) will speak on *'Natural, Cultural, Social: A three-way interaction'* Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 in the Arts Centre Theatre at the University of Warwick.

## BRITISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting, in the Arts Centre Theatre at the University of Warwick, is scheduled to start at 18.00 pm and to close at approximately 19.00 pm on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008. All members are welcome.

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE - FRIDAY

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008

09:00 onwards	Conference office / registration opens	[Foyer, Rootes Social Building]
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Paper Session 1</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	Social Theory and Climate Change I	[Ramphal 3.25]
“ “	BSA West Midlands Medical Sociology Panel: Health, Wellbeing and Society	[Social Studies 0.28]
“ “	Postgraduate Forum: Communicating Sociology	[Ramphal 1.15]
“ “	The BSA and Publishing: hosted by the Publications Directors & Journal Editors	[Ramphal 0.12]
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
“ “	HAPS Council Meeting (closed session)	[National Grid Room, Warwick Arts Centre]
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Paper Session 2</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	Contemporary ecotherapy in action	[Ramphal 0.14]
“ “	What does the BSA do for its members?: hosted by the Membership Services Directors	[Ramphal 1.15]
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshments	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Paper Session 3</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	Social Theory and Climate Change II	[Ramphal 3.25]
“ “	Baldamus: Sociological theory and sociology of work	[Ramphal 0.12]
“ “	Grant Getting	[Ramphal 1.15]
17:00 – 18:00	<b>Plenary Speaker: Professor Kate Soper (London Metropolitan University)</b> <i>'Unnatural Times? The social imaginary and the future of nature'</i>	[Arts Centre Theatre]
18:00 – 18:15	Philip Abrams Memorial Prize Sage Prize	[Arts Centre Theatre]
18:15 – 19:00	Vice Chancellor's Reception	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
19:30 onwards	Conference Welcome Dinner sponsored by C-SAP	[Panorama Suite, Rootes Social Building]

# CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE – SATURDAY

## Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008

08:30 onwards	Conference office / registration opens	[Foyer, Rootes Social Building]
09:00 – 11:00	<b>Paper Session 4</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	Society, Self and the Neurosciences: Sociological Agendas	[Ramphal 0.03/4]
“ “	Changing Bodies	[Social Studies 0.28]
“ “	Teaching and Learning in and for a complex world	[Teaching Grid, Library]
“ “	Early Career Publishing	[Ramphal 1.15]
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
11:30 – 13:00	<b>Paper Session 5</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	BSA Urban Studies Study Group Event: Critical and Complex	[Ramphal 2.41]
“ “	Urban Studies: The State we're in (1)	
“ “	Critical Pedagogy: Creatively responding to Government	[Ramphal 3.41]
“ “	Education Agendas (1)	
“ “	Postgraduate Forum Session: The PhD Viva	[Ramphal 0.03/4]
“ “	Media and Academic Dissemination	[Ramphal 1.15]
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
	Study Group Convenors Lunch (closed session)	[National Grid Room, Warwick Arts Centre]
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Plenary Speaker: Professor Nikolas Rose (London School of Economics)</b>	[Arts Centre Theatre]
	<i>'The normal and the pathological: Managing bodies and minds in the age of molecular biomedicine'</i>	
15:00 – 15:30	Refreshments	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
“ “	Poster Presentations	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
15:30 – 17:00	<b>Paper Session 6</b>	[Ramphal & Social Sciences Buildings]
“ “	BSA Animal Human Study Group Panel	[Social Studies 0.10]
“ “	Annual Meeting of the BSA Auto/Biography Study Group	[Ramphal 1.03]
“ “	Critical Pedagogy: Creatively responding to Government Education	[Ramphal 3.41]
“ “	Agendas (2)	
“ “	BSA Family Study Group Event	[National Grid Room, Warwick Arts Centre]
“ “	BSA Food Study Group Meet and Greet and AGM	[Ramphal 0.12]
“ “	Bodies, Health and Social Theory: BSA Medical Sociology Group Panel	[Social Studies 0.09]
“ “	Wellbeing and recovery: connecting natural and social worlds:	[Social Studies 0.28]
“ “	BSA Mental Health Group Panel	
“ “	BSA Sociology of Rights Study Group Event: Rethinking the right to education: A sociological analysis	[Ramphal 1.15]
“ “	BSA Urban Studies Study Group Event: Critical and Complex	[Ramphal 2.41]
“ “	Urban Studies: The State we're in (2)	
“ “	BSA Visual Sociology Study Group Event	[Ramphal 3.25]
“ “	BSA Violence Against Women Study Group Event	[Ramphal 0.14]
“ “	BSA Youth Study Group: Researching Youth	[Ramphal 0.03/4]
17:00 – 17:30	President's Reception: Meet the BSA President and Council	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
17:30 – 18:30	Publishers' Reception	[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]
18:00 – 19:00	BSA Annual General Meeting	[Arts Centre Theatre]

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE – SUNDAY

### Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008

08:30 onwards	Conference office / registration opens	<i>[Foyer, Rootes Social Building]</i>
09:00 – 11:00	<b>Paper Session 7</b>	<i>[Ramphal &amp; Social Sciences Buildings]</i>
“ “	The biological challenge to the social sciences	<i>[Ramphal 0.03/4]</i>
“ “	Working in 'nature': Understandings and practices of work	<i>[Ramphal 1.03]</i>
“ “	The Sociology of Reproduction: the return of the political	<i>[Ramphal 1.13]</i>
“ “	My Space? Your Space? Our Space? Space, place and territory in young people's cultural identities	<i>[Ramphal 0.12]</i>
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments	<i>[Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre]</i>
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Plenary Speaker: Professor W. Garry Runciman (Cambridge University)</b> 'Natural, Social, Cultural: A three-way interaction'	<i>[Arts Centre Theatre]</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch	<i>[Self Service Restaurant, Rootes Social Building]</i>
14:00 – 15:30	<b>Paper Session 8</b>	<i>[Ramphal &amp; Social Sciences Buildings]</i>
“ “	The Future of Feminist NatureCultures	<i>[Ramphal 1.04]</i>
15:30	Conference closes	

## Conference Programme Grid – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March

FRIDAY	TIME SLOTS	ROOM													
		Ramphal 0.03/4	Ramphal 0.12	Ramphal 1.13	Ramphal 0.14	Ramphal 1.15	Ramphal 2.41	Ramphal 3.41	Ramphal 1.03	Ramphal 1.04	Ramphal 3.25	Social Studies 0.10	Social Studies 0.09	Social Studies 0.28	National Grid Room
	11:30-13:00		The BSA and Publishing: hosted by the Publications Directors & Journal Editors	Open 1	Emotions and the Body	Postgraduate Forum Session: Communicating Sociology	The Environment	Government	Cultural Constructions of Nature	Theory	Social Theory and climate change I	Animals in Human Societies	Open 2	BSA West Midlands Medical sociology Group Panel: Health, Wellbeing and Society	
				Karlsen, S.	Tonner, A.		Mah, A.	Coburn, E.	Moog, S.	Misztal, B.A.		Twine, R.	Hines, S.		
				Buckman, S.K.N.	Higgins, V.		Castan Broto, V.	Armstrong, J.E.	Stingl, A.	Marshall, J.L.		Nimmo, R.	Richardson, D.		
				Carter, C.E.	Roberts, M.		Aldred, R.	Sayers, D.				Gruffudd, P.	Taylor, Y.		
	13:00-14:00	LUNCH													
	14:00-15:00	Open 6		Open 1	Contemporary Ecoterapy in Action	What does the BSA do for its members?: hosted by the Membership Services Directors	The Environment	Government	Cultural Constructions of Nature	Theory	Open 4	Animals in Human Societies		Open 5	
		Jones, S.		Yokoyama, K.			Thomas, F.	Marron, D.	Gislason, M.K.	Blencowe, C.P.	Omphurnuw at, K.	Cole, M.		Gregory, H.	
		Tyrie, J.		Undurraga, T.			Hancock, P.		Adams, M.	Amaral, A.	Griggs, G.	Cudworth, E.		Carter, E.K.	
15:00-15:30	REFRESHMENTS														
15:30-17:00	Biology	Baldamus: Sociological Theory and the Sociology of Work	Open 1	Emotions and the Body	Grant Getting	The Environment	Government	Cultural Constructions of Nature	Theory	Social Theory and climate change II	Animals in Human Societies	Nature, Culture, Gender	Open 5		
	Beard, R.L.		Dorrer, N.	Palacios, M.		Dickens, P.G.	Harwood, V.	Esseveld, J.	Elder-Vass, D.		Hobson-West, P.	Dilley, R.	McGovern, P.		
	Birch, K.		MacDonald, G.	Bone, J.		Shaw, C.	Behling, F.	Hadfield, L.	Kemp, S.		Peggs, K.	Woodward, K.	Koteyko, N.		
	Plows, A.		Myers, M.	Lonie, D.		McLachlan, C.	Holford, J.	Lowe, P.	Rafanell, I.		Morgan, K.	Appleford, K.	Lee, J.Y.		
17:00-18:00	KATE SOPER PLENARY														
18:00 – 18:15	ABRAMS PRIZE / SPIE PRIZE														
18:00-19:00	VICE CHANCELLOR'S RECEPTION														



## Conference Programme Grid – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March

SATURDAY	TIME SLOT	ROOM													
		Ramphal 0.03/4	Ramphal 0.12	Ramphal 1.13	Ramphal 0.14	Ramphal 1.15	Ramphal 2.41	Ramphal 3.41	Ramphal 1.03	Ramphal 1.04	Ramphal 3.25	Social Studies 0.10	Social Studies 0.09	Social Studies 0.28	National Grid Room
	09:00-11:00	Society, Self and the Neurosciences	Food	Open 1	Emotions and the body	Early Career Publishing	The Environment	Teaching and Learning In and For a Complex World*  *This event will take place in the Teaching Grid, Library.	Cultural Constructions of Nature	Theory	Research Methods	Animals in Human Societies	Open 2	Changing Bodies	
			Tuomainen, H.M.	Rubtsova, A.	Brown, L.		Flynn, R.		Parker, J.	Ransome, P.E.	Wilson, C.	Nosworthy, C.	Hinterberger , A.		
			Warde, A.	Mason, J.	Lyle, S.A.		Salehi,S.		Moffat, B.	O'Brien, K.	Whiteman, N.	Molloy, C.	Parker, D.		
				Bell, A.J.S.	Finn, K.		DeHanas, D.N.		Bailey, S.	Bertschi, S.	Gabb, J.	Rhodes, J.			
				Murata, Y.	Paton, K.				French, M.	Demir, I.		Charles, N.	Lusted, J.		
			BREAK												
	11:00- 11:30														
	11:30-13:00	Postgraduate Forum Session: The PhD Viva	Food		Emotions and the Body	Media and Academic Dissemination	Critical & Complex Urban Studies: The State we're in (1)	Critical Pedagogy: Creatively responding to Government Education Agendas (1)		Theory	Methodolog ical Issues	Animals in Human Societies	Open 2	Open 5	
			Sharp, G.		Ettorre, E.					Liu, S.	Lapping, C.	Evans, A.B.	Omelchenko , E.	McGrath, N.	
			Dowler, E.		Sheach Leith, V.					Cannon, B.	Smith, G.J.D.	Miele, M.	King, A.	Siara, B.	
					Perng, S.					Cruickshank, J.		Hodge, A.	Taylor, Y.	Weicht, B.	
	13:00- 14:00	LUNCH													
	14:00- 15:00	NIK ROSE PLENARY													
15:00- 15:30	BREAK & POSTER SESSION														
15:30-17:00 STUDY GRPS	Researching Youth	BSA Food Study Group 'Meet' and Greet' and AGM	Open 1	BSA Violence Against Women Study Group Event	Rethinking the right to education	Critical & Complex Urban Studies: The State we're in (2)	Critical Pedagogy: Creatively responding to Government Education Agendas (2)	Auto/Biography Study Group	BSA Theory Study Group Event	BSA Visual Sociology Study Group Event	BSA Animal Human Study Group Panel: Crossing Boundaries: Animals and natural/social worlds	Bodies, health and social theory: Medical Sociology Panel	Wellbeing and Recovery: Connecting natural and Social Worlds. BSA Mental Health group panel	BSA Family Study Group Event	
			Mason, J.												
			Dewan, I.												
			Curtis, B.												
17:00- 17:15	PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION: MEET THE BSA PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL														
1715- 18.15	PUBLISHERS RECEPTION														

## Conference Programme Grid – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March

DAY	TIME SLOT	ROOM													
		Ramphal 0.03/4	Ramphal 0.12	Ramphal 1.13	Ramphal 0.14	Ramphal 1.15	Ramphal 2.41	Ramphal 3.41	Ramphal 1.03	Ramphal 1.04	Ramphal 3.25	Social Studies 0.10	Social Studies 0.09	Social Studies 0.28	National Grid Room
SUNDAY	09:00-11:00	The Biological Challenge to the social sciences	My Space? Your Space? Our Space? Space, place and territory in young people's cultural identities	The Sociology of Reproduction: the return of the political?	Emotions and the Body		Biotechnology	Teaching and Learning	Working in 'Nature': Understandings and practices of work	Theory	Methodological Issues	Animals in Human Societies	Public Sociology	Open 5	
					Harper, S.		Horlick-Jones, T.	Braun, A.		Straw, D.	Mahler, J.	Higgin, M.	McLennan, G.	Roberts, T.	
					Hockey, J.		Reynolds, L.	Morton, R.		Walby, S.	Neale, B.	Moles, K.	Simbuerger, E.	Norstedt, M.	
					Jenkins, T.		Milne, R.J.	Dunn, Y.		Atkinson, W.	Scourfield, J.	Franklin, A.S.	Crow, G.	Grundmann, R.	
					Morgan, B.		West, R.	Eriksen, L.		Newton, T.J.			Benton, T.	Rozanova, J.	
	11:00-11:30	BREAK													
	11:30-12:30	GARRY RUNCIMAN PLENARY													
	12:30-13:00	ART COMPETITION PRIZEGIVING													
	13:00-14:00	LUNCH													
	14:00-15:30	Body	Open 2	Open 1	Emotions and the Body		Biotechnology		Cultural Constructions of Nature	The Future of Feminist NatureCulture	Methodological Issues				
Bagnall, G.		Wolkowitz, C.	Jamieson, L.	Kurashima, A.	Lahari, A.		Bhatti, M.		Gruszczynska, A.						
Maruyama, S.			Ravenhill, R.	Krpic, T.	Ismail, T.		Claremont, A.		Hossen, A.M.						
Singleton, C.			Brooks, R.		Claremont, A.		Raisborough, J.								
15:30	CLOSE														

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 17:00 in the Arts Centre Theatre, University of Warwick

## Professor Kate Soper

### *“Unnatural times? The social imaginary and the future of nature”*

Unprecedented bio-technological powers to intervene in ‘nature’, and even create it, co-exist today with extensive concern about the use of these powers, and with alarm verging on panic about climate change and its potentially uncontrollable consequences. This paper opens with some reflections on the variety of contemporary responses to this context, their rationale in current strands of thinking about the environment, science and philosophy, and the contrary discourses on ‘nature’ that underlie or support them. It suggests that one interesting upshot of these developments is a form of normative ‘return to nature’: the opening of a new chapter of philosophical questioning about the potential of ‘nature’ to figure as a countering constraint on ‘ubristic’ forms of instrumental rationality.

Although critical of any essentialist appeal to ‘nature’ in this capacity, a qualified defence is offered of the importance of respecting certain intuitive discriminations about what is ‘natural’ and ‘unnatural’. But it is also argued, that just as we should not overlook intuitive resistances to moves such as cloning or breaching the species barrier, so we should not overlook the much more decisive role of current socio-economic relations on human (and other animal) modes of existence and forms of potential. Alarms about the future of genetic engineering should not distract from more pressing concerns about the role of the globalised economy and its consumerist vision of the ‘good life’ in precipitating irreversible global warming and socio-ecological collapse. The paper ends with a sketch of the ‘alternative hedonist’ social imaginary that could help to promote the move to a much needed post-consumerist social order.

**Kate Soper** is a Professor of Philosophy in the Institute for the Study of European Transformations at London Metropolitan University. She has written extensively on social and cultural theory, feminist issues, the conceptualisation of nature and environmental issues. Her recent writings include: *What is Nature ? Culture, Politics and the Non-Human*, London, Blackwell, 1995; *To Relish the Sublime? Culture and Self-Realisation in Postmodern Times*, London, Verso, 2002 (with Martin Ryle). She has recently completed a research project funded by an AHRC/ESRC award in the ‘Cultures of Consumption’ Programme on ‘Alternative Hedonism and the Theory and Politics of Consumption’ (see [www.consume.bbk.ac.uk](http://www.consume.bbk.ac.uk) under ‘Research’), and is currently working on a number of publications in association with this. She is co-editor with Frank Trentmann of *Citizenship*

*and Consumption*, Palgrave, 2008, and with Lyn Thomas and Martin Ryle of *Counter Consumerism and its Pleasures*, Palgrave, 2009.



**Chair: Nickie Charles**

Nickie Charles is Director of the Centre for the Study of Women and Gender, MA coordinator and convenor of the MA in Interdisciplinary Gender Studies.

## Professor Nikolas Rose

### *“The normal and the pathological: Managing bodies and minds in the age of molecular biomedicine”*

In his classic text, *The Normal and the Pathological*, Georges Canguilhem remarks that “Between 1759, when the word ‘normal’ appeared, and 1834 when the word ‘normalized’ appeared, a normative class had won the power to identify ... the function of social norms, whose content it determined, with the use that that class made of them” (1978: 151). Despite the repetitive sociological critique of the ‘nature-culture’ dichotomy, and despite everything we know of the social shaping of both ‘illness behaviour’ and medical knowledge, Canguilhem’s view that there is a fundamental distinction between social norms and organic norms is probably that of most sociologists. We are tempted to believe that the norms of bodily and mental functions are grounded in the normativity of the vital order of the body itself, while social norms are grounded in a very different normativity – the norms of a particular social order. Whether or not this distinction between vital and social norms could ever be maintained, contemporary molecular biomedicine renders it untenable. In what some have called ‘our age of biological control’, where the phrase ‘biologically impossible’ is losing its meaning, the limits of what we can do to our bodies and minds no longer seem set by a vital order.

Contemporary genomics generates new conceptions of susceptibility, contemporary neuroscience accounts for normality and pathology within the same style of thought, contemporary pharmacology aims to modulate both ‘normal’ and ‘abnormal’ via the same mechanisms, assisted reproductive technologies generate a new biosocial normativity. In this paper, I reflect on this novel conjuncture, and consider some of the sociological implications of this new relation of the social and the biological for the distinction between the normal and the pathological today.

**Nikolas Rose** is Martin White Professor of Sociology and Director of the BIOS Centre for the Study of Bioscience, Biomedicine, Biotechnology and Society at the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is joint editor of *BioSocieties: an interdisciplinary journal for social study of the life sciences*. His most recent book is *The Politics of Life Itself* (Princeton University Press, 2006). His current research, for which he holds an ESRC Research Professorship, is examining the emergence, characteristics and

consequences of the new sciences of the brain and their associated forms of expertise.



**Chair: Professor Robert Carter**

Bob Carter is co-convenor of the MA in Race and Ethnic Studies.

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 11:30 in the Arts Centre Theatre, University of Warwick

# Professor Garry Runciman

## *“Natural, Cultural, Social: A three-way interaction”*

Relationships between the human and the natural world are a topic of longstanding sociological interest. But if they are to be adequately explained, a clear distinction must be drawn between the cultural and the social as well as between the cultural and social on one side and the natural on the other. Cultural behaviour is the acting-out of information transmitted from mind to mind by imitation or learning, whereas social behaviour is the acting-out of information encoded in rule-governed practices which define institutional roles. The importance of the distinction for the theme of this conference can be illustrated by examples ranging from the fur trade in 18<sup>th</sup>-century North America to the policy of the British government in relation to sexually transmitted diseases in the First World War.

**W.G. (Garry) Runciman** has been a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge since 1971, and of the British Academy, of which he was President from 2001 to 2005, since 1975. His major publications include *Relative Deprivation and Social Justice* (1966) and *A Treatise on Social Theory* (vol. I, 1983; vol. II, 1989; vol. III, 1997). He holds honorary degrees from the Universities of Edinburgh, London, Oxford, and York. He chaired the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice in England and Wales of 1991-3 whose report led to the setting-up of the independent Criminal Cases Review Authority to investigate possible miscarriages of justice.



**Chair: Professor Christina Hughes**

Christina Hughes is a Professor of Women and Gender and Chairperson in the Department of Sociology, University of Warwick.

## BSA EVENTS

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Members are invited to attend the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the British Sociological Association



**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008  
18:00**

**Room: Arts Centre Theatre, Warwick Arts Centre  
University of Warwick  
Coventry CV4 7AL**

The AGM will include:

- o Detail on Council members, Honorary Vice Presidents and Honorary members
- o discussion of the 2009 Annual Conference
- o discussion of any items brought forward by members\*

## All members are welcome

A full agenda and other information for the AGM will be available on the BSA website ([www.britisoc.co.uk](http://www.britisoc.co.uk)).

\*Members wishing to bring forward business need to notify the BSA Office at least two weeks in advance.



## BSA EVENTS

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### **The BSA and Publishing: Hosted by the Publications Directors & Journal Editors**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30-13:00**

**Ramphal 0.12**

*An opportunity to meet the BSA Publications Directors and Journal Editors.*

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### **What does the BSA do for its members?: Hosted by the Membership Services Directors**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00-15:00**

**Room: Ramphal 1.15**

*An opportunity to meet the BSA Membership Services Directors.*

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### **BSA Income and Expenditure Poster & Meet the BSA Treasurer**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:00-15:30     Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre**

*Visit the Treasurer's Poster and find out about the Association's finances. The BSA Treasurer, Dr. Tom Hall, will be on hand to answer questions.*

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### **President's Reception: Meet the BSA President and Council**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 17:00-17:30     Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre**

*Join us for a drink at the BSA President's Reception and meet the BSA Council members.*

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# POSTGRADUATE FORUM SESSIONS

## Communicating Sociology

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 - 13:00

Room: Ramphal 1.15

This session will critically consider the politics, conflicts and benefits of communicating sociological research to a wide range of audiences, from students and academics to those working outside academia. Addressing how sociology is taught, written and spoken about, a panel of distinguished speakers will each give a short talk about their own experiences of communicating sociology before answering your questions.

### Panel

Teaching Sociology: Dr Joyce Canaan, Birmingham City University

Writing Sociology: Professor Elizabeth Ettore, University of Liverpool

Talking Sociology: TBC

## The PhD Viva

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 - 13:00

Room: Ramphal 0.03/4

Dreading your viva? Terrified by horror stories of other's experiences? Despite being feared by most PhD students, few of us have much of an idea what to expect from our vivas. To give us some insight into the process, this session involves a two-part 'mock-viva', whereby recent 'viva survivor', Dr David Mellor (UWIC), will be 'examined' by a panel of experts (Professor Rob Mears (Bath University); Prof Gayle Letherby (Uni of Plymouth) and Dr Eric Harrison (City University)). Following the 'mock-viva', there will then be an opportunity to ask the panel questions and for further dialogue about the examination.

## **Media and Academic Dissemination**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 – 13:00

Room: Ramphal 1.15

A workshop/discussion for early career researchers about how to disseminate and publish your research through academic journals, books and other outlets.

Organisers: Jennifer Mason and Angela Phillips

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## **Early Career Publishing Workshop**

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 1.15

A workshop intended specifically for PhD students and early career academics re advice on getting published, both in journals and getting monographs accepted, etc.

Organisers: David Inglis, co-editor, Cultural Sociology and Graham Crow, co-editor Sociology.

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## **Grant Getting**

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30 – 17:00

Room: Ramphal 1.15

Organisers: Sue Scott and Alan Warde

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## BSA STUDY GROUP EVENTS

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### BSA Animal Human Study Group

#### Interdisciplinary Animal Human Study Group Panel Session: Crossing Boundaries: Animals and natural/social worlds

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Social Studies 0.10

Traditionally, sociology has paid little attention to nonhuman animals, which have been considered outside of (human) social worlds. Recent work, however, has begun to question this and to emphasise how many nonhuman animals lives are interwoven into human societies. In order to understand these interspecies social relations, we must look more widely than sociology. On the other hand, ethology - a sub discipline of biology - focuses on animals and their behaviour. Recent work here has begun to move away from traditional concepts of animal instincts and towards a more nuanced understanding of animals and their cognitive and social abilities.

Increasingly, we recognise that animals and natural worlds are not separable from our human social worlds. The purpose of this interdisciplinary panel is to explore the place of animals in this intersection. Speakers will come from these two divergent backgrounds - sociology and ethology - and will explore how they might intersect and contribute to each other. Bridging the disciplinary divide would benefit both social theory, and the animals themselves, and yield a greater understanding of how nonhuman animals contribute to both social and natural worlds.

**Speakers:**

Introduction to themes of panel: **Dr. Lynda Birke** (Univ. of Chester: biologist/social studies of science)

**Prof. Mike Michael**, (sociologist/social studies of science: Goldsmiths)

**Dr. Becky Whay** (Research Fellow, Farm Animal Science, The school of Veterinary Science, University of Bristol)

#### Animal Human Study Group 'Meet and Greet'

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 13:00 -14:00

Room: Social Studies 0.10

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### BSA Auto/Biography Study Group

#### Annual Meeting of the Auto/Biography Study Group

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 1.03

Business meeting to include update about publishing developments and future conferences/seminars.

**Speakers:** Gill Clarke & Michael Erben

# BSA Family Study Group

## BSA Family Study Group Event

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: National Grid Room,  
Warwick Arts Centre

Following last year's well-received formula, the meeting will be divided up between author presentations of new publications relating to the family, and a 'get to know you' session with discussion of Family Study Group interests and future events. The two authors presenting their work will be: Jacqui Gabb (2008) *Researching Intimacy in Families*, London: Palgrave Macmillan and Esther Dermott (2008) *Intimate Fatherhood*, London: Routledge.

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# BSA Food Study Group

## BSA Food Study Group: Session 1

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 0.12

Tuomainen, H.M.

*Taste vs Structure: The Role of Substitutes in Ghanaian Food in London*

Warde, A.

*Globalization and food habits: a comparison of Britain and France*

## BSA Food Study Group: Session 2

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 – 13:00

Room: Ramphal 0.12

Dowler, E., Kneafsey, M., Cox, R., Holloway, L., Venn, L., Tuomainen, H.

*'Doing Food Differently': Reconnecting Biological and Social Relationships Through Care for Food*

Sharp, G.

*Mass catering, fast food and ecological troubles: The away from home eating choices of university students*

## Food Study Group AGM

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30 – 17:00

Room: Ramphal 0.12

The Food Study Group AGM is a chance to find out what the group has been involved in over the last year and what plans there are for the year ahead; this is a chance to help shape the future activities of the group. The 'meet and greet' session will be a more informal opportunity to talk to the study group convenors and other members over some light refreshments. All members and non-members with an interest in food production and consumption are welcome to attend.

# BSA West Midlands Medical Sociology Group

## Postgraduate Forum: Health, Wellbeing and Society

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 – 13:00

Room: Social Studies 0.28

We aim to promote discussion and debate amongst Post Graduate researchers with an interest in aspects of health, illness, well-being, medicine and society. Post Graduate researchers will present reflections on theoretical, methodological and substantive areas of their research in a supportive space within the main conference, offering the opportunity to make contact with those with similar interests.

Speakers include: *Rayment, J., Wilson, C., Boardman, F., Blood, A.*

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## BSA Medical Sociology Group

### Bodies, Health and Social Theory Panel

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30 – 17:00

Room: Social Studies 0.09

Given its focus on health, Medical Sociology has a long standing interest in the relationship between society, culture and nature. After all, much of Medical Sociology is concerned (albeit problematically) with the maladies of the 'biological' body and the various issues, problems and challenges that follows from that emphasis. What this panel seeks to do is to explore nature/ culture in relation to health and the body with an emphasis on how sociological theory can assist in articulating those relationships.

Four theorists and four separate issues will be under discussion. The work of Beck will be utilised to explore the manufacture of risk and how the distinction between the 'natural' and the 'cultural' has been blurred by the medicalisation of pregnancy and the manufacture of risk discourses by medical 'experts'. A radical re-evaluation of Mead will explore the phenomenon of voice-hearing and how 'hearing' or 'feeling' a voice with no obvious material origin is problematised by the bodily ear as being the 'normal' way the body deals with sound. The Marxian theory of alienation will also be under consideration in terms of exploring how the lived experience of the historically specific set of human relationships that is capitalism translates into 'biological' harm in the body. Finally, Bourdieu's theory of social action will be deployed to reframe how physical fitness should be regarded as the acquisition of forms of physical capital and embodied dispositions consistent with the demands and logic of the sporting field rather than as a purely 'natural' urge.

Jones, D.S.

*Managing the Pregnant Body: An exploration into the cultural construction of risk screening in pregnancy*

Yuill, C., Crinson, I.

*Capitilisation, Cortisol and the Bio-chemistry of Alienation*

Tulle, E.

*Healthy ageing and sports participation: Bourdieu and the cultural reconstruction of the natural body*

Kirby, J.

*Natural body, social mind: Have we utilized the full radical potential of G.H. Mead's thought?*

# BSA Mental Health Medical Sociology Group

## Wellbeing and Recovery: Connecting Natural and Social Worlds

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30 – 17:00

Room: Social Studies 0.28

Human wellbeing and recovery from distress or illness are often conceived of in terms of connections between the natural worlds of the body and of nature and the social world of interaction with others. Whilst the relationship between inner, neurobiological and outer, social and environmental influences on mental health remain hotly debated, the therapeutic benefits of outdoor activities which provide a sense of connection with nature, and the importance of 'communities' and social life for mental health and well-being are well known. In this panel session we explore these connections and issues through discussion of the mental health benefits of gardens and gardening and of supported socialisation programmes for users of mental health services. In so doing, we draw attention to the importance of natural and social environments which promote interaction and inclusion for enhancing well-being and recovery. The following two papers will be presented, followed by discussion:

Sempik, J.

*Therapeutic Gardens: exploring perceptions of nature and health*

This paper will present findings from a study which explored the use of farming and gardening for people with physical, mental health and social problems in order to explore why such activities and their natural settings are considered to be beneficial.

Nee, J., Brady, E., Sheridan, A.

*Supported Socialisation for People with Serious Mental Illness in Ireland: first reflections on a randomised control trial*

In this presentation, reflections of researchers, from three disciplines, on the initial findings from a study of a supported socialisation programme within a recovery paradigm will be reported.

Organised by Lydia Lewis, Sociology of Mental Health Study Group; see:  
[www.britsoc.co.uk/medical/MedSocMentalHealth.htm](http://www.britsoc.co.uk/medical/MedSocMentalHealth.htm)

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# BSA Researching Students & Sociology of Education Study Groups

Increasingly, educators at all levels are being encouraged by the government's neo-liberal restructuring and partial privatising of education to teach students skills of 'employability' in preparation for the workplace. Educators also face growing strains on curricula and pedagogies due to the entrepreneurial logic that underpins restructuring/privatising and to lessening government resources, growing student numbers and regimes of accountability that further work-intensify them. Students are perceived as 'consumers'/'customers' receiving a service preparing them for employment-and unsurprisingly many respond instrumentally to this instrumentality.

Contradictorily, however, government and its quangos now encourage research on learning and teaching and promoting more open and engaging ways of reworking of learning space using a pedagogy of "active and collaborative learning" ([http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded\\_documents/JISC%20learning%20spaces.acc.pdf](http://www.jisc.ac.uk/uploaded_documents/JISC%20learning%20spaces.acc.pdf)) antithetical to the conventional 'banking' model of learning (Freire 1996) and to the growing consumerist logic. Additionally, Virtual Learning Environments resting on social constructivist ideas about collaboratively engaging students in dialogue with one another and with tutors are being encouraged (Dougiamas 1998).

In this climate, a growing number of researchers/teachers are using insights from critical pedagogues to develop progressive pedagogies and curricula (the latter most notably in HE where lecturers still largely determine their curricula) that encourage students' critical thinking about and active engagement with the world. These papers explore such efforts, considering how they work with and against the above trends and encourage greater student engagement with learning as well as their potential for critically and collaboratively working to build a more egalitarian and socially just world.

## Critical Pedagogy: Creatively Responding to Government Education Agendas - Session 1

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30 – 13:00

Room: Ramphal 3.41

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Badcock, M. | Crossing the border: The creative possibilities (and limits) of critical pedagogies  |
| Cappel, C.  | 'Can't you just tell us the answer?' Challenges and contradictions in creating classrooms as locations for active learning |

## Critical Pedagogy: Creatively Responding to Government Education Agendas - Session 2

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30 – 17:00

Room: Ramphal 3.41

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| Canaan, J. | Within, against and beyond the Neoliberal University: Reflections of a British Academic Activist |
| Shumar, W. | Critical Ethnography in the Neoliberal American University                                       |



# BSA Theory Study Group

## BSA Theory Study Group Annual Meeting

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 1.04

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## BSA Urban Theory and Research Study Group

These study group sessions aim to address key themes and challenges facing urban sociologists and researchers across disciplines in the 21st century. Following from critical debates at the turn of the millennium this session offers critical insight and debate into the changing state of urban studies.

### Critical and Complex Urban Studies: The State We're In

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30-13:00

Room: Ramphal 2.41

Convenor: Peter Rogers (MMU)

*Chris Allen* Urban renewal and the 'relevant' university: knowledge, power and partnership in the class remake of the city of culture

*David Byrne* The Complex Urban - urban systems as social and natural complex systems

*Paul Watt* TBC

### Meet and Greet and Roundtable Discussion Group:

#### 'Maintaining a critical edge in contemporary urban research'

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 2.41

Following from the papers, this session will be offered to all members of the study group, presenters at the conference and interested parties to take place in a guided discussion on key topics arising from the papers and Q&A session. This will also include a number of agreed discussion topics from the paper presenters. Confirmed participants in the discussion panel will be: David Byrne, Tom Slater, Chris Allen and Peter Rogers

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## BSA Violence Against Women Study Group

### BSA Violence Against Women Study Group Event

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 0.14

This meeting will provide a forum for group members attending the BSA Annual Conference to get together, present and discuss current research, discuss group member's conference papers and any other issues members want to bring to the group. It will also provide the opportunity for other women attending the conference who might be interested in the group to come along and see what we are about (the VAWSG is a women only space).

The session is intended to be fairly informal, relaxed and supportive and will involve presentations, discussion and networking.

# BSA Visual Sociology Study Group

## BSA Visual Sociology Study Group Panel

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 3.25

The aim of this event is to introduce BSA conference delegates to the rich world of visual methods in social research. Through interactive papers and workshops individuals will be able to discuss and explore the tools that visually orientated research methods offer. Furthermore, it offers a critical engagement for individuals already interested in visual methodologies with a wider sociological community.

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <i>O'Brian, V.</i>        | Everyday life in a Mountain Village: Using Participatory Video and Photography to Support Health and Community Development in Rural Kyrgyzstan |
| <i>Oldrup, H.</i>         | Getting closer... but to what kinds of experiences? Reflections on research process, images and social relations                               |
| <i>Sanderson-Mann, J.</i> | Seeing is believing? Space, photos and mothers   |
| <i>Hislam, S.</i>         | Adjusting the lens: A discussion of respondent produced photography within narrative inquiry   |
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## BSA Youth Study Group

### Researching Youth

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 0.03/4

This session is organised by the BSA's Youth Study Group and considers various methodological and ethical issues raised by the study of young people. It is comprised of three individual papers, which draw on original, empirical research to discuss some of the following issues: the use of participant observation with vulnerable groups of young people; how best to promote fully participative youth research; and the advantages and disadvantages of conducting focus groups with young people. In addition, the session offers an opportunity to find out more about the work of the Youth Study Group and meet some of its members.

**Session Chair:** Brooks, R.

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|-------------------------|--|
| <i>Rudoe, N.</i>        | Narratives of pregnancy: Participant observation with 16-18-year-old mothers to be   |
| <i>Merryweather, D.</i> | Trials and tribulations of conducting focus groups with young people                 |
| <i>James, N.</i>        | Ethical and methodological dilemmas in conducting research in young offenders' lives |

## SYMPOSIA AND PANELS

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### The Biological Challenge to the Social Sciences

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 0.03/4

This symposium will survey the challenges that the modern biological sciences pose to the social sciences. Fuller will introduce the topic from a historical perspective. Then Rees, Skinner and Scully will take up the challenges that biology pose specifically to gender, race and disability, respectively. They will especially consider the strategies that sociologists might use to become more effective public voices in these bio-social boundary wars. Runciman will sum up and comment on this discussion before opening it to the floor.

**Chair:** Runciman, W. G.

#### Speakers

<i>Fuller, S.</i>	The challenge of the neurosciences to sociology: The revival of 'social engineering'
<i>Rees, A.</i>	The biological challenge to the social sciences
<i>Skinner, D.</i>	Life Science, Social Science and 'The Public': Shifting Debates about Race and Biology
<i>Scully, J.L.</i>	The biological challenge to the social sciences

### Contemporary Ecotherapy in Action Workshop

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00 – 15:00

Room: Ramphal 0.14

There is a common set of goals inherent in health promotion, environmental health, sociology, urban planning, economics, conservation, environmental management and policy. Often the strongest common goal is the 'health of a whole ecosystem'. The social and sociological implications of the relationship between our human society and nature have often been neglected because each discipline may fall short from considering the opportunities for new and shared initiatives and collective strategies. Research into the use of ecotherapy has shaped information which goes far beyond the therapeutic setting and the benefits to the disadvantaged people who participate in it. The strongest element of this freshly applied model is the development of partnerships across disciplines which are inherent to health, education, but, most importantly, socio-political exchanges which challenge boundaries between the natural and the social and greatly contribute to addressing public health and our ecological predicament. The ecotherapeutic journey may commence from an alternative approach of recovery for the vulnerable individual, but it has been observed to develop into a multi-level, multifaceted social and sustainable journey of stewardship of natural places by those in our societies who would otherwise be excluded from being or becoming active agents of change and powerful role models. Such natural places become social worlds of experiences, creative applications and outcomes, harnessed across communities, which stimulate cross-discipline cooperation and yield advantages in terms of social capital, health capital, natural capital and economic capital. This interactive workshop, presents a short DVD of grassroots experiences, complemented by research findings.

**Session Organiser:** Burls, A.

# The Future of Feminist NatureCultures

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 14:00 – 15:30

Room: Ramphal 1.04

This panel explores recent feminist genealogies, focusing on the nature/culture dualism as a key trope in such narratives. It will argue that the 1980s and 1990s were a period of intense crisis for feminism that led to some crucial reformulations of feminist projects, but excluded and disavowed other possibilities. Some of the personal and political rifts this caused have yet to be healed or adequately examined. The centrality of the label 'essentialism' to these processes is symbolic of the abiding need for feminists to develop strategies for dealing with conflict that go beyond splitting and abjection.

We develop our argument through the lens of research on two very different feminist cultural interventions which persisted when hegemonic academic feminism insisted that their moment had passed. Feminist science fiction of the 1980s and 1990s continued to be useful to feminists who found the genre valuable for imagining socially transformed futures. Likewise, an eco/feminist peace camp persevered in practicing non-violent direct action in the 1990s despite claims of the end of feminist activism.

In both the novels and the direct action, linked dominations of nature, women, and other marked categories were critiqued and contested in ways that recognised the non-essential - indeed socially constructed and historically contingent - character of these categories. Nonetheless, in certain feminisms, these nuanced critiques have been caricatured as making naïve claims about women's natural affinity with nature and capacity for peaceful interaction. The panel will contest such reductive claims, unpack their rationales and suggest some directions for the future.

**Session Organiser:** Moore, N.

**Speakers:** Haran, J. Moore, N., Steinberg, D.L.

## Working in 'Nature': Understandings and Practices of Work

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 1.03

This session will address the ways in which people work with and against features that are (problematically) constituted as natural. The papers will consider different types of work or occupation in which 'nature' is seen to constitute a primary source of challenges and opportunities within the work process, such as gardening, seafaring, horticulture or firefighting. They will address the tractabilities and/or intractabilities of working in and with the natural order, and how this informs understandings and practices of work. The intention is to bring together existing ethnographic and case-study research from different researchers, and to use the opportunity of debate and comparison to address fresh questions about the social organisation and understanding of such work inspired by the conference theme. Our examples are currently drawn from varied forms of paid employment, but the scope could be extended to embrace unpaid work.

*"Framing" Marine and Coastal Pollution: The Seafarers' Case'*

Mohab Abou-Elkawam, University of Cardiff

*'Making Workers Deployable in the Face of 'Natural Hazards': the case of Firefighters in the US Forest Service'*

Matthew Desmond, University of Wisconsin-Madison

*'Mexican Immigrant Gardeners in Los Angeles: Cultivating Nature, Time and Work Discipline'*

Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, University of Southern California

*'Working With Flowers in Colombia: Exploring the Double Life of the Commodity'*

Gilma Madrid Berroterán, University of Warwick

*'The Risks of Work in the Maritime Industry: A Social or Natural Construction?'*

David Walters, University of Cardiff

# Society, Self and the Neurosciences: Sociological Agendas

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 0.03/4

The past two decades have witnessed significant developments in the neurosciences - a term that includes molecular neuroscience, psychiatric genetics, behavioural genetics, cognitive neuroscience, brain imaging and psychopharmacology. These developments carry profound implications for understandings and explanations of our selves, identities, minds, moods, memories, emotions, desires, behaviours (even our dreams) based on the brain and its neurochemistry, including novel neurotechnologies designed to study, diagnose, treat or enhance us.

This in turn raises a host of social, legal, ethical issues regarding individuals, institutions and society, including the contribution of the neurosciences and emerging neurotechnologies to changing ideas about normality and abnormality, health and illness, and what it means to be human. To date, however, there has been little sociological engagement with these developments in the new brain sciences.

The aim of this symposium is to foster discussion and debate about the social dimensions and implications of the neurosciences, with particular reference to sociological agendas in this rapidly evolving field.

**Co-Convenors:** Williams, S.J., Thrift, N.

*Martin, P.* Social science and the making of neuroscientific futures

*Rose, N.* Neuropolitics

*Fuller, S.* The 'challenge' of the neurosciences for sociology: The revival of 'social engineering'

*Watson, S.* The Idea of the Brain: Deleuze, neuroscience and the biology of 'control'

These presentations will be followed by open discussion amongst both speakers and the audience.

## The Sociology of Reproduction: The Return of the Political?

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00-11:00

Room: Ramphal 1.13

Is it time for a more unified approach to the sociology of reproduction? There tends to be a divergence between a focus on issues of health, illness, science and technology on the one hand, and a concern with analysing the moral politics of reproduction on the other. The former is common in Britain, whereas the latter is more characteristic of work in the US. This round-table discussion will critically reflect on the possible reasons for this divergence. Is the health orientation of British sociological analysis the result of the central role of the NHS in managing access to reproductive services? Are there broader questions to be explored concerning the role of the increasingly complex UK state in regulating reproduction? Has the influence of Foucault produced a concentration on analysing the 'micro-politics' of the clinic amongst sociologists in Britain? Can the more political approach more common in US studies be explained in terms of the status of religion in the country's culture and politics? Are there other trends in the sociology of reproduction that can be detected in other countries or regions? The discussion will consider the implications of this divergence for future research in the field.

Participants include Karen Throsby (Warwick), Ann-Marie Kramer (Warwick), Lisa Smyth (Belfast), Ruth Fletcher (Keele), Róisín Ryan-Flood (Essex). [Also provisionally Elizabeth Murphy (Nottingham)]

# My Space? Our Space? Your Space? Space, place and territory in young people's cultural identities

Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Ramphal 0.12

This session presents four linked papers exploring the significance of territorialized space (physical, virtual, imagined) in the formation of youth cultural identities. In so doing, it takes up one of the key tropes of early theories of 'youth subcultures' that has been neglected in recent discussions of 'postsubculturalism'. The papers by Back and Hodkinson discuss the appropriation and 'ownership' of space by young people; Back focuses upon how the 'colour-coded' nature of urban space constrains or enables young people's movement through it while Hodkinson traces the way in which territory is claimed and experienced on social networking sites and its implications for the patterns of communication and displays of identity between users. Papers by Back and Popov consider how particular territorial spaces ('Southall', 'Kuban') are ethnically/racially landscapes imprinted with power relations which young people must negotiate both physically and symbolically in their everyday cultural practices. Pilkington and Popov both explore the significance of 'place' in youth cultural identities in contemporary Russia although their papers reveal sharply contrasting engagements with the urban and natural landscape; while young Cossacks mobilise the imagined territory of the 'Kuban' in the assertion of multi-layered ethnic and regional identities, young people in the former Gulag city of Vorkuta retreat into, often ethnically exclusive, symbolic displays of the 'deviant' heritage of the city. All four papers employ an ethnographic approach while papers by Back and Pilkington engage directly with visual representations of space and place by respondents and researchers.

*Back, L.* Home from Home: Young people's landscapes of danger and safety

*Hodkinson, P.* MySpace or Our Space? Space and Identity of Social Networking Sites

*Pilkington, H.* The weight of the Vorkuta sky: Young people's visual and verbal articulations of 'place'

*Popov, A.* 'Roots' and Borders: Narratives of 'territory' in young Cossack identities

# Baldamus: Sociological theory and the sociology of work

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 0.12

2008 sees the centenary of the birth of Wilhelm 'Gi' Baldamus (1908-1991). An exile from Nazi Germany in the 1930s, Baldamus became a respected figure in British sociology from the 1950s to the 1980s. His *Efficiency and Effort* (1961) is still an important text in the sociology of work and industrial relations, and *The Structure of Sociological Inference* (1976) is a brilliant foray into little researched areas of the philosophy of the social sciences. His published and unpublished papers touched on a great many topics, from accident statistics to the social theory of Jürgen Habermas, from trivialisation effects in sociological research to early forms of network theory. To mark the centenary we propose two sessions, one on Baldamus and sociological theory, the other on Baldamus and the sociology of work; both sessions will feature formal papers that consider the impact and relevance of his work, but there will be ample opportunity for participants to reflect on Baldamus as a colleague and his contribution to sociology as a vocation.

**Speakers:** Eldridge, J., Erickson, M., Rex, J., Turner, C.

# Social Theory and Climate Change

The premise of these panels is that any adequate theoretical grasp of climate change as a socio-natural phenomenon has to be able to accommodate a number of different dimensions - the material dynamics of natural autopoietic systems, the technoeconomic dynamics that are both driving current energy use and will necessarily steer any transition to different patterns, and the cultural tropes which societies use to respond, or not respond, to climate change. In the panels, linked to a forthcoming special issue of *Theory, Culture and Society* on climate change, invited participants will present some of the most promising lines of contemporary social theoretical thought for understanding, and shaping adequate responses to, what is arguably the greatest challenge of the twenty first century.

ideas discussed will include:

- symbiogenesis and Gaia - how the biosphere can be understood as a highly complex system in homeostasis but vulnerable to irreversible disruption;
- technopolitics - the centrality to contemporary political economy of the shaping and optimising of technology's capacity to evolve
- complexity, adaptive systems and lock-in - how a sociology of the future might help engender a systemic shift to a more benign energy economy
- the politics of unsustainability - how a simulacrum cultural politics functions to deflect radical systemic change away from high energy use
- the sociology of knowledge - how scientific policy vocabularies around climate change limit the possibility of collective political agency

We are also inviting Nigel Clark (Open University) and Timmons Roberts (College of William and Mary) to participate in the panel.

## Social Theory and Climate Change I

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11:30-13:00

Room: Ramphal 3.25

*Yearley, S.*

Sociology and climate change before Kyoto II: Critical roles for the social sciences in understanding climate change and climate knowledge

*Clark, N.*

The ethics of abrupt climate change

*Wynne, B.*

Redefining the category of the natural as a waystation in(re?)engaging humans: deposing scientific singularity and its ambivalences

## Social Theory and Climate Change II

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 15:30-17:00

Room: Ramphal 3.25

*Szerszynski, B., Reynolds, L.*

Climate technics

*Urry, J.*

Complexity, adaptive systems and lock-in

*Hird, M.*

Symbiogenesis and Gaia

# Changing Bodies

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 – 11:00

Room: Social Studies 0.28

This panel explores the ways in which changing bodies - including both bodily processes of change, and purposeful attempts to change the body - are made sense of, and accounted for, across a range of different social and cultural contexts. The three papers in this panel address issues of embodiment which have significant social currency (obesity, cosmetic surgery and hormones) both within and outside of feminist writing, and which are highly contested sites of medical intervention, resistance and identity construction. The papers explore the ways in which particular readings of bodily change are made meaningful in specific contexts of time and location, and in relation to the dominant popular conceptualisations of those processes and practices of changing bodies.

## Speakers

Throsby, K. *'Seeing the life': testimony and evangelism in published weight loss autobiographies*

Gimlin, D. *National cultures repertoires and the 'problem' of cosmetic surgery*

# Teaching and Learning In and For a Complex world

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 09:00 - 11:00

Room: Teaching Grid, Library

This interactive symposium addresses the importance of university pedagogy in seeking to understand and engage critically in the complex moral, social and political questions of contemporary human society. The session is hosted by the Reinvention Centre for Undergraduate Research - a collaborative CETL based at the Universities of Warwick and Oxford Brookes. The Reinvention Centre embeds research-based learning into the curriculum and aims to integrate students into the research cultures of their subjects, departments and universities. Drawing together diverse multi-media case-studies from staff and students, including collaborative work, the session addresses the relationship between Sociology, and Teaching and Learning in HE.

An introduction by the Reinvention Centre is followed by a number of coterminous events located in different parts of the space. Delegates walk around and participate in them all. In diverse ways, the presentations all address the central concern outlined above. Moving in and between presentations is intended to generate dialogue and interaction. To end, the group reconvenes for facilitated discussion.

## Proposed presentations

Reinvention: a Journal of Undergraduate Research

Student/ staff collaboration presenting new peer-reviewed e-journal.

Teaching and Learning at Lincoln University

Students at Work: Learning to Labour in HE

Film showing and discussion on documentary produced by students, academic and support staff on relationship between HE and work.

Pedagogy, Art and Participation exhibition

Reinvention fellowships (staff/ students) at Warwick/ Oxford Brookes

Teaching in Public/ Public Sociology



# EXHIBITIONS

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## BSA Publishers' Exhibition

The publishers' exhibition is located in the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre. Stand staff will be available to speak with delegates for the duration of the conference.

### Exhibitors include:

- C-SAP (official sponsors of the BSA Conference Dinner)
- Sage Publications
- Taylor and Francis / Routledge
- Wiley Blackwell
- Cambridge University Press
- WW Norton & Company
- Palgrave Macmillan
- Oxford University Press
- The Edwin Mellen Press Ltd.
- The Policy Press
- McGraw Hill
- Ashgate Publishing
- The University Presses of California, Columbia & Princeton (unmanned stand)

<h3>Publishers' Reception</h3>
Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> March at 17:30-18:30      Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre

## EXHIBITIONS

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### **Natural Worlds Social Worlds Student Artwork Competition Exhibition**



**Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre**

Students were invited to explore the themes of the 2008 Annual Conference through the production of video and still photographic images.

The competition seeks to stimulate thinking about the possibilities of using digital visual media to capture or re-imagine the changes that are taking place and people's experience of them in everyday life. It aims to build on the increasing interest in visual sociology and debates about sociologists' use of visual methods to document and analyse social processes and institutions. In addition, the competition hopes to highlight the importance of the creative arts in shaping our understanding of changes in the relationship between nature and society.

Visual imagery responding to new challenges in the relation between natural and social worlds, and the ways it is imagined, will necessarily be diverse and multifaceted but might include, for instance, studies of the body and emotions that draw attention to the ways in which humans are of both culture and nature. Another area of emergent interest is how people relate to their immediate environments, and how they construct, experience or reshape the 'natural world' in different contexts. Work may address aspects of this relation in the past, in the present, or in an imagined future.

# EXHIBITIONS


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## BSA Eco-Environmental Exhibition

The Eco-Environmental exhibition will take place all day on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the foyer of the Ramphal building. The exhibition aims to reflect the conference theme of 'Social Worlds, Natural Worlds' and will feature various local groups with an interest in environmental and animal issues. By showcasing campaigning groups the exhibition attempts to forge links between sociological investigation of the natural and environmental activism. The exhibition will enable delegates to explore these issues further and gain information about how to get involved if they wish to. Each exhibiting group has been allocated a stall and display board, where you can read their literature, including details of their past and future events and talk to a member about their activities. Come along to find out more!

### **Exhibiting groups include:**

- Friends of the Earth Coventry
- Coventry Veggies/Vegans
- Coventry Free Cycle
- Coventry Cycling Campaign
- People and Planet (University of Warwick Student Society)
- Coventry Against Greyhound Exploitation Society



# The National Subject Network

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## for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics (C-SAP)

**C-SAP** is part of the Higher Education Academy and is based at the University of Birmingham. As the Centre for Sociology, Anthropology and Politics, C-SAP works in a variety of ways with staff and students in our and cognate disciplines to:

- Recognise innovative work and practice
- Develop a network of colleagues
- Provide an outlet for pedagogic practice
- Offer advice in a changing and challenging educational environment

## Sociology

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C-SAP seeks to foster a reflexive and scholarly approach to learning and teaching within Sociology. The centre was built on the success of previous development projects, including Co-Mentor, SSP2000, SIP (Sociologists in Placements) and CoBalt. We have created a network of sociologists interested in pedagogy and C-SAP and the BSA have developed two joint working groups for the teaching of 'Race' and Gender.

Joyce Canaan, Sociology Co-ordinator, would like to hear from anyone - students, teachers or researchers - who want to be involved with the centre and our work.

Joyce can be contacted through [enquiries@c-sap.bham.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@c-sap.bham.ac.uk) or on 0121 414 7919.



For information on upcoming events see:  
[www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/events/](http://www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk/events/)

Or for more information on our working groups and our resources visit us at:  
[www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk](http://www.c-sap.bham.ac.uk).

# Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

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## ***Animals in Human Societies*** ***Social Studies 0.10***

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|---------------------|---|
| <i>Twine, R</i>     | Critical Animal Studies, Posthumanism and the Sociological Imagination - To Describe, Prescribe, or What?                         |
| <i>Nimmo, R.</i>    | Auditing Nature, Enacting Culture: Rationalisation and Disciplinary Purification in Early Twentieth Century British Dairy Farming |
| <i>Gruffudd, P.</i> | On the prowl with the possum posse: nature and nation in Aotearoa/New Zealand   |

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## ***Cultural Constructions of Nature*** ***Ramphal 1.03***

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| <i>Moog, S.</i>   | Beyond the Great Divide? A Critique of Recent Efforts to Transcend the Nature/Culture Binary in the Work of Radical Ecologists and of Bruno Latour. |
| <i>Stingl, A.</i> | The constitutive/regulative difference in the history of German physiology, in American Sociology and in contemporary debates.                      |

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## ***Emotions and the Body*** ***Ramphal 0.14***

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| <i>Tonner, A.</i>   | Cook book choice a matter of self-identity   |
| <i>Higgins, V., Dale, A.</i>  | Ethnic differences in physical activity, diet and obesity: the research potential of the Health Survey for England |
| <i>Roberts, M., Backett-Milburn, K., Lawton, J., Mackinnon, D., Wills, W.</i> | Middle class parents' and young teenagers' conceptions of diet, weight and health                                  |

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## ***The Environment*** ***Ramphal 2.41***

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| <i>Mah, A.</i>   | The Toxic Legacies of Niagara Falls: Between Science and Society                                 |
| <i>Castán Broto, V., Carter, C., Elghali, L., Burningham, K.</i> | "Managing environmental pollution risks: multiple perspectives, one definition of the situation" |
| <i>Aldred, R., Woodcock, J.</i>                                  | Automobility and alienation: analysing motorised subjectivities and environments                 |

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## ***Government*** ***Ramphal 3.41***

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| <i>Coburn, E.</i>       | Relations of Ruling' in a Neoliberal World: Naturalizing Political Economy through Texts   |
| <i>Armstrong, J. E.</i> | Eroding the legitimacy of non-employment? The EU, gender equality and employment policy: a comparison of the UK and Republic of Ireland. |
| <i>Sayers, D.</i>       | Standardising Diversity: paradoxes and problems in the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages                              |

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<b>Open 1</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.13</b>
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<i>Karlsen, S., Nazroo, J. Y.</i>	Influences on a sense of 'Britishness' among different faith communities in England
<i>Buckman, S. K. N</i>	exploring the experiences of muslim family carers: a sociological perspective
<i>Carter, C. E.</i>	Identity, society and place in offender rehabilitation

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<b>Open 2</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.09</b>
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<i>Hines, S., Sanger, T.</i>	Transforming Bodies: Transgender Embodiment and the Limits of the Nature/Culture Dichotomy
<i>Richardson, D, Fay, M., Monro, S.</i>	Naturalising Difference; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equalities Initiatives in Local Government.
<i>Taylor, Y., Addison, M</i>	'From the coal face to the car park? Intersection of class and gender in the North East'

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Misztal, B.A.</i>	Mapping the conditions of human vulnerability
<i>Marshall, J, L</i>	Issues of 'Risk', 'Trust' and 'Choice' in relation to low-paid parents and the childcare dilemma

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.25</b>
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**Social theory and climate change I**

<i>Yearley, S.</i>	Sociology and climate change before Kyoto II: Critical roles for the social sciences in understanding climate change and climate knowledge
<i>Clark, N.</i>	The ethics of abrupt climate change
<i>Wynne, B.</i>	Redefining the category of the natural as a waystation in (re?)engaging humans: deposing scientific singularity and its ambivalences

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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**BSA West Midlands Medical Sociology Group Postgraduate Forum: Health, Well-being and Society Panel**

*Rayment, J.*  
*Wilson, C.*  
*Boardman, F.*  
*Blood, A.*

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.15</b>
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**Postgraduate Forum Session: Communicating Sociology**

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.12</b>
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**The BSA and Publishing: Hosted by the Publications Directors & Journal Editors**

## Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

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<b><i>Animals in Human Societies</i></b>	<b><i>Social Studies 0.10</i></b>
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| <i>Cole, M., Morgan, K.</i> | The language of diet and the suffering of nonhuman animals: promoting veganism through countering a discourse of asceticism |
| <i>Cudworth, E.</i>         | 'Most farmers prefer Blondes': entanglements of gender and nature in animals' becoming-meat                                 |

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<b><i>Cultural Constructions of Nature</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 1.03</i></b>
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| <i>Gislason, M.K.</i>             | Interviewing Trees: Reflections on the Sociological Imagination         |
| <i>Adams, M., Raisborough, J.</i> | Refetishising the 'reveal'? Fair trade and the sociological imagination |

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<b><i>The Environment</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 2.41</i></b>
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| <i>Thomas, F.</i>              | linking understandings and experiences of HIV/AIDS with the natural environment |
| <i>Hancock, P., Spicer, A.</i> | Landscaping the Library - Naturalisation in the Virtual Learning Space          |

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<b><i>Government</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 3.41</i></b>
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| <i>Marron, D.</i> | Credit, Consumption and Freedom |
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<b><i>Open 1</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 1.13</i></b>
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| <i>Yokoyama, K.</i>  | Neo-liberalism and social justice in English and Japanese higher education access                                   |
| <i>Undurraga, T.</i> | Chile faces the future: a study of the latent conflicts and prospects as seen by high-achieving young professionals |

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<b><i>Open 4</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 3.25</i></b>
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| <i>Omphornuwat, K.</i> | "Do I look good enough to work here?": Looking good practice as learning practice in the workplace                                 |
| <i>Griggs, G.</i>      | 'To be honest it seemed like a sport that had just been made up in a car park': Viewing the sporting landscape of Ultimate Frisbee |

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<b><i>Open 5</i></b>	<b><i>Social Studies 0.28</i></b>
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| <i>Gregory, H.</i>   | An Exploration of Local and Translocal Slam Poetry Communities  |
| <i>Carter, E. K.</i> | You sure you don't want to rat your mate out?: An empirical investigation into the officers' elicitation of confessions in the police interview |

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<b>Open 6</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.03/4</b>
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<i>Jones, S., Charles, N., Davies, C.</i>	Gender balance, political culture and working environment in the National Assembly for Wales
<i>Tyrie, J., Case, S.</i>	Gender and Rights: Young People's Access to their Entitlements in Wales

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Blencowe, C. P.</i>	Biology Beyond the Flesh: On the not-necessarily-corporeal conception of biology and life in Foucault and Arendt's theories of the biopolitical
<i>Amaral, A.</i>	Life as potentiality: between technoscience and messianism

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.14</b>
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**Contemporary ecotherapy in action workshop**

<i>Burls, A.</i>	Contemporary ecotherapy in action
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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.15</b>
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**What does the BSA do for its members?: Hosted by the Membership Services Directors**



## Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

<b><i>Animals in Human Societies</i></b>		<b><i>Social Studies 0.10</i></b>
<i>Hobson-West, P.</i>	Governing the laboratory animal	
<i>Peggs, K.</i>	A hostile world for nonhuman animals: human identification and the oppression of nonhuman animals for human good	
<i>Morgan, K., Cole, M.</i>	The Discursive Representation of Nonhuman Animals in a Culture of Denial	
<b><i>Biology</i></b>		<b><i>Ramphal 0.03/4</i></b>
<i>Beard, R. L.</i>	'We are not Alzheimer's!': Negotiating Biomedical Identities and Everyday Life with Memory Loss	
<i>Birch, K.</i>	Knowledge, Place and Power in Life Science Commodity Chains	
<i>Plows, A., Birch, K.</i>	the problematic framing of "biocitizens" in policy and biopolitical discourses	
<b><i>Cultural Constructions of Nature</i></b>		<b><i>Ramphal 1.03</i></b>
<i>Esseveld, J</i>	Women's Narratives on midlife & Medical Discourses on menopause	
<i>Hadfield, L.</i>	Natural or Normal?: Surrogacy, Anxiety and Becoming a Mother	
<i>Lowe, P, Lee, E</i>	Mothers' ruin? The construction of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome in the UK	
<b><i>Emotions and the Body</i></b>		<b><i>Ramphal 0.14</i></b>
<i>Palacios, M.</i>	Social Ties and Normative Commitment: A Study of the Effects of Individualization on Youth Behavior in Latin America	
<i>Bone, J</i>	The Social Map & The Demodernised Society	
<i>Lonie, D., West, P., Wilson, G.B</i>	Popular music and embodied emotion; the meeting point of structure and agency.	
<b><i>The Environment</i></b>		<b><i>Ramphal 2.41</i></b>
<i>Dickens, P.G.</i>	'Society, the Cosmos and Social Theory'	
<i>Shaw, C</i>	The measurement of disaster; facts, values and climate change	
<i>McLachlan, C.</i>	Stakeholder responses to wave and bio energy: symbolic (dis) harmonies	

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<b>Government</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.41</b>
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<i>Harwood, V.</i>	Youth citizenship in an age of bio-technical reproduction
<i>Behling, F.</i>	Approaches to Corporate Welfare and Empirical Evidences
<i>Holford, J.</i>	The Politics of Measurement: European Citizenship

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<b>Nature, Culture, Gender</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.09</b>
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<i>Dilley, R.</i>	Gender and the Climbing Body
<i>Woodward, K, Woodward, S.</i>	Dressed bodies and the problem of 'woman'
<i>Appleford, K</i>	Exploring the relationship between fashion, class and gender

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<b>Open 1</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.13</b>
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<i>Dorrer, N; Emond, R; Punch, S; McIntosh, I</i>	Children and food practices in residential care: tensions between home and institutional life.
<i>Macdonald, G.</i>	"Rhetoric or reality?: Children's voices in private family court proceedings involving domestic violence cases.
<i>Myers, M., McGhee, D., Bhopal, K.</i>	Gypsy Traveller Families in West Sussex: Ideas of Safety and Community

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<b>Open 5</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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<i>McGovern, P.</i>	"Back to Square One" - notes on the evolution of a heart disease self-help group
<i>Koteyko, N., Busby, H.</i>	Vital promises: Web advertising of novel 'health' products and services - probiotics and cord blood banking
<i>Lee, J. Y.</i>	'You tell me, am I healthy or not?': Korean woman immigrants' experience of health and illness in the UK

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Elder-Vass, D.</i>	From 'society' to intersecting communities
<i>Kemp, S.</i>	Is Complexity the 'Missing Link' Between the Social and Natural Domains?
<i>Rafanell, I.</i>	Feminism and the problematic body: the social construction of embodied sex identity

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.12</b>
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**Baldamus, Sociological Theory and the Sociology of Work**

*Eldridge, J., Erickson, M., Rex, J., Turner, C.*

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<b><i>Special Event</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 3.25</i></b>
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**Social theory and climate change II**

*Szerszynski, B., Reynolds, L*

Climate technics

*Urry, J.*

Complexity, adaptive systems and lock-in

*Hird, M.*

Symbiogenesis and Gaia

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<b><i>Special Event</i></b>	<b><i>Ramphal 1.15</i></b>
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**Grant Getting**

# Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00- 11:00

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## ***Animals in Human Societies*** ***Social Studies 0.10***

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<i>Nosworthy, C</i>	Embodying Horse-space: the spatial-temporal practice of horse-human interaction
<i>Molloy, C.</i>	Media constructions of dangerous dogs
<i>Gabb, J.</i>	The Boundaries of Intimacy: What Counts as an Intimate Relationship and Who's Counting?
<i>Charles, N., Davies, C.A.</i>	My family and other animals: pets as kin

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## ***Cultural Constructions of Nature*** ***Ramphal 1.03***

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<i>Parker, J., Stanworth, H.</i>	Still 'Born under Saturn'? Naturalist rhetoric and accounting for contemporary artistic commitment.
<i>Moffat, B., Johnson, J., Shoveller, J.</i>	A gateway to nature: Teenagers' use of marijuana outdoors
<i>Bailey, S</i>	Lost in translation? Psychiatric governance of the family
<i>French, M.</i>	Viruses: Virtual and Actual

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## ***Emotions and the Body*** ***Ramphal 0.14***

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<i>Brown, L</i>	"I remember very well this freeway used to look so long because you're so sweaty": Do (bodily) actions speak louder than words?
<i>Lyle, S.A</i>	Classed Embodiment Among New Graduates
<i>Finn, K.</i>	Emotions in Sociology: A Risky Business?
<i>Paton, K.</i>	Gentrifying Working Class Culture: Rethinking processes and effects of contemporary state-led gentrification

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## ***The Environment*** ***Ramphal 2.41***

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<i>Flynn, R., Bellaby, P., Ricci, M.</i>	'The Value-Action Gap in public attitudes to sustainable energy: the case of Hydrogen energy'
<i>Salehi, S.</i>	A Study of Factors Influencing Environmental Behaviour
<i>DeHanas, D. N.</i>	Broadcasting Green: Grassroots Environmentalism on Muslim Community Radio

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## ***Food*** ***Ramphal 0.12***

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<i>Tuomainen, HM.</i>	Taste vs. structure: the role of substitutes in Ghanaian food in London
<i>Warde, A.</i>	Globalization and food habits: a comparison of Britain and France

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<b>Open 1</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.13</b>
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<i>Rubtsova, A.</i>	Social Construction of Infant Feeding: The Role of Global Cultural Scripts
<i>Mason, J., Muir, S.</i>	Familiar f[r]ictions? living and narrating differences in family background
<i>Bell, A.J.S.</i>	For Better or For Worse? Married Couples' Experiences of the Changing Meanings of Marriage
<i>Murata, Y.</i>	Grandmothers Working in a Crèche: Motherhood, Generation and Nationalism in Japan

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<b>Open 2</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.09</b>
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<i>Hinterberger, A</i>	The genomics of difference: exploring the intersections between genomic and political understandings of race, ethnicity and populations
<i>Parker, D., Song, M.</i>	Ethnicity and New Media: Online Social Networks and the Expression of Collective Selfhood
<i>Rhodes, J.</i>	'Race' and Narratives of Social Change in a Northern Town
<i>Lusted, J.</i>	'It's in their make-up': 'Race', biology and culture in English 'grass roots' football

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<b>Research Methods</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.25</b>
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<i>Wilson, C., Brady, G., Letherby, G., Brown, G.</i>	Making a difference?: personal and political reflections on our experience of research with young parents
<i>Whiteman, N.</i>	The ethics of academics and avatars: exploring the ethics of the researcher/researched.
<i>Smith, R.J.</i>	Building Meanings; A multi-modal qualitative approach to understanding research settings.

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Ransome, P.E.</i>	The boundedness of the concept 'Society'
<i>O'Brien, K</i>	A Weberian approach to citizenship in a divided community
<i>Bertschi, S.</i>	Beyond 'sociological naturalism': Nothing new after Simmel and Weber?
<i>Demir, I.</i>	Trust Intersecting the Social and the Natural

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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**Changing Bodies**

<i>Gimlin, D</i>	National cultural repertoires and the "problem" of cosmetic surgery
<i>Throsby, K.</i>	"Seeing the lite": testimony and evangelism in published weight loss autobiographies.

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**Special Event**

**Ramphal 0.03/4**

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**Society, Self and the Neurosciences: Sociological Agendas**

*Williams, S.J. & Thrift, N*

*Martin, P.A.*

Social science and the making of neuroscientific futures

*Watson, S.*

The Idea of the Brain: Deleuze, neuroscience and the biology of 'control'

*Fuller, S.*

The challenge of the neurosciences to sociology: The revival of 'social engineering' (This abstract is prepared for the proposed Williams-Thrift Symposium on Society, Self and the Neurosciences: Sociological Agendas)

*Rose, N.*

Neuropolitics

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**Special Event**

**Teaching Grid, Library**

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**Teaching and Learning In and For a Complex World**

*Lambert, C., Neary, M., Gibson, C.,  
Simbuerger, E.*

Teaching and Learning In and For a Complex World

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**Special Event**

**Ramphal 1.15**

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**Early Career Publishing**

# Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

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## ***Animals in Human Societies*** ***Social Studies 0.10***

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|---|--|
| <i>Evans, A.B., Higgin M</i>            | Learning about animals: The multiple enactments of farm animal welfare within educational resources. |
| <i>Miele, M., Evans, A., Higgin, M.</i> | Assessing the quality of life of animals   |
| <i>Hodge, A.</i>                        | Farm Animal Welfare and Sustainability   |

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## ***Emotions and the Body*** ***Ramphal 0.14***

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| <i>Ettorre, E.</i>                    | 'Embodied deviance', pollution and reproductive loss: the shame of 'using women' |
| <i>Sheach Leith, V., Brownlie, J.</i> | 'Biobundle'? Locating the Infant Body in Sociological Research                   |
| <i>Perng, S.</i>                      | Circulating the body with digital tourist photographs                            |

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## ***Food*** ***Ramphal 0.12***

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|---|---|
| <i>Sharp, G</i>   | Mass catering, fast food and ecological troubles: the away from home eating choices of university students. |
| <i>Dowler, E., Kneafsey, M., Cox, R., Holloway, L., Venn, L., Tuomainen, H.</i> | 'Doing Food Differently': Reconnecting Biological And Social Relationships Through Care For Food            |

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## ***Methodological Issues*** ***Ramphal 3.25***

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- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <i>Lapping, C</i>      | The (Inter)Dependency of the Subject (and)on Social Regulations: Classed and Gendered Responses to the Institutional Authority of the University |
| <i>Smith, G. J. D.</i> | Rooms without doors? Researching 'closed settings' - getting in, getting out   |

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## ***Open 2*** ***Social Studies 0.09***

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|-----------------------|---|
| <i>Omelchenko, E.</i> | The paradoxes of 'straight' masculinity: Homoerótica + homophobia = masculine solidarity?                                       |
| <i>King, A.</i>       | "Are you really suggesting that all young people are gay?" Using Queer Theory to trouble the identification of young adulthood. |
| <i>Taylor, Y.</i>     | Methods and meeting points: intersections of class, gender and sexuality  |

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<b>Open 5</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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<i>McGrath, N</i>	A Sense of injustice: The significant of malodour as catalyst to grassroots environmental action
<i>Siara, B.</i>	Social movement "Poland is a woman" - a natural or cultural phenomenon?
<i>Weicht, B.</i>	The natural care relationship: A critical investigation of the construction of care as natural attachment

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Liu, S.</i>	The Interplay of Social Integration and System Integration in the Sociology of Bourdieu and Mannheim
<i>Cannon, B</i>	Towards the Discursive Reconciliation of 'Nature' and 'Society': Between Habermasian Objectivism and Rortian Ethnocentrism
<i>Cruickshank, J</i>	The use of natural science as an epistemic exemplar for social science

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 2.41</b>
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**BSA Urban Studies Study Group Event: Critical & Complex Urban Studies. The State we're in (1)**

<i>Byrne, D., Slater, T., Allen, C., Rogers, P.</i>	"Critical & Complex Urban Studies: The State We're in"
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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.41</b>
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**BSA Sociology of Education Study Group Event: Critical Pedagogy: Creatively Responding to Government Education Agendas (1)**

<i>Badcock, M.</i>	Crossing the border: The creative possibilities (and limits of critical pedagogies
<i>Cappel, C.</i>	'Can't you just tell us the answer?' Challenges and contradictions in creating classrooms as locations for active learning

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.03/4</b>
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**Postgraduate Forum Session: The PhD Viva**

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.15</b>
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**Media and Academic Dissemination**



# Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:00 - 15:30

<b>Posters Session</b>	<b>Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre</b>
<i>Butler, D.</i>	ethnographic study of apprenticeship in the horseracing industry
<i>Golian, Sh., Granyameh M., Mehran, A., Cheraghi, A.</i>	The relationship between total serum cholesterol changes and postpartum depression
<i>Hall, T.</i>	BSA Income and Expenditure
<i>Mikkelsen, M.R. , Christensen, P.</i>	Environmental barriers and motivations of children's mobility: negotiating spaces of risk, rules and emotions
<i>Moselmei, M., Rezaeepour A., Nickshekarinia F., Kazemnejad, A.</i>	
<i>Sanchez, I</i>	The impact of the antiwar movement in Spain 2001-2004
<i>Tyrie, J.</i>	National Evaluation of Extending Entitlement: Measuring Young Peoples Access to Rights.
<i>Wilkinson, C., Bultitude, K. Dawson, E.</i>	Talking Robots: Examining Public Engagement with emerging robotic technologies.
<i>Youssefi, F., Youssefi, A., Godarzi, Z., Vasegh Rahimparvar, F.</i>	Investigation of diabetic patients with chronic complications

# Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

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## **Open 1** **Ramphal 1.13**

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|------------------------------|--|
| <i>Mason, J., Davies, K.</i> | Personal Heritability and Everyday Life: theorising family resemblances                        |
| <i>Dewan, I.</i>             | Postmodernism, essentialism and individualism: mixed heritage women's perspectives on identity |
| <i>Curtis, B.</i>            | A role for public sociology in New Zealand?  |

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## **Special Event** **Social Studies 0.10**

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**Interdisciplinary Animal Human Study Group Panel Session.  
Crossing Boundaries: Animals and natural/social worlds**

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## **Special Event** **Ramphal 1.03**

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**Annual Meeting of the BSA Auto/Biography Study Group**

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## **Special Event** **Ramphal 3.41**

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**BSA Sociology of Education Study Group Event: Critical Pedagogy: Creatively Responding to Government Education Agendas (2)**

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|-------------------|--|
| <i>Canaan, J.</i> | Within, against and beyond the Neoliberal University: Reflections of a British Academic Activist |
| <i>Shumar, W.</i> | Critical Ethnography in the Neoliberal American University                                       |

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## **Special Event** **National Grid Room, Warwick Arts Centre**

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**BSA Family Study Group Event**

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## **Special Event** **Ramphal 0.12**

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**BSA Food Study Group 'Meet and greet' and AGM**

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## **Special Event** **Social Studies 0.09**

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**BSA Medical Sociology Group Panel: Bodies, Health and Social Theory** *Yuill, C. (Chair)*

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|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Jones, D.S.</i>            | Managing the Pregnant Body: An exploration into the cultural construction of risk-screening in pregnancy. |
| <i>Yuill, C., Crinson, I.</i> | Capitalism, Cortisol and the Bio-chemistry of Alienation.   |
| <i>Tulle, E.</i>              | Healthy ageing and sports participation: Bordieu and the cultural reconstruction of the natural body      |
| <i>Kirby, J.</i>              | Natural body, social mind: Have we utilised the full radical potential of G.H. Mead's thought?            |

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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**BSA Mental Health Group panel: Wellbeing and recovery: connecting natural and social worlds** *Lewis, L. (Chair)*

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|--|---|
| <i>Nee, J., Brady, E., Sheridan A.</i> | Reflections on a Randomised Controlled Trial of Supported Socialisation for People with Serious Mental Illness in Ireland |
| <i>Sempik, J.</i>                      | Therapeutic Gardens: exploring perceptions of nature and health   |

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.15</b>
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**BSA Sociology of Rights Study Group Event: Rethinking the Right to Education: A Sociological Analysis**

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|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>Karapehlivan Senel, F.</i> | Rethinking the Right to Education: A Sociological Analysis |
|-------------------------------|--|

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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**BSA Theory Study Group Annual Meeting**

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 2.41</b>
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**BSA Urban Studies Study Group Event: Critical & Complex Urban Studies. The State we're in (2)**

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|---|--|
| <i>Byrne, D., Slater, T., Allen, C., Rogers, P.</i> | "Critical & Complex Urban Studies: The State We're in" |
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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.25</b>
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**BSA Visual Sociology Study Group Event**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <i>O'Brian, V.</i>        | Everyday life in a Mountain Village: Using Participatory Video and Photography to Support Health and Community Development in Rural Kyrgyzstan |
| <i>Oldrup, H.</i>         | Getting closer... but to what kinds of experiences? Reflections on research process, images and social relations                               |
| <i>Sanderson-Mann, J.</i> | Seeing is believing? Space, photos and mothers   |
| <i>Hislam, S.</i>         | Adjusting the lens: A discussion of respondent produced photography within narrative inquiry   |

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.14</b>
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**BSA Violence Against Women Study Group Event**

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***Special Event***

***Ramphal 0.03/4***

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**BSA Youth Study Group Event: Researching Youth Brooks, R. (Chair)**

*Merryweather, D.*

Trials and tribulations of conducting focus group research with young people.

*Rudoe, N.*

Narratives of pregnancy: participant observation with 16-18-year-old mothers to be

*James, N.*

Ethical and Methodological dilemmas in conducting research in young offenders' lives

# Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

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## ***Animals in Human Societies*** ***Social Studies 0.10***

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<i>Higgin M, Evans, A.B., Miele, M.</i>	A Good Kill: socio-technical organisations of farm animal slaughter.
<i>Moles, K.</i>	The Illusion of Nature: Constructing, Taming and Authenticating the Natural
<i>Franklin, A.S.</i>	An improper nature: introduced animals and 'species cleansing' in Australia

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## ***Biotechnology*** ***Ramphal 2.41***

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<i>Horlick-Jones, T.</i>	Technology, materiality, sociality and practical reasoning: the 'signature' of GM crops and the limits of constructionism
<i>Reynolds, L</i>	Bifurcations and Recombinations of the Natural and the Social in the UK GMO Controversy'.
<i>Milne, R.J.</i>	Between Red and Green? Using molecular farming to understand the relationship between agricultural and medical biotechnologies
<i>West, R.</i>	A Critical Sociological Perspective on Developments in UK Nature Conservation

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## ***Emotions and the Body*** ***Ramphal 0.14***

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<i>Harper, S.</i>	"Shhhhhh! Granddad is sleeping!" Viewing the recently-dead in England and the United States
<i>Hockey, J., Clayden, A., Powell, M.</i>	Back to Nature? Conceptions, materialisations and experiences of natural burial
<i>Jenkins, T.</i>	"He certainly is not a museum object": The emerging cultural meanings of human remains to British museum professionals.
<i>Morgan, B</i>	The Fear of Death and the Midlife Crisis

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## ***Methodological Issues*** ***Ramphal 3.25***

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<i>Mahler, J.</i>	Lived Time as Real-Life Methodology
<i>Neale, B., Holland, J.</i>	Interpreting Lives through Time: Primary and Secondary analysis of Qualitative Longitudinal data
<i>Scourfield, J., Shiner, M., Fincham, B. and Langer, S.</i>	Gender and suicide across the life course: integrating qualitative and quantitative data

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<b>Open 5</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.28</b>
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<i>Roberts, T.</i>	Rational choice theory, partnerships and the management of marine resources: A case study of the management of European Marine Sites in the UK.
<i>Norstedt, M.</i>	Nature/culture in narratives concerning stroke - an institutional ethnography.
<i>Grundmann, R.</i>	Climate Change as a Challenge for Sociology
<i>Rozanova, J., McDaniel, S., Northcott, H., &amp; Keating, N.</i>	Social engagement of older rural Canadians: community culture matters

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<b>Public Sociology</b>	<b>Social Studies 0.09</b>
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<i>McLennan, G.</i>	The Dawkins Debate: where should sociologists stand?
<i>Simbuerger, E.</i>	Disciplining the discipline - sociology's complicity in constraining its most analytical voices and devaluing sociology's role in public discourse
<i>Crow, G., Takeda, N.</i>	'Head' and 'heart' in the evolving sociology of Ray Pahl
<i>Benton, T.</i>	Race, Sex and the Earthly Paradise: Wallace versus Darwin on Human Evolution

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<b>Teaching and Learning</b>	<b>Ramphal 3.41</b>
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<i>Braun, A.</i>	'The girls will assume you're a cow before you start' - Beginning Teachers' gendered classroom encounters
<i>Morton, R.</i>	Home Education: Constructions of Choice
<i>Dunn, Y</i>	Trends in political discourses around 'bad behaviour' in schools: the social justice implications.
<i>Eriksen, L.</i>	Classroom rituals of consensus and "us"

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<b>Theory</b>	<b>Ramphal 1.04</b>
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<i>Straw, D.</i>	Paradoxes of Emotion and Self-Interest: From Natural to Social in Human Rights Interdisciplinarity
<i>Walby, S.</i>	Theorising Violence
<i>Atkinson, W.</i>	Phenomenological Fine-Tunings: Enhancing the Bourdieusian Toolkit
<i>Newton, T.J.</i>	Beyond Anti-Dualism: Parallelism and Neuroscience

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<b>Special Event</b>	<b>Ramphal 0.03/4</b>
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**The biological challenge to the social sciences**

*Fuller, S., Rees, A., Skinner, D., Scully, J.L., Runciman, W.G.*    The biological challenge to the social sciences

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**Special Event**

**Ramphal 1.03**

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**Working in 'Nature': understandings and practices of work**

<i>Abou-Elkawam, M.</i>	"Framing" Marine and Coastal Pollution: The Seafarers' Case
<i>Desmond, M.</i>	Making Workers Deployable in the Face of 'Natural Hazards': the case of Firefighters in the US Forest Service
<i>Hondagneu-Sotelo, P.</i>	Mexican Immigrant Gardeners in Los Angeles: Cultivating Nature, Time and Work Discipline
<i>Berroterán, G.M.</i>	Working with Flowers in Colombia: Exploring the Double Life of the Commodity
<i>Walters, D.</i>	The Risks of Work in the Maritime Industry: A Social or Natural Construction?

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**Special Event**

**Ramphal 1.13**

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**The Sociology of Reproduction Event**

<i>Throsby, K., Kramer, A-M., Smyth, L., Fletcher, R., Ryan-Flood, R., Murphy, E.</i>	The Sociology of Reproduction: the return of the political?
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**Special Event**

**Ramphal 0.12**

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**My space? Your space? Our space? Space, place and territory in young people's cultural identities**

<i>Back, L.</i>	Home From Home: Young People's landscapes of Danger and Safety
<i>Hodkinson, P.</i>	MySpace or Our Space? Space and Identity on Social Networking Sites
<i>Pilkington, H.</i>	The weight of the Vorkuta sky: Young people's visual and verbal articulations of 'place'
<i>Popov, A.</i>	'Roots' and borders: narratives of 'territory' in young Cossack identities

# Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

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## **Biotechnology** **Ramphal 2.41**

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|---------------------------|---|
| Lahiri, A.                | Biotechnology and Neoliberalism                         |
| Ismail, T., Yousafzai, A. | Pakistan: status and constraints in plant biotechnology |

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## **Body** **Ramphal 0.03/4**

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| Bagnall, G.                        | The role of emotion, class and mobility in performing belonging and attachment to place |
| Maruyama, S.                       | How poor women have been constructed by welfare policy in Japan                         |
| Singleton, C., Green, E., Neil, B. | Emotional journeys: unemployed women's narratives of self, identity and trauma          |

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## **Cultural Constructions of Nature** **Ramphal 1.03**

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| Bhatti, M., Church, A.                           | Imagining the Garden (Exhibition)   |
| Claremont, A., Bhatti M., Church, A., Stenner, P | Close encounters of the natural kind: the ordinary natures of the domestic garden |
| Claremont, A.                                    | Mixing with the earth: Joy's gardening story.                                     |

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## **Emotions and the Body** **Ramphal 0.14**

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| Kurashima, A. | Body Techniques as Sensually Constructed: A Case Study of a Tai Chi Class in Manchester |
| Krpic, T.     | Your Body, My Pain  |

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## **Methodological Issues** **Ramphal 3.25**

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| Gruszczynska, A.          | Photo-elicitation in social movement research  |
| Hossen, A.M.              | Institutional Ethnography: A Method Of Studying The Coping Mechanism Of Natural Disaster |
| Raisborough, J., Adams, M | Making a difference: Ethical consumption 'in the round' of everyday lives                |

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## **Open 1** **Ramphal 1.13**

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| Jamieson, L., Wasoff, F. Simpson, R. | Solo Living in Early Adulthood: Social Integration, Quality of Life and Future Orientations |
| Ravenhill, R.                        | The Culture of homelessness: integration of members into mainstream society                 |
| Brooks, R., Waters, J.               | International higher education: young people's decisions to study abroad                    |

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## **Open 3** **Ramphal 0.12**

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| Wolkowitz, C. | Behind the Scenes at the Exhibition |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|



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***Special Event***

***Ramphal 1.04***

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**The Future of Feminist NatureCultures**

*Joan Haran (organiser/presenter),*      The Future of Feminist NatureCultures  
*Niamh Moore (organiser/presenter),*  
*Deborah Lynn Steinberg (discussant)*

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# PAPER ABSTRACTS

listed in alphabetical order of first author

**Adams, M., Raisborough, J**

**University of Brighton**

**Refetishising the 'reveal'? Fair trade and the sociological imagination**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

The sale of Fair Trade produce has enjoyed remarkable growth in Europe and North America in recent years. It is an important social phenomenon, touching on a range of important issues at the heart of sociology; yet to date, the discipline has had relatively little to say about the rise and rise of Fair Trade, or ethical consumption more broadly, despite promising developments in related fields. The paper offers a timely overview and critical appraisal of nascent sociological understandings of ethical consumption. It suggests a possible way forward is the application of the concept of commodity fetishism. On the one hand it is possible to conceive of the Fair Trade message as 'defetishising' commodity exchange: advocates argue that it 'reveals' the social relations of exchange, allowing effective action-at-a-distance to take place through enlightened consumption practices. Thus it is symptomatic of the positive dimensions of social change highlighted by Giddens as the dialectic of globalization. On the other hand, Fair Trade is said to rest on a particular articulation of ethics, using strategically mediated representations of for example the distinct and distant other, their natural environment and the normative ethical 'choices' of the consumer. Thus the mediation of Fair Trade could be argued to 'refetishise' the commodity in novel ways, suggesting a more complex sociological conceptualisation of the social space, relations and identifications associated with ethical consumption. The implications of these debates for the fair trade movement and social theoretical understandings of social justice will close the presentation.

**Aldred, R., Woodcock, J.**

**London School of Economics and Political Science**

**Automobility and alienation: analysing motorised subjectivities and environments**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

This paper updates and extends Andre Gorz' work on the "social ideology of the motorcar" in the context of continually increasing motorisation and environmental crises. Developing Gorz' concept of "radical dependency", we link this to Marx's fourfold definition of alienation (from the world around us, from other people, from the labour process, and from what we produce).

In many ways, the car is the ideal commodity, and we argue that motorisation produces distinctively new forms of alienation resting on specific forms of interaction between the "natural" and the "social". Mass motorisation has created and destroyed environments while producing novel transport-related subjectivities, abilities, and disabilities. As part of our analysis, we briefly critique the dominant sociological approach to automobilisation, which tends to separate the cultural from the environmental in focusing upon "car cultures". We believe that cultural, health, environmental, and economic aspects of motorised societies are inter-related and need to be analysed together, in order to understand what Henri Lefebvre has characterised as the shift from the industrial to the urban.

Like the editors of Sociological Review's special issue Against Automobility (2006), we argue that sociologists should attempt to imagine and make visible the immanent possibilities that exist for moving beyond automobility. Thus we conclude the paper by considering alternatives to motorised automobility and the diverse counter-ideologies and organisations that might support these, such as the social movements discussed in our forthcoming article Transport: Challenging Disabling Environments.

**Amaral, A.**

**Goldsmiths College, University of London**

**Life as potentiality: between technoscience and messianism**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

The current unfolding of cybernetics principles puts into question Agamben's analysis of the relationship between bare life and sovereignty. Two arguments make it possible to say so. Firstly, when studying the current reappearance of the state logic of emergency, Agamben seems unable to grasp the main dimension of the new rhetoric of biopower: the cybernetic grounds of the war on terror. Secondly, in his studies on the economy of affairs between the human and the non-human carried out by the Western tradition, he does not account for the phenomenon that is radically transforming such an economy of affairs, namely, nanotechnology's suspension of the opposition between the living and the non-living. In both cases a thought on potentiality is at the core of strategies of biopower and life regulation. I suggest that Agamben fails to grasp this shift on the grounds of biopower precisely because his own work is based on a thought on potentiality. If it is correct to say that the ideas of potentiality and immanence are crucial to Agamben's proposal for a coming philosophy, to what extent could one evaluate the critical role played out by his narrative when faced with the practices carried out by current technoscience, which are based on an immanent phenomenological access between organic and inorganic materials? This paper explores the points of convergence and divergence in the analysis of the relationship between Being and potentiality in Agamben's work, as well as from the perspective of technoscience.

**Appleford, K.**

**University of the Arts London**

**Exploring the relationship between fashion, class and gender**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Natural, Culture, Gender

Social Studies 0.09

In recent years class has re-emerged as a significant concept within British sociology (Savage, 2000; 2001). Though many accept that traditional class models, which differentiate solely on the basis of occupation, are somewhat limited (Crompton, 1993), it is argued that class distinctions through cultural practices and tastes persist, 'and have in many respects become sharper' (Scott, 2000:38 cited in Botterow, 2004: 988). Moreover, although it is often suggested that individuals are 'hesitant', 'defensive' and 'ambivalent' when discussing their own class position (Botterow, 2004; Savage et al., 2001; Southerton, 2002), class as a means of evaluating others 'is well understood' (Savage, 2000:11).

The aim of the paper is to examine the relationships between fashion, class and gender and to explore the role of fashion as a

means of class distinction, and draws on data from an ethnographic study of fashion and class amongst British women, which involved both interviewing and participant observation. Though historically the links between fashion, class and gender has been well documented (Prudy, 2004), in recent years their relationship has been somewhat neglected despite the argument that 'Clothes are one of the main ways... in which class is recognised' (Argyle, 1994:117; Lurie, 1992:117). Thus rather than using occupation as the basis for class evaluations, judgements are made on cultural practices, (Devine and Savage, 2000:194) and therefore it follows that dress forms part of this evaluation, as fashion is form of visual culture (Hollander, 1980:37).

**Armstrong, J. E.**

**Lancaster University**

**Eroding the legitimacy of non-employment? The EU, gender equality and employment policy: a comparison of the UK and Republic of Ireland.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

This paper addresses the relation between gender equality and recent employment policy as well as looking at the intersection of gender with social class. The focus is on the legitimacy of non-employment amongst single mothers and how this has been shifting over the past decade in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. These two countries are selected because of the contrasting histories of- and contexts for- women's participation in the labour market. Over the past decade, proposals aiming to increase the employment rate amongst single parents in both countries have met with varying responses from different groups (e.g. one parent family NGOs, the women's movement and religious groups). While some groups have argued that mothers of young children should not be coerced into the labour market, others object to the lack of childcare provision and the quality of employment on offer. The paper compares the policies and the responses in the two countries, exploring the differences and similarities within a framework provided by statistical data (e.g. on patterns of women's employment, childcare provision, investment in social expenditure). The questions considered include: what is the role of the European Union in these 'active labour market policies'; is the concern the non-employment of women or the high number of benefit claimants; and are these policies 'neo-liberal'? Through this analysis, the paper will engage with feminist debates concerning the meaning of gender equality, explore the role of employment policies in achieving equality, and will contribute to theories of intersectionality.

**Atkinson, W.**

**University of Bristol**

**Phenomenological Fine-Tunings: Enhancing the Bourdieusian Toolkit**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Pierre Bourdieu's theoretical system is amongst the most influential in sociology today and, in particular, has contributed to a recent revivification of class analysis. Given its many advances over alternative bodies of thought there is certainly good reason for this and, indeed, the baseline for this paper is a broad sympathy with the Bourdieusian apparatus. Yet it has not been without its critics, some of which have spotlighted real problems in Bourdieu's thought. In this paper I tackle two issues in particular broached by sympathetic and not-sympathetic commentators alike: the issue of individuation and the overly non-conscious depiction of the habitus and agency. In both cases the criticisms forwarded by others are found to be wanting when Bourdieu's writings are explored in depth, but at the same time in possession of a seed of truth also brought to light by qualitative research. In both cases a solution is proposed that exploits the links between Bourdieu's concepts and phenomenology, specifically the brand forwarded by Alfred Schutz rather than, as suggested by others, Heidegger or Merleau-Ponty. In the case of individuation, it is argued that the concept of lifeworld, conceived in a specific way, can be used to remedy the identified problems, whilst in the case of the habitus the contested concept is re-interpreted along the lines of the multi-layered stock of knowledge. Examples from my own ongoing qualitative research on class as well as Bourdieu's and other's research will illustrate the points made.

**Back, L.**

**Goldsmiths, University of London**

**Home From Home: Young People's landscapes of Danger and Safety**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.12

How do people - particularly the young - make cities a home? How are the spaces of the city marked by colour-coded exclusions and what are the risks involved in crossing its boundaries? Racism is by nature a spatial and territorial form of power. It aims to secure and claim native/white territory but it also projects associations on to space that in turn invests racial associations and attributes in places. Beneath the sign of places names like 'Brixton' or 'Handsworth' or 'Southall' are racial coded landscapes created as exotic or dangerous by turns that act like a kind of A-Z of racist geography (Keith 1993, 2003). In this sense racism draws a map, it creates places in the process of narrating them. This shading of place isn't simple or one-way alternative stories are told and in the process new maps of belonging, safety and risk are drawn. Neighbourhoods are thus made and re-made as stories are told about them. Franco Moretti points out "without a certain kind of space, a certain kind of story is simply impossible" (Moretti 1998: 100). These stories have consequences as they open up the social landscape and make potential action and behaviour possible. The aim of this paper is to interpret this process in contemporary London and listen in particular to the way young people represent and inhabit the spaces of the city.

**Badcock, M.**

**Birmingham City University**

**Crossing the Border: The Creative Possibilities (and Limits) of Critical Pedagogies**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.41

Although educators are increasingly being pushed towards the neo-liberal and privatising language, stances and practices of present day higher education, there remains the possibility of exploiting the often contradictory positions adopted by government policy and its various actors in order to develop progressive pedagogies and curricula. In this paper I want to explore how insights from border and cyborgian pedagogy (Giroux, 1991; McDowell, 1994; Haraway, 1988, 1997) can help to create new situated knowledges that rework conventional learning spaces and enable 'students' and educators to critically and collaboratively work together in building a more egalitarian and socially just world. Both pedagogies advocate that students need to write themselves, physically and literally, into the courses they follow. This could be through journal and autobiographical writing or student-led curricula design, for example, all approaches that try to bring about a more egalitarian approach to education that does not privilege one particular type of knowledge and which strives to encourage dialogue and empowerment. This paper will outline my experiences of trying to do this through two undergraduate modules – a second year course called Social Conflict and the City and a final year course, Sociology of the Internet – both of which draw on border and cyborgian pedagogy. In practical terms I suggest that although critical pedagogical approaches can be extremely successful in bringing about the types of learning they seek to facilitate, educators face a continuing challenge in confronting the increasing dislocation and instrumentality of students.

**Bagnall, G.**

**University of Salford**

**The role of emotion, class and mobility in performing belonging and attachment to place**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Body

Ramphal 0.03/4

This paper will explore the role of emotion in the discourses of belonging people draw upon to narrate and perform their attachment to the places where they live. It will suggest that such narratives and performances are differentiated by class identities and patterns of mobility. This can lead to differences in the emotional engagement people have with the places where they live and to a different emotional framing of a sense of belonging. The concept of 'elective belonging' has been used as a means to capture middle class attachment to place, where belonging is not to a fixed community, but instead is something that can be achieved. Key here is the idea that belonging is not linked to historical roots but rather people belong to a residential place because it is congruent with their life histories and situation. Individuals attach their own biography to their 'chosen' residence. It can be suggested that this enables people to both engage and disengage emotionally from the places where they live. Drawing upon evidence from work with working class mothers in Salford this paper will explore this class-differentiated form of emotional attachment to place. It will show that there are echoes of 'elective belonging' in the mother's narration of their connection to where they reside. Significantly, it will highlight that a key area of differentiation is between long term residents and recent migrants to the area.

**Bailey, S**

**University of Nottingham**

**Lost in translation? Psychiatric governance of the family**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

The influence of the western cultural discourses of bio-psychiatry, psychology and genetics within our everyday lives makes most distinctions between 'natural' and 'social' worlds highly problematic. Bodies and minds, as well as groupings of bodies and minds are largely understood through these social discourses, and it is likely they will have a great influence in constructions of identity, others and everyday realities. Data will be drawn from a case study of one family's journey into psychiatric discourse, collected as part of a doctoral project on Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). The case study is based on interviews and the analysis of various documents, including clinical notes, diaries and letters, and tells the story of a mother and son within the psycho-educational discourse on behavioural disorder. Through such discourses, the family is persistently recast as at fault, and parents are encouraged to think of children in terms of biological deficit and the visible signs of it in the everyday interactions of school and family. I will argue that the influence of such discourses has been made possible by the distribution of power relations through our social institutions, and through social governance according to the analysis of risk. Such preoccupations may represent a significant threat to the idea of human agency and to the continued use of the word 'natural' in scholarly discourse.

**Beard, R. L.**

**University of Illinois at Chicago**

**'We are not Alzheimer's!': Negotiating Biomedical Identities and Everyday Life with Memory Loss**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Biology

Ramphal 0.03/4

Being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease marks a status passage legitimating the incorporation of memory loss experiences into daily life. Based on interviews with diagnosed seniors, we examine the mechanisms through which an Alzheimer's label, as a biomedical technology, is employed to normalize memory difficulties, to justify inappropriate behaviors, and to garner support when deemed necessary, while simultaneously combating the associated demented "master status". For diagnosed individuals, the transition from experience to symptom requires a redefinition of everyday forgetfulness as a problem. That is, respondents did not instinctively perceive their experiences as pathological but rather were socialized into viewing what were previously considered normal, age-related memory lapses as symbolic of disease. Since the social disenfranchisement potentially accompanying a diagnosis of dementia transforms forgetful older adults into "Alzheimer's patients", the conditions associated with an Alzheimer's label create consequences whereby diagnosed individuals need to manage not only the manifestations of their disease, but must also negotiate their interactions and identities. Their adaptation to the "symptoms" of memory loss and resultant social relations can be seen as a new interactional strategy whereby diagnosis becomes a resource utilized to get through the day. Rather than being passive recipients of a biomedical diagnosis, respondents employed the label both as a resource and as something that needed to be incorporated into everyday life.

**Behling, F.**

**University of Essex**

**Approaches to Corporate Welfare and Empirical Evidences**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

In the past years, globalisation and neoliberalism fundamentally reconfigured relations between economy, society and state. Especially for welfare, this means increased demands for complementary and alternative options to traditional governmental provisions. One possibility is corporate welfare. Companies are a crucial component of society and influence many aspects. They can determine a nation's as well as person's wealth. Corporate welfare, it will be argued, subsumes and defines such activities that enhance and secure the wellbeing of employees. Wellbeing will be understood in very broad terms comprehending psychological, socio-psychological, and physiological issues of an employee's life. This broad definition, firstly, is possible as corporate welfare situates itself at the intersection of economy, state and society. Secondly, corporate welfare concentrates on a smaller number of welfare recipients than states do and, hence, can provide different and more individualised benefits.

In my paper, I will briefly outline the theoretical conception of corporate welfare and present empirical results from various surveys on work and related job satisfaction such as WERS 2004 or Eurobarometer 44.2 "Working Conditions in the EU." Aspects of corporate welfare and measures to enhance employees' wellbeing will become clear with using these datasets. It will evolve the simplicity and feasibility of corporate welfare programs, as non-monetary and voluntary implementations such as honesty or flexible job design are the greatest contributing factors to wellbeing. On the basis of these analyses, I will try to assess the possibility of positioning corporate welfare as an complementary and alternative option to traditional welfare states.

**Bell, A.J.S.**

**University of Edinburgh**

**For Better or For Worse? Married Couples' Experiences of the Changing Meanings of Marriage**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

The sociological and lay meanings of marriage appear to have changed from a companionate, economic relationship in the late '50s to an egalitarian relationship based upon intimacy in the modern day. This paper draws upon interviews with married couples of at least 15 years standing to explore the extent to which this conceptualisation of marriage is reflected in their lived experiences. The research does not find a strong case for suggesting that this shift is incorporated into existing couples' accounts of their relationships. Instead, couples' accounts tend to suggest that they "crystallise" their relationship at the point of marriage, and this form then tends to be seen as enduring. All couples showed some awareness of the cultural shift in relationships since their own marriage, although this was only used as a negative against which the features of their own relationships could be justified. However, younger couples did tend to show less unequal gender roles, and had a higher level of expectations of equality in their relationships. None the less, younger couples did not appear to be moving towards an "intimate" relationship type, instead they showed similar companionate and interdependent relationships as the older couples. Couples also stressed the levels of expectation in modern marriage as being unsustainably high as compared to their own expectations and experiences. These data require existing theorising to be interrogated closely to create a more grounded understanding of couple relationships.

**Benton, T.**

**University of Essex**

**Race, Sex and the Earthly Paradise: Wallace versus Darwin on Human Evolution**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Public Sociology

Social Studies 0.09

Wallace is at last recognised by current historians of science for his independent discovery of the mechanism of organic evolution. A convinced socialist and religious sceptic from his early days he was an important ally of Darwin and Huxley in the fight against both scientific and religious orthodoxy. However, from the late 1860s a deep division surfaced between Wallace and his former allies on the question of human origins and nature. Wallace's anti-naturalism was associated with his conversion to spiritualism as well as his increasingly vocal engagement in the progressive politics of his day. But what of Darwin's thoroughgoing naturalism? Could it be that it, paradoxically, has more to offer to the progressive politics of our own time?

**Bertschi, S.**

**University of Zurich**

**Beyond 'sociological naturalism': Nothing new after Simmel and Weber?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Georg Simmel's notable paper 'How is society possible?' opens with Kant's question about the possibility of nature. Previously, 'society' was modelled on natural facts, leading to Emile Durkheim's so-called 'sociological naturalism'. About two decades later, Max Weber, in his own words, buried the primordial naturalism by a flood wave of symbolic action. What opposes these sociologists is the way they handle 'society'. Whereas Durkheim created it as a social organism and the discipline's basic concept, the two German scholars contest its status and avoid using the term. Instead, Simmel and Weber offer distinct conceptions of 'sociation' and 'meaning' which can be used to differentiate between nature and the social. Derived from these classical theories, two questions arise: 'how are nature and society possible?' and 'is there anything new after Simmel and Weber?' In order to approach the second question, two current conceptions are delved into: Jeffrey Alexander's cultural sociology and Bruno Latour's actor-network-theory both aim to explain the social. In this paper it is argued whether these sociologies have achieved any considerable progress since Simmel and Weber's conceptions. Such a comparison seems promising. This might hold especially true for the theoretical boundary of nature and the social and thus have implications on its contemporary understanding.

**Bhatti, M., Church, A.**

**University of Brighton**

**Imagining the Garden**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

Part of an AHRC-funded project at the University of Brighton, this show offers snapshots of domestic gardens all over Britain, with visuals and text to help make sense of why gardens are such beloved spots in both the imagination and at home in our everyday lives. The displays take viewers into other people's gardens. How people write about and picture their own gardens gives valuable insights into the relationships people have with one of their closest and most intimate environments. Where are the people in these gardens? Who made them? Do we need gardens for contented, sustainable urban living? Does what people say about their gardens change how we view them? Is there a difference in how men and women write about and work in their gardens? Members of the project team will be available to talk about the research and to invite the audience to contribute.

**Birch, K.**

**University of Glasgow**

**Knowledge, Place and Power in Life Science Commodity Chains**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Biology

Ramphal 0.03/4

The aim of this paper is to conceptualise how the bioeconomy - as it is increasingly known - enables actors to capture value from biotechnology as a consequence of horizontal and vertical knowledge relationships between diverse social actors. Such knowledge interactions are not only mediated by place and scale, but also embed place and scale through the construction of particular knowledges. By drawing on research and theories in economic sociology (e.g. global commodity chains), anthropology (e.g. social life of things) and economic geography (e.g. culture circuit of capital) this paper will consider how the bioeconomy consists of different types of market existing at different scales and providing different advantages as a consequence. Thus iterative knowledge production from horizontal, localised relationships and standardised knowledge production from vertical, globalised relationships necessitate alliance-driven governance and co-ordination along life science commodity chains. Local practices embed knowledge in place, whilst global discourse embed place in knowledge meaning that the capture of value from biotechnology is contingent upon not only the ability to access tacit, face-to-face knowledge, but also the ability to influence social and symbolic values. In conceptualising this dual process, this paper will build upon go beyond the limitations of the existing locally-bounded perspectives represented by cluster, regional innovation system and network theories. In so doing the paper will draw on new research on the network relationships in the Scottish life science sector.



**Blencowe, C P**

**University of Bristol**

**Biology Beyond the Flesh: On the not-necessarily-corporeal conception of biology and life in Foucault and Arendt's theories of the biopolitical**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Drawing upon Michel Foucault and Hannah Arendt this paper investigates the idea of 'life' as it was articulated with the emergence of modern biology and biopolitics. The common equation of the living and the biological with the somatic or corporeal is, I argue, too general and too specific at the same time. It is too general in the sense that it fails to differentiate between biology and natural history, and thus between the bio- and the anatomo-political. It is too specific in that it ignores the operation of biopolitical ideas and technologies in domains concerned with culture and meaning. The life of biology and biopolitics is specifically a quasi-transcendent life force that is emancipated from being, and exists as an inter-individual, perpetual process of creation/destruction - being part of a living population or species is not simply being a living body but is being (becoming) invested in quasi-transcendent dynamics of nature. The politics of life itself should, as such, be as much about specific forms of temporality and relationality as it is specifically about bodies and corporeal process.

**Bone, J.**

**University of Aberdeen**

**The Social Map & The Demodernised Society**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This paper applies a recent theoretical perspective on the individual/society relationship, the 'Social Map', to a companion thesis on contemporary demodernisation, with the aim of offering an alternative analysis with respect to Sociology's current understanding of the nature, character and direction and implications of contemporary socio-economic development (Bone, 2005; Bone 2006).

With respect to the 'Social Map', this model represents an attempt to transcend the nature/social boundary by integrating sociological schema with recent knowledge emerging from contemporary neuroscience in the formulation of a non-deterministic, co-constructionist model of social processes (Bone, 2005: 2006). As such this theoretical model attempts to reintegrate the natural with the cultural in our conceptualisation of the individual and society relationship.

This perspective, in turn, informs an alternative vision of the nature and direction of the social and economic development that has been experienced in developed economies since the onset of modernity, arguing that the latter has been supplanted, not by the much proclaimed postmodern society, but by a regression into what can be more accurately described as a condition of 'demodernisation' (Bone, 2006).

When these complementary models are taken together they present a framework that strongly implies that the current trajectory of neo-liberal led globalization has disrupted and put into reverse the 'ordering' principles of modernity - that, in a sense, were representative of a 'natural' progression in socio-economic relations - with, potentially, severe consequences for personal, emotional, communal and societal well being and stability.

**Braun, A.**

**Institute of Education**

**'The girls will assume you're a cow before you start' - Beginning Teachers' gendered classroom encounters**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Teaching and Learning

Ramphal 3.41

This paper examines Beginning Teachers' accounts of their school experiences during teacher training, specifically the dynamics of cultured interpretations and reinterpretations of classroom actions where gendered identities are a widely employed currency.

The paper draws on in-depth interviews with 32 secondary PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate of Education) students conducted in

2005/06 across four London teacher training institutions and forms part of a study on biographical pathways into teaching and the gender and intersecting subject positions in graduates' personal journeys to becoming teachers. The classroom episodes and school encounters reported and interpreted by interviewees reveal multi-directional processes of gendered inscriptions (of and by pupils as well as of and by student teachers). Drawing on sociological literature on gendered agency and performativity and girls' cultural and social identities in schools for the analysis, my particular focus in this paper is on female teachers and pupils, in particular, the pervasive and often derogatory gender-stereotypes with which they interpret the actions of other women and with which their own actions are interpreted. These dynamics interact with social class to form a complex struggle for supremacy and power over who rules the classroom, student teacher or pupil.

**Brooks, R., Waters, J.**

**University of Surrey**

**International higher education: young people's decisions to study abroad**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Recent years have witnessed a significant growth in the literature on international higher education, prompted by the rising number of students who are choosing to study outside of their home country, and the increasingly aggressive marketing strategies of universities within overseas markets. However, this research has typically focussed on the choices and experiences of non-UK nationals, rather than those of British students studying overseas. Indeed, very little attention has been paid to students who move from highly developed, English speaking countries to pursue their studies overseas. This paper addresses this omission through an examination of the motivations of the increasing numbers of UK students and graduates who choose, or have chosen, to attend a foreign educational institution.

Drawing on data from 80 young adults who have either returned from a period of study abroad, or who are seriously considering it in the near future, we consider the extent to which a decision to pursue an undergraduate or postgraduate degree abroad is motivated by a desire to gain positional advantage within a mass higher education system and/or a congested graduate labour market. In addition, we will explore whether such a decision can be linked to the development of what Sklair (2001) calls a 'transnational capitalist class' and an increasingly global perspective on the part of some privileged young adults.

**Brown, L.**

**"I remember very well this freeway used to look so long because you're so sweaty": Do (bodily) actions speak louder than words?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Existing racial formations comprise embodied racial practices and racist talk therefore one way to productively challenge racially elusive 'social facts' is to work at this juncture of bodily and discursive practices, recognising that they are historically and dialectically articulated (Durrheim and Dixon, 2005). In an effort to theorise the intricacies of this articulation, and its impact on the racialisation of sociality and subjectivity, I participated in, and analysed, a series of 'mobile conversations' about race with local government officials, digitally recorded as we walked and/or drove through the 'racially transformed' city of Durban. What has become analytically apparent to me is that (articulated) embodied and linguistic practices produced our subjectivity through (at least) three different intersubjective 'frames', that is, through distant memory-stories about our historical engagement with the city; through the close memory-stories about contemporary practices in the city; and through the immediate dyadic interactive practices between us. This presentation will focus on these diverse embodied and discursive practices with which we 'perform' race and continue to construct our racialised subjectivities.

**Buckman, S. K. N.**

**University of Nottingham**

**Exploring the experiences of muslim family carers: a sociological perspective**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Over the past two decades, much attention has been given to the study of family members providing informal care for chronically ill or disabled relatives. Research suggests that carer experiences are dependent on a number of factors including gender, age, culture and religion. However, in spite of there being a significant Muslim population in Britain, issues surrounding Muslim family carers remain relatively underexplored.

My research focuses on the religious aspects of a Muslim carer's life and how it influences their approaches to caring and coping, how they view state services such as the NHS and how they relate to other support networks such as friends, family and the Mosque. Although the majority of my interviews were with Muslim carers, I also interviewed a number of professionals, both Muslim and non-Muslim, including a doctor, chaplain, social worker, various bi-lingual support workers, carer group leaders and an Imam.

Preliminary findings show that most carers are satisfied with the medical care that they receive. However, due to some negative experiences, carers of children with learning disabilities are wary of accessing respite services and education. Concerns include their child consuming non-Halal food and alcohol, being involved in mixed gender groups, and losing their religious identity.

This presentation will provide an overview of the research, addressing issues arising from the preliminary analysis of data. It will also discuss the issues faced when accessing a sensitive sample and the impact of the researcher as a religious and cultural outsider.

**Canaan, J.E.**

**Birmingham City University**

**Within, against and beyond the Neoliberal University: Reflections of a British Academic Activist**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.41

As Higher Education (HE) is being restructured globally according to the logic of neo-liberalism, a small and growing proportion of progressive academics are responding with much more than disaffection to our worsening resources, conditions and pay as well as to those of our students. Some of us are now working within and against the neo-liberal university, seeking to rework learning, teaching and the conditions students and tutors face today. We believe that this work offers, amongst other things, new ways of negotiating learning and teaching with students that enable greater student and lecturer engagement—with learning, teaching and each other. However, such work has political limits as the current HE system (still) allows pockets of resistance at the level of individual lecturers/students or departments, as long as they are not too disruptive or challenging.

The proposed paper focuses instead upon some initial attempts to move beyond the neo-liberal university. It examines a new collaborative dialogue being created between academic activists from the UK and Venezuela using critical pedagogy/popular education and cultural workers from the UK, Canada and Venezuela utilising popular education in productions. The paper demonstrates, using video extracts from a documentary that a Venezuelan popular educator, Edenis Guilarte, and I, are creating, and reflections on our discussions as we make this documentary, some strategies for developing practices that might more radically re-form the university.

**Cannon, B.**

**University of East London**

**Towards the Discursive Reconciliation of 'Nature' and 'Society': Between Habermasian Objectivism and Rortian Ethnocentrism**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

It is widely agreed that the opposition between 'society' and 'nature' calls for their reconciliation. But this is difficult to achieve without privileging one over the other. If 'social constructionism' threatens the theoretical rationality (objectivity) of natural science, then 'positivism' threatens the practical rationality (autonomy) of modern agents. In response, Jürgen Habermas argues that the two approaches combine in the discursive redemption of validity claims. From this perspective, an objective knowledge claim about the 'independent' natural world is 'dependent' upon intersubjective agreement in the social world. This intrudes a dialogical dimension into the social/natural divide, which is not only practically and socially but also normatively constituted. Nevertheless, Habermas retains an 'objective' (context-bursting) account of the world in opposition to the 'sociological' (context-dependent) approach to justification advocated by Richard Rorty. In this paper I want to explore this tension in relation to the norms governing 'rational' debate. These state that for a rule to be valid it must secure the uncoerced agreement of those to whom it applies. While Rorty's account of rational debate buys conformity to these norms at the cost of 'ethnocentrism', Habermas buys objectivity at the cost of violating them. Similarly, critical realism employs 'transcendental arguments' to generate mandatory propositions concerning both (a) the structure of reality and (b) the rules governing rational practice. Does that mean we can only prevent the slide to relativism by perpetuating an authoritarian account of rational justification? Or can the latter be reformulated to avoid ethnocentrism and authoritarianism?

**Cappel, C.**

**Kingston University**

**'Can't you just tell us the answer?' Challenges and Contradictions in creating classrooms as locations for active learning**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.41

This paper is work in progress inspired by educators such as bell hooks and Paulo Freire. It highlights the challenges and contradictions in maintaining more traditional forms of teaching predicated on 'banking' models of learning - where students just want to be given answers - and the development of curricula and pedagogies that encourage active participation and engagement.

bell hooks (2003) underscores the importance of creating learning communities where lecturers and students work together in partnership to enable students to create environments where they take responsibility for their learning. In this way, hooks argues, the boundaries of learning are pushed/challenged, and the classroom becomes a place that is 'life sustaining and mind expanding'. But how achievable are such goals in an education system increasingly characterised by an instrumentalist ethos, where students are encouraged to see themselves as consumers and therefore want answers rather than active engagement?

The paper outlines the practical attempts taken to redevelop a second year criminology module to encourage active student engagement and creative critical thinking through the exploration of race, class and gender as they relate to interpersonal violence. Using a reflexive lens the paper sets out the potential clashes between theory and practice as students attempt to hold onto the safety and security of banking models of knowledge acquisition, and lecturers try to introduce less formulaic forms of learning based on pedagogies of hope, liberation and empowerment.

**References**

bell hooks. (1994) *Teaching to Transgress*, Routledge:London;New York

bell hooks. (2003) *Teaching Community: A Pedagogy of Hope*, Routledge:London;New York

**Carter, C. E.**

**Forest Research**

**Identity, society and place in offender rehabilitation**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

For some offenders, either during probation or near the end of their prison sentence, contact with nature and working with people in forest and conservation management offers a critical element in helping them find a future away from crime and substance abuse. Inspired by seeing real differences in rehabilitation through such 'Offenders and Nature schemes', research is in progress to better understand what makes them work well and why and how to develop the programmes. Offender rehabilitation here is viewed not just as an individual journey away from criminal activity but as a social process of accommodating and facilitating processes that are positive for individuals, society and the environment - it is about (re-)connecting within and between these spheres. Attention is paid to how offenders perceive themselves, and how they are perceived by others; what identities get constructed and reconstructed or assigned/withdrawn? How is rehabilitation affected by the way offenders are managed, society's (dis-)engagement and the presence/absence of 'neutral' green spaces? Ethnographic research is planned to address these issues from different perspectives (offender, offender manager, policy advisor, citizen). The focus of this paper is to present a conceptual framework for researching and evaluating Offenders and Nature schemes, that is mindful of these issues, drawing on insights/work from several disciplines, including sociology, criminology, geography and psychology. While considering underlying causes of offending, the aim is to be forward-looking, to focus on what helps kindle and restore connections that are fundamental to individual and social well-being.

Carter, E. K.

University of Essex

**You sure you don't want to rat your mate out?: An empirical investigation into the officers' elicitation of confessions in the police interview**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

Using extracts from taped UK police interviews, this conversation analytic research explores the officers' elicitation of confessions from suspects. Common misconceptions of the confession, such as their frequency and the ease at which they can be procured, shared by many law enforcers, the media, criminologists and lay people, are juxtaposed with the reality of the police interview confession. The use of a conversation analytic approach enables a real-time exploration of the composition of the elicitation of the confession by using a line-by-line analysis of the interaction prior to its eventual production. This empirical analysis of the interaction-in-action provides distinctive and detailed insights into the exchanges in this particular facet of the police interview by uncovering the officers' and suspects' construction and negotiation of the successful production of a confession. It identifies both similarities to and differences from the techniques suggested in training manuals and research into this aspect of the police interview, and reveals how confessions are elicited from the suspect through the officers' systematic use of knowledge claims and minimisation techniques in the turns immediately prior to the confession. Knowledge claims are shown in the officers' references to witness or victim statements as external sources of information that conflict with the suspects' version of events, whilst minimisation is seen in the officer's attempts to reduce the perceived seriousness of the crime, or in offering potential justifications for its committal. Both are identified as ways in which the officer creates an interactional environment in which the suspect can confess.

Castán Broto, V., Carter, C., Elghali, L., Burningham, K.

Forest Research

**"Managing environmental pollution risks: multiple perspectives, one definition of the situation"**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Social constructionism has made important contributions to environmental sociology demonstrating that multiple valid perspectives may simultaneously explain an environmental problem. What eventually determines the actions adopted is unclear: are they the result of the struggle between different perspectives or the product of one single view on the environmental problem that has succeed in silencing other actors imposing a 'definition of the situation'? Social constructionism can bring different perspectives into environmental decision making; moreover, social constructionism may help unveil the mechanisms through which a particular 'definition of the situation' prevails.

In particular, this paper, examines what and whose 'definition(s) of the situation' prevail in the management of environmental pollution problems using a case study of coal ash pollution in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The approach includes a critical examination of the EU funded project, RECOAL, whose remit was to develop sustainable solutions to manage the remediation of coal ash disposal sites in the Western Balkans. Qualitative research was carried out to describe both the local perspectives on coal ash pollution and the perspectives of the researchers involved in the project. Interviews among local inhabitants documented the presence of fears among the local population, although their accounts of pollution appeared to be heterogeneous and contradictory. Lack of evidence about these fears prevents them from being acknowledged within the current 'definition of the situation'. As a result, some local views are excluded from the research focus and overall policy process, creating local unease and distrust of the governance system.

**Charles, N., Davies, C.A.**

**University of Warwick**

**My family and other animals: pets as kin**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

This title (apologies to Gerald Durrell) gives a family-like character to animals and an animal-like character to family – it ignores the human-animal distinction. Similarly, Donna Haraway deconstructs the binary which separates nature and culture, eliding them as natureculture. Both authors underline the close, family-like relationships that can exist between humans and animals when they share the same domestic space.

Such relationships emerged during our recent study of families and kinship. Our data are drawn from 193 in-depth interviews carried out between May 2001 and December 2003 in Swansea, South Wales, as part of a re-study of Rosser and Harris's 1960 research into the family and social change (RKP, 1965). Although our interview schedules did not explicitly ask about animals, we were struck by the fact that several of our interviewees spontaneously included their pets as part of their kinship networks.

Here we investigate the kinship and friendship networks of our interviewees, exploring who is included, how these networks vary with class, gender, ethnicity and age, and the places in the networks occupied by pets. Interviewees were asked to complete a network diagram, and this often led to the significance of their pets becoming apparent. In studies of kinship it has been said that pets are substitutes for children, providing emotional satisfaction. Here we explore some of the other ways in which animals become kin and explore the extent to which this confounds the (socially constructed) boundary between nature and culture.

**Claremont, A.**

**University of Brighton**

**Mixing with the earth: Joy's gardening story.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

This paper examines the significance of 'work' in the garden. It is argued that the use and meanings of the domestic garden is continually being (re) negotiated, and can be a place for 'mixing with the earth', especially for women. Leisure (in this case gardening) not only promises some form of freedom, but can also be a source of artful creativity, self-expression, and a place for empowerment. Auto/biography is used to show how the garden is 'political', and how it represents a powerful emotional theme in everyday life. One woman's life story is told, about her childhood, her garden, her family, and her acts of resistance. The auto/biography is drawn from the Mass Observation Archive based at the University of Sussex, UK.

**Claremont, A., Bhatti M., Church, A., Stenner, P**

**University of Brighton**

**Close encounters of the natural kind: the ordinary natures of the domestic garden**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

Domestic gardens suggest a prosaic geography of the everyday. Yet the ordinary natures of the garden are inflected with extraordinary levels of care and attention, creating skeins of intimate geographies. These geographies include embodied practices, often invasive technologies and sometimes curious power relations, all in the pursuit of a highly popular aesthetic of leisure, ownership and occupation.

Using material drawn from the Mass Observation Archive, a team at the University of Brighton has explored a range of human responses to an ordinary space that has an extraordinary capacity to shape ideas of nature (and nation, particularly in the UK). For example, the 'original' garden of Eden reaches into a wide cultural imaginary, creating a model for ideas of nature, perfectibility and belonging that still resonate and rumble with contestation.

In the beloved, everyday space of the domestic garden, nature is celebrated yet fiercely contained. The garden is an uncanny site, with human and non-human natures at once in and out of place in a strange cycle of de- and re-naturalisation.

Clark, N.

Open University

**The ethics of abrupt climate change**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.25

At least as disturbing as the 'manufactured uncertainty' of human-induced climate change is the accumulating scientific evidence of periodic and geologically-frequent episodes of abrupt climate change which have occurred without, or in spite of, human intervention. This paper supplements the already busy field of discourse and practice dealing with ethical-political demands arising from human-induced climate change with an exploration of the less-addressed ethical and political challenges that attend the prospect of abrupt or catastrophic climate change. It is argued that events of this magnitude (which in important ways exceed existing notions of human agency and accountability) call for an expanded sense of justice: one that both incorporates and exceeds prevailing notions of responsibility hinging on accountability and culpability. Around an ontology of planetary volatility and human vulnerability, the paper will explore the ethical resonance of deep historical time and prior experiences of cataclysmic climatic change, notions of 'infinite' responsibility, and the ethical-political implications of an experimental orientation toward earth processes.

Coburn, E.

CADIS-EHESS

**Relations of Ruling' in a Neoliberal World: Naturalizing Political Economy through Texts**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

Dorothy Smith notes that texts are an integral part of the 'relations of ruling', especially within organizations. In today's political economy, texts play an important role in coordinating and justifying, that is 'naturalizing', the (unequal) social relationships associated with the 'neoliberal turn' in world and national markets. In this paper I analyse a text, highlighted by the World Bank, as a naturalizing discourse on 'globalization'. The text is titled 'Anti-Liberalism 2000' and was written by David Henderson, former director of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. I trace the ways in which this text, initially delivered as a lecture, was then re-written as book chapters and disseminated via the World Bank website, and so placed within an implicit and potentially activated dialogue with other World Bank 'key texts on globalization'. Finally, the text is situated within a larger debate, taking both textual and nontextual forms, concerning neoliberal globalization. After analysing the web of textual and social relations within which the paper is embedded, the paper is then analysed as an active discursive strategy, as a set of 'frames' or 'codes' that (seek to) organize and constrain the reader's interpretation both of liberalism and the contemporary 'antiliberal' movement. The paper concludes by returning to the role of texts within organizational settings, emphasizing the ways that macroeconomic inequalities are 'written into' the microsociological acts of writing and reading, as organizations use their structural power to disseminate texts which frame and redefine issues in ways compatible with their existing ideologies and practices.

Cole, M., Morgan, K.

City and Regional Planning

**The language of diet and the suffering of nonhuman animals: promoting veganism through countering a discourse of asceticism**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Human abuse of nonhuman animals is endemic in 'developed' industrial societies. The use of nonhuman animals for human food is responsible for the majority of their human-inflicted confinement, pain, mutilation and early death. The promotion of veganism therefore represents a policy option towards ameliorating this suffering. However, despite growing acknowledgement of the benefits to human health, the environment and animal welfare of veganism, its promotion is inhibited by its discursive construction as a form of asceticism. This presentation critically examines an ascetic discourse of veganism in two sites: social research on vegans, and media reporting of vegans and veganism. It describes how ascetic discourses work to marginalize veganism by making it seem 'difficult' and vegans as therefore 'abnormal'. This is problematic in two respects. First, it empirically misrepresents the experience of veganism. Second, it makes shifting dietary norms away from dependence on nonhuman animals appear to be more difficult, with tragic consequences for future generations of nonhuman animals. The first problem is addressed through empirically critiquing the notion that vegan diets are restrictive and unappetising. The second problem is addressed by arguing that 'normal' diets may often be more restrictive than vegan diets in practice, not just in terms of gastronomic variety, but in terms of their inhibition of the pursuit of pleasures through their greater potential for negative health consequences. In conclusion, a counter-discourse of 'hedonic' veganism and 'ascetic' omnivorism may facilitate a faster and more widespread transformation of dietary practice than ethical, environmental, or health arguments alone.

**Crow, G., Takeda, N.**

**University of Southampton**

**'Head' and 'heart' in the evolving sociology of Ray Pahl**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Public Sociology

Social Studies 0.09

The influences on the evolution of a sociologist's career are many and varied. One way of imposing order onto these involves the contrast between matters of the head and matters of the heart, as Ray Pahl has done. Pahl's long and varied career provides an instructive case study of the relative importance of, and interconnections between, head and heart in a sociological life. The influence of Charles Wright Mills, dubbed 'the sociologist in anger', co-exists uneasily in Pahl's sociology with the more sober and reasoned style of feeding into policy formation and debate in the tradition of Emile Durkheim. This paper explores this tension by examining the role of head and heart in the setting of Pahl's research agenda, his handling of fieldwork practice, and his analysis of the resultant data. The paper uses Pahl's sociology to examine three more general arguments: that emotions are central in drawing sociologists to the study of public issues that are also personal troubles; that these emotions need to be re-charged during fieldwork by the reasoned case for the research being undertaken; and that they need to be reined in during the writing up phase of research. Pahl's deployment of the concepts of 'strategy' and 'anxiety' will be used to illustrate the tension between 'head' and 'heart' in his work, from agenda setting to dissemination.

**Cruikshank, J.**

**University of Birmingham**

**The use of natural science as an epistemic exemplar for social science**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

This paper critically engages with the critical realist arguments for naturalism. Critical realists treat the natural sciences as an epistemic exemplar and use philosophy to render explicit the core, ontological, assumptions in science. The social sciences are treated as immature sciences because they lack any paradigmatic unity and, subsequently, they are held to be devoid of coherent ontological assumptions, which are vital for forming coherent explanations. In response to this, critical realists seek an epistemic proto-exemplar which can be used to construct a mature social science. This proto-exemplar is found in lay agents' experiences of freedom and constrain. Critical realists use this proto-exemplar as the basis for their claim that the structure - agency problem is the most important problem in the social sciences, with a resolution of this problem leading to mature social science. This problem is resolved by turning to the natural sciences to define social structures as emergent properties operating in open systems. Against this, it is argued that the use of epistemic exemplars results in a state of permanent Kuhnian normal science, with periods of revolutionary science being precluded by the use of philosophy for ensuring conceptual conformity. It is argued that a problem-solving approach offers a more useful way to analyse the growth of knowledge in the sciences. It is also argued that the critical realist attempt to base an ontology on lay experience commits the (critical realist version of) epistemic fallacy.

**Cudworth, E.**

**University of East London**

**'Most farmers prefer Blondes': entanglements of gender and nature in animals' becoming-meat**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

There are varied social formations that contemporary human-animal relations assume, but the dominant interaction which most of us in wealthy regions of the globe have with domestic animal species, is that we eat them. This paper argues that the animals we eat are framed by the symbolic regimes and material contexts of their becoming-meat. The placing of animals as food suggests an ontology of species, and this paper draws out elements of such an ontology with reference to an empirical British study of the institutional sites and practices of farming, slaughter and butchery through which animals are transformed into meat. It is not only species relations which are present in animals' becoming-meat however, and an emergent theme in the empirical material is the way in which gendered and natured (and other) narratives coalesce.

Domestic food animals have, of course, varied histories of bio-sociality with 'humans'. Yet despite this co-constitution, the paper argues that many non-human animals are subject to a complex system of natured domination which privileges the human. Despite the dynamic qualities of contemporary formations of natured domination, the becoming-meat of animals can be understood as a network of institutions, processes and practices and can be evidenced in particular social forms. Social relations are complexly intersectionalised however, and this paper explores some of the entanglements of gender and nature in the conceptions, lives, deaths and dismemberments of meat animals.



**Curtis, B.**

**University of Auckland**

**A role for public sociology in New Zealand?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Public Sociology

Ramphal 1.13

This paper explores the role for a public sociology in New Zealand. Using the two by two typology suggested by Burawoy (2004), the author explores shifts in the activities of New Zealand sociologists, as partially measured by their published outputs. It is argued that pro-market, neo-liberalism unleashed by the Labour Government (1984-1990) has transformed the environment in which sociologists operate and limited the possibilities for a public sociology. It is argued that sociologists were / are simultaneously undermined in their conditions of work and by their continued support for Labour and the socially liberal components of its programme. Further reforms by subsequent Labour administrations (1999- to date) have both intensified pressures toward performativity in the academy (Lyotard, 1984) and provided some relief for sociologists, albeit as making commentary on a truncated social policy.

**DeHanas, D. N.**

**University of North Carolina**

**Broadcasting Green: Grassroots Environmentalism on Muslim Community Radio**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Muslim Community Radio (MCR, 87.8 FM) is a religious radio station broadcast for the month of Ramadan each year from the London Muslim Centre of the East London Mosque. It is a grassroots effort hosted and run by local volunteers. With programmes in English and Bengali, MCR reaches a broad audience of Muslim listeners throughout the East London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The main MCR theme in 2007 is "The Environment" and topics include recycling and global warming. This paper will investigate the ways in which MCR programmes present the relationship of Muslims to the environment. A preliminary investigation of MCR has shown that its programmes closely tie environmentalism to the religious practice (deen) of Islam. Being Muslim should mean being an environmentalist. The high level of environmental advocacy is partly instrumental, in that it is rhetorically useful in portraying Islam as matching with positive British norms -- even as anticipating some of these norms. Even if instrumental in purpose, the close tie of environmentalism to Islamic practice has the potential to encourage significant environmental collective action in the local area. The findings of this paper will be based on a content analysis of radio programmes supplemented by interviews with MCR volunteers and listeners. The conference presentation will include entertaining audio clips from Muslim Community Radio programmes for illustrative purposes.

**Demir, I.**

**University of Leicester**

**Trust Intersecting the Social and the Natural**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Sociological approaches to trust make a distinction between personal trust and impersonal trust and place 'science' within the realm of the latter. The proponents of Sociology of Scientific Knowledge (SSK), on the other hand, are said to put undue emphasis on 'social' interactions between scientists (e.g. on personal trust) in the creation of scientific knowledge and hence ignore the input from nature. In my conference paper I will explore the basis of a new conceptualisation of trust within science and highlight the ways in which this conceptualisation connects the social and the natural.

**Dewan, I.**

**University of East London**

**Postmodernism, essentialism and individualism: mixed heritage women's perspectives on identity**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

In contrast to the commonly held view that mixed race heritage people epitomise the postmodern subject, this paper - drawing on research with mixed heritage women - argues that postmodern theories of identity overestimate the fluid dimension of identity and underplay its fixed dimension. The women in this study saw themselves neither as an amalgam of many different selves, nor as free-floating entities in the postmodern sense. Although they welcomed diversity and embraced 'anything goes' notions of mixed race personhood, they largely made sense of their everyday lives through the lens of race. Discourses around race were intrinsic to the women's sense of who they were and to their experiences of categorisation, exclusion and discrimination. The study indicates that some form of political intervention is needed to overcome the discrimination experienced by many mixed race women. From a feminist perspective, individuals must organise collectively for an emancipatory anti-racist project to develop. However, whilst feminist theory may be useful in developing concepts and strategies to combat inequality, its practical application is limited in the context of this study. The paper asks what potential for change can exist in the current climate of diversity, individualism, meritocracy and depoliticisation, a moment in which even the subaltern is not politicised.

**Dickens, P.G.**

**'Society, the Cosmos and Social Theory'**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Society is colonising outer space. On the one hand, satellites are being used to expand capitalist society while surveying and enforcing the inequalities stemming from the neo-liberal order. On the other hand, the Moon, asteroids and Mars are increasingly envisaged as sites for future privatisation, resource-exploitation and human occupation. Outer space is being made the new destination of choice for wealthy tourists.

Such humanisation of the universe is by no means an entirely benign process. Some space missions (such as the Hubble Telescope) are arguably advancing pure scientific understanding. But the dominant players in outer space are powerful corporations and institutions seeking to enhance their economic, cultural and military authority. Marx saw the humanisation of nature in optimistic terms, as a means of advancing humans' internal nature. But the contemporary fusion of 'the social' and 'the natural' in outer space is a means by which the powerful are making themselves still more potent. Meanwhile, new risks are being generated, these including increased levels of 'space junk.' All these developments are spawning new social movements resisting the ways in which outer space is being humanised.

This paper will explore the implications of space-exploration and colonisation for epistemology and social theory, arguing that societies throughout human history have always been 'cosmic.' A 'cosmic sociology' offers new insights into many of sociology's central concerns such as the changing relationships between the individual and society, transformations in human subjectivity, links between internal and external nature and the role of elites in effecting social change.

**Dilley, R.**

**Macaulay Institute**

**Gender and the Climbing Body**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Nature, Culture, Gender

Social Studies 0.09

This paper looks at the relationship between how the gendered body is culturally and discursively constituted, and how it is lived, in the context of women climbers' physicality. Since the late 1980s, the body has been theorised as a cultural construct in both feminism and sociology. The focus has been on deconstructing the discursive, textual and symbolic body. However, in the last decade there has been mounting criticism of post-structural approaches, as they either neglect to address, or diminish the significance of, the body's materiality. Many researchers now recognise the need to move beyond the culture/nature (material) dichotomy in order to more fully understand the body. By using a sociology of embodiment and conceptualising the body as 'an event', it is recognised that bodies are both flesh, organic matter, and discursively constituted entities located in specific cultural, social and historical contexts. Data from interviews with 19 women climbers and from 10 climbing diaries is drawn upon in order to explore the relationships between the multiple practices and discourses that women climbers embody and live. Specifically, this paper focuses on how gendered discourse and practices intersect in relation to muscle, thinness and climbing styles

**Dorrer, N., Emond, R., Punch, S., McIntosh, I.**

**University of Stirling**

**Children and food practices in residential care: tensions between home and institutional life.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

One of the basic rights residential children's homes propose to fulfil is the "right to a home". Perceptions of the 'normal' or 'average' family home as the social environment for the upbringing of children often inform how residential care staff seek to create a home for care receivers. Conflicting with the ideal of the family home is the regimentation of the resident and staff group through rules and structures which mark the home as an institution. For example, rights charters for looked after children seek to ensure the creation of nurturing environments which respect children's needs but also contribute to the bureaucratisation of caring relationships. This paper looks at rituals and routines around food and mealtimes in three residential care units to illustrate how this divide between the family home and the institution is attempted to be bridged. Within residential care, food can be perceived as a key for the creation of a nurturing 'family-like' environment but it often also constitutes the site where the institutionalisation of everyday life is most visible and where power asymmetries are played out. The paper further discusses how food can be perceived as a measure of children's rights and looks at tensions arising from this. The paper draws on ethnographic data collected in three residential care units for children in three age groups (9-13, 12-16, and 16-18 year olds). In addition to participant observation the data consists of focus groups and interviews with the children and care staff of each residential home.

**Dowler, E., Kneafsey, M., Cox, R., Holloway, L., Venn, L., Tuomainen, H.**

**University of Warwick**

**'Doing Food Differently': Reconnecting Biological And Social Relationships Through Care For Food**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Food

Ramphal 0.12

Contemporary food systems challenge the biological identity of food, shaping it to an industrialised, globalised 'product', where uniformity, environmental and economic control and avoidance of natural pathogens are valued above diversity, autonomy (producers and consumers) and environmental sustainability. Many feel increasingly estranged from major food retailers' motivations and practices, despite claimed consumer demand as driver. Increasingly, people in rich countries seek to produce, sell and obtain food through other means, where transparency, sustainability, relations of trust and regard, and more active engagement are possible. Thus, 'alternative' food systems are developing, whereby both growers/rearers/processors of food and consumers/citizens regain personal agency and are enabled to relate both to each other and to the soil, seed, stock-lines, locality and to the biological realities of seasonality, variability, 'flesh' and 'dirt'.

Our 4 year research project has examined the potential of such emerging food networks to 'reconnect' people both to the biological in food production and consumption in industrialised societies, and to renewed social and ethical relationships between production and consumption actors. Empirical findings from detailed engagement with case studies of different schemes (including one virtual network) illuminate the nature of these relationships, and the discourses and practices through which they are constituted, and explore dimensions of connection, reconnection, pleasure, anxiety and choice. They demonstrate care-fullness for near and distant others (in time and location) as well as the natural environment, and the way understanding and practices change as a result of engagement with different ways of 'doing food'.

Dunn, Y.

Lancaster University

**Trends in political discourses around 'bad behaviour' in schools: the social justice implications.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Teaching and Learning

Ramphal 3.41

School discipline is a locus of social injustice in the education system. Nevertheless the social justice implications of this confluence of power relations between state and child remain largely invisible in political discourse. Previous research has suggested that resistance to the hegemonic power relations of the education system is construed by dominant discourses of 'bad behaviour' in ways which reinforce those power relations. This paper attempts to describe mechanisms through which perpetuation of the dominant discourses has occurred.

While the paper is focused on deconstructing a deterministic, rational choice perspective on 'bad behaviour', it also rejects a strong social constructionist position. Thus while social practice is not reduced to discourse, nevertheless discourse is viewed as central to understanding social practice.

The paper draws on a Critical Discourse Analysis of UK political discourses around 'bad behaviour' in schools between 1997 and 2006. The research draws on a corpus of relevant press releases, ministerial speeches and policy documents from across the period. Discursive patterns are identified through computerized corpus analysis and further investigated through Critical Discourse Analysis of selected individual texts focusing on trends in discourses, topoi, argumentation strategies, metaphors and grammatical features. The analysis focuses on identifying trends in functional linguistic structures and discursive strategies which influence the positioning of social actors in discursive space and the dialogic features of the texts. The paper identifies two such trends which make attempts to resist social injustice in school discipline increasingly difficult by minimizing spaces in which counter-hegemonic discourses might be constructed.

Elder-Vass, D.

University of Essex

**From 'society' to intersecting communities**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Disputes over the relationship between nature and society, and its methodological consequences, have always been central to social theory. At one extreme, anti-naturalist thinkers, notably Peter Winch, have denied that the social world can be understood in the same explanatory framework as the natural. At the other, over-naturalisers treat the social world in exactly the same terms as the social. Actor network theorists, for example, call for natural and human actors to be treated entirely symmetrically, and evolutionary psychologists seek to apply a biological perspective as if no new issues arise with the development of the social world.

This paper argues that critical realism offers a principled middle way. On the one hand it advances a single ontological framework, applying equally to the natural and social worlds, in which emergent causal powers interact to produce actual events. On the other it traces the particular powers of different types of entity to their particular compositions and structures, and argues that both their behaviour and the appropriate methods of study will vary as a result.

The argument will be illustrated with the case of global warming. This can only be explained within a framework that recognises the interacting causal influences of not just human individuals and social structures, but also natural entities and technological artefacts, while also recognising the substantial differences between them. Neither anti-naturalist nor over-naturalised theoretical frameworks are adequate to this sort of explanatory challenge, which demands a realist approach.

Eriksen, L.

University of Warwick

**Classroom rituals of consensus and "us"**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Teaching and Learning

Ramphal 3.41

In this paper I present a theoretical development of some initial observations from classroom ethnography from religious education in Norway. One common way of finishing off a lesson, or a section of a lesson, is for the teacher to sum up what the class agrees on, especially when difference is exposed.

Public debates about religious education in Norway have focused on the need to uncover or create shared values. The term "Our basic Norwegian values" echo beyond school debate in Norway. Its equivalent is heard in other sectors and in other countries that engage with issues of multiculturalism.

The classroom may be a microcosm of how perceived value-consensus spring from interaction rituals, rather than actual agreement on any substantive values. A ritual often consists of actions that symbolise something "deep." However, from the point of view I want to present, it is not the symbol that is shared. Rather, it is the physical ritual act.

Repeated ritual layers competences and knowledges in the body. Through performing identical actions, laden with variable meanings, we are able to feel togetherness and attribute it to that which the action symbolises. Ritual action is "sticky" (Lynch 2007) when it comes to creating feelings of togetherness, but it is "slippery" in terms of meaning. I want to explore the possibility that it is the percolation of a unitary set of bodily skills and habits through interaction ritual that create ideas of togetherness, not a shared set of underlying values.

Esseveld, J

Lund University

**Women's Narratives on midlife & Medical Discourses on menopause**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

This paper is based on results from the researchproject "Gendered bodies and middle-aged identities" and attempts to contribute to the ongoing theoretical discussion about the relation between biological, social and cultural factors in the construction of middle age, identity, body and gender.

The research project has been carried in contemporary Sweden and consists of different substudies which combine a discourse analyses of medical, social science and popularscience texts as well as interviews with medical doctors and middle-aged women and men. As it is impossible to present the many findings of the study in one paper, I will limit myself to presenting the (individual and collective) narratives of the middle-aged women and juxtapose these stories with the results of a discourse analysis of medical texts. I will show that these women reflected on, reinterpreted and even renegotiated the relations between identity, body, gender and age against the background of their individual experiences and life situations and within the confines of discourses on midlife. This data provides for a complex understanding of the relation between biological and social factors.

With its creation of "The climacteric Woman" the discourse which dominates the field of medicine (and which other discourses have to relate to) is firmly embedded in a biological way of thinking. Through its practices and practitioners this discourse reaches a wide audience, influences popularscience texts and as such (re)affirms a naturalistic understanding - an understanding also that the women in the study cannot ignore.

Ettorre, E.

University of Liverpool

**'Embodied deviance', pollution and reproductive loss: the shame of 'using women'**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This paper will consider how women who use drugs and who have, will or are able to reproduce experience an embodied sense of shame, pollution and social exclusion. They characterise a powerful form of 'embodied deviance'. As reproducing bodies, 'using women' are seen by medical experts to give birth to 'addicted babies' (e.g. meth babies, crack babies, etc.). Because these women use drugs, motherhood is not their right. Rather 'responsible' motherhood is taken away from them as they are seen to have defiled their bodies with polluting substances, drugs. Their embodied deviance is all about female self- contamination and these notions are embedded in popular culture. How are we able to challenge popular culture's negative views, perceptions and stereotyping of 'using women'?

**Evans, A.B., Higgin M**

**Cardiff University**

**Learning about animals: The multiple enactments of farm animal welfare within educational resources.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Farm animal welfare has become an important issue for consumers, producers, policy makers and academics (see for example Bennett 1995, Appleby and Sandoe 2002; Buller and Morris 2003). Farm animal welfare is at once a technical issue, which can be usefully subjected to scientific forms of knowing (such as the objective assessment of animal diseases, injuries and behaviours) and an ethical issue, which requires wider societal debate and input. Indeed, many authors have called for increased science-society dialogue with regards to farm animal welfare (see Blokhuis et al 2004, Miele and Evans 2006) and have emphasised the importance of providing citizens with reliable, non-biased information.

In this paper we explore the current provision of educational resources about farm animal welfare within the UK. In particular, we draw on results from a large questionnaire survey to provide an overview of the content and nature of both formal and informal education about farm animal welfare. Furthermore, we use critical discourse analysis to examine the educational materials produced by three key informal education providers. In particular, we explore the ways in which different educational texts enact different versions of what animal welfare might be (such as; welfare as health; welfare as positive emotion; welfare as 'natural living'; welfare as care; welfare as animal integrity etc.). We conclude by discussing how the current provision of educational resources about farm animal welfare might be enhanced to facilitate improved science-society dialogue around this issue.

**Finn, K.**

**The University of Manchester**

**Emotions in Sociology: A Risky Business?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

The relationship between sociology and emotion has historically been a precarious one characterised by suspicion and risk (see Blackman 2007). From within the now growing literature on emotion one can see that these tensions are two-fold. First - and perhaps unsurprisingly - social researchers have exercised caution with regard to emotion and methodology, though recent years have seen the subject of emotion creep out from the margins to occupy a more central space in debates around practice.

Additionally however, scholars are also grappling with the very understanding and use of the concept and its relation to theory. My experience of working with and through emotions arises out of my PhD fieldwork carried out with first year, female undergraduate students studying around the UK. The longitudinal project seeks to capture the process of change for young women in Higher Education and in doing so it touches upon the emotionality of friendships, family life, and the more physical process of 'settling (back) in' to their new surroundings and on their return home.

Using my data as a point of departure, the aim of this paper is to unpack the supposedly risky business of dealing with emotions in sociology; both methodologically and conceptually. This paper, by looking at 'what emotions do', rather than 'what emotions are', addresses the question of how actors become invested in particular structures - in this case friendships or research relationships - 'such that their demise is felt as a living death' (Ahmed, S 2004).

**Flynn, R., Bellaby, P., Ricci, M.**

**University of Salford**

**'The Value-Action Gap in public attitudes to sustainable energy: the case of Hydrogen energy'**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

The public is becoming much more aware of global warming, climate change and environmental risks yet evidence suggests people are unable or unwilling to adopt sustainable lifestyles. The paper examines findings from studies by the authors, funded by the EPSRC and Department for Transport, that engaged the public in discussion of a possible hydrogen economy.

'Engagement' is a relation of power between elites and publics: we did not assume prior knowledge but attempted to inform debate, rather than influence opinion. What people know and how they cope with uncertainty are especially critical in the case of alternative energy futures. Focus groups were the main method. Members were informed in various ways about the benefits, costs and risks and the uncertainties of hydrogen fuel as a substitute for fossil fuel.

Qualitative data from focus groups in six selected case-study areas of the UK are presented and social survey data from three of them. The results illustrate a 'value-action gap' - disjunction between belief and behaviour - and show that people experienced ambivalence when considering future energy systems. Among the key themes underlying reluctance to modify behaviour were: insistence that personal lifestyle changes were of marginal importance unless national and international agreements on energy were enforced; distrust of business and government; spatial and social disconnection between participants' everyday lives and wider environmental and energy problems; and recognition that large-scale systemic changes would disrupt culturally-embedded lifestyles in uncertain ways. The paper concludes by offering tentative explanations of the 'value-action' gap in hydrogen energy.

**Franklin, A.S.**

**University of Tasmania**

**An improper nature: introduced animals and 'species cleansing' in Australia**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

This paper investigates the social dimensions of the vilification of introduced species in Australia. While the case against all of the more vilified species (e.g. cats, donkeys, wild horses, camels) is based on the scientific facts of their threat to native species, this paper argues that eradication policies have been (very widely) pursued even where no such evidence exists. Equally, some species that are highly invasive and a danger to some native species (trout, deer, hare) are not subject to the same degree of vilification or intensive eradication policies. It is argued that there is a compelling but unacknowledged social content to such policies and the attitudes that support them. The paper identifies a range of social and cultural factors that weigh into the equation illuminating a powerful relationship between nature and nation formation and nationalism. It illustrates how biopolitics and nature aesthetics are shaped by particular post-colonial configurations. The paper also analyses how taxonomies of proper and improper animals express, and fuel, tensions between aboriginal and non-aboriginal Australians as well as recent anxieties about migrants and refugees.

**French, M.**

**Queen's University, Canada**

**Viruses: Virtual and Actual**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

This paper begins with a simple question - what is a virus? To answer this question, the paper takes a brief look at the history of virology, focusing on Wendell Stanley's isolation of TMV (tobacco mosaic virus). It then presents empirical research that looks at the network of social relations involved in the contemporary isolation of HIV (the human immunodeficiency virus). These historical and contemporary vignettes suggest that viruses cannot be viewed as purely material entities. And yet, neither are they solely socially constructed. To find a middle ground upon which to answer the question posed at the outset, the paper turns to the work of Gilles Deleuze. Deleuze's articulation of 'the virtual' and 'the actual', especially as mediated by Manuel DeLanda and Keith Ansell Pearson, gives us a new framework in which to think about viruses. This framework, in turn, prompts a rethinking, not only of the role that viruses play in evolution, but also of the relationship between health and disease.

Fuller, S.

University of Warwick

**The biological challenge to social sciences**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

A major challenge facing sociology as the flagship discipline of the social sciences is how to retain the integrity of the concept of humanity. The concept currently refers to properties that all human beings possess either individually or collectively, but in any case uniquely as members of the same species. According to both social contract theorists like Hobbes, Locke and Rousseau and the classical sociologists Marx, Durkheim and Weber, the full realization of these properties - e.g. language, government, economy, art, science - requires society. We may be each born with the potential for these distinctly human qualities, but we need to be organized in a certain range of ways to manifest them. However, the integrity of the concept of humanity is severely under threat by emerging interdisciplinary developments in the biological sciences - especially socio-biology and its successor evolutionary psychology - supplemented by an ambient anti-humanism found throughout more post-structuralist and post-modernist precincts of the humanities. The threat comes in several forms: (1) the empirical indeterminacy surrounding the very idea of species; (2) the increasing overlap observed between human and non-human characteristics and capacities; (3) the diffusion of sentiment across traditional species boundaries by humans; (4) a generalised sense of responsibility for 'nature' as a whole, in which humans play a part but not necessarily a privileged one. The result is that sociologists have returned to a cross-roads similar to that faced about 100 years on how, if at all, to distinguish the social sciences from the humanities and especially the natural sciences.

Fuller, S.

University of Warwick

**The challenge of the neurosciences to sociology: The revival of 'social engineering'**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

The recent social science interest in neuroscience comes from many quarters. Importantly it allows us to revisit the 'social engineering' impulse of sociology present in the early utopian and scientific socialists (St-Simon and Comte, Marx and Engels), which came to be vilified in the 20th century by Scottish Enlightenment-inspired arguments associated with 'Austrian economics' (cf. Hayek, *The Counter-Revolution in Science*). Ironically the new image of the brain/mind associated with contemporary neuroscience research owes much to the 'parallel distributed processing' perspective that was itself championed by the Austrians (cf. Hayek, *The Sensory Order*). I shall explore what 'social engineering' might mean in this new context, in which the locus of control is so decentralised, both in terms of how it is applied and who might be applying it. In particular, have the ends and means of social engineering substantially changed from their 19th century incarnations - or simply the ideological cast of their supporters?

Gabb, J.

The Open University

**The Boundaries of Intimacy: What Counts as an Intimate Relationship and Who's Counting?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Theorizing and contemporary research has shown how relationships are forged through an intimate knowledge of self and other; through intimate practices of care, attachment and a sense of belonging; practices which create social groupings such as families, couples and friendships - to name but a few. Within and beyond these contemporary conceptual and experiential formulations of interpersonal intimacy, I suggest that people are also creating meaningful intimate relationships with 'significant others'; 'relationships' that often fall outside or at best are marginalised within the sociology of intimacy. For example, some people form intangible affinities through communities of faith. Others invest in material cross-species relationships, with pets being a consistent repository and source of intimacy. For many, objects and activities provide emotional comfort and affective rewards. These various relationships are not only experienced as metaphors and/or connectors between people, but are also often experienced as emotionally significant in their own right. In this paper I aim to open out discussion on the boundaries of intimacy and demonstrate the ways that relational lives extend beyond interpersonal relationships. In particular, I will examine the significance of pet-human relationships and the affective role of pets in shaping wider interpersonal connections. This raises questions about what constitutes intimacy and an intimate relationship. I will explore how multilayered experiences of intimacy require an expansion in the current sociological imagination which unnecessarily fragments intimate experience. This paper draws on findings from ESRC-funded research, *Behind Closed Doors: Researching Intimacy and Sexuality in Families* (RES 000 220854).



**Gimlin, D**

**University of Aberdeen**

**National cultural repertoires and the "problem" of cosmetic surgery**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.28

Aesthetic plastic surgery is in many ways similar to other forms of body management. Yet, its interpretation by feminists and the popular media as a symbol of women's vanity, self-loathing and/or internalised oppression differentiates it from other beauty practices and, ultimately, requires women who have had their bodies surgically altered to narrate their actions in a way that normalises them. For such accounts to be convincing, they need to employ the arguments and evidence - or, 'repertoires of evaluation' - deemed legitimate within the speaker's social context. This paper contrasts British and American women's accounts of cosmetic surgery. I argue that cross-cultural variations in their narratives reflect broader differences in the cultural 'tool-kits' made available by Great Britain and the United States, as reflected in and reproduced by each country's healthcare environment

**Gislason, M.K.**

**University of Sussex**

**Interviewing Trees: Reflections on the Sociological Imagination**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

The sociological imagination shapes how sociologists explore the relationship between individuals and society. When read through today's sociological imagination, photographs and transcript excerpts from a sociologist's interview with a Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana* - a declared species at risk within Canadian West Coast woodlands) appear to be rife with theoretical, methodological, and ethical problems. This paper argues that the troubles with this interview project are reflective not only of the study itself but also of limitations endemic to the sociological imagination. Cultural critic Stephen Buhner suggests that two wounds (an external or environmental wound and an internal or psychic one) confound the contemporary comprehension of human-environment relations.

To heal these wounds sociologists can investigate novel conceptual and methodological techniques, two of which are explored in this paper. The first is passionate sociology, described by Game and Metcalfe as a celebration of human's immersion in life and a 'compassionate involvement with the world and with others' that requires a 'full-bodied approach to knowing and to practices of knowledge.' The second is biophilia or the love of life or living systems. The value of passionate sociology and biophilia to the (re)articulation of the contemporary sociological imagination is that these approaches inspire a curiosity about, and a desire to explore, social life within the meta-context of the biosphere.

**Gregory, H.**

**University of Exeter**

**An Exploration of Local and Translocal Slam Poetry Communities**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

Poetry slams are a kind of performance poetry competition. Since their inception in America in the mid 1980s, they have gone global, reaching countries as diverse and far-flung as Singapore, Australia, Germany and Britain. Yet little is known about slams, and how the poets, audience members and organisers interact on local and translocal levels.

This presentation will examine key issues arising from an ongoing study into slam poetry communities in Bristol, London and New York. This study aims to explore the ways in which these different communities shape slams in diverse ways and the nature of the translocal networks, through which members of poetry slam communities interact. The character of these networks varies greatly between America and England. Not only do they take different forms, but they are also at different stages of their development, with English poetry slam being almost a decade younger than its American counterpart.

Whilst this research is still in its early stages, it raises a number of interesting and important issues, which are pertinent for sociologists researching a broad range of topics. This presentation aims to illuminate several of these issues. In particular I will focus on two key questions:

1) What can an in-depth study of local artistic scenes, such as these, tell us about the ways in which different networks are formed, maintained and develop?

And

2) What part do different types of networks have to play in influencing the character of these local artistic scenes?

**Griggs, G.**

**University of Wolverhampton**

**'To be honest it seemed like a sport that had just been made up in a car park': Viewing the sporting landscape of Ultimate Frisbee**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 4

Ramphal 3.25

Consideration of the sporting landscape within which an activity takes place is an aspect that is often taken for granted but close inspection can reveal a wealth of information that is easily found, waiting to be decoded (Cosgrove, 1989). Such information is important because it allows the values ascribed to the landscape to become more clearly visible (Lewis, 1979). This study examines the sport of Ultimate Frisbee and uses a modified framework devised by Meinig (1979) to analyse different 'views of the sports landscape.' An ethnographic approach was used and data was gathered through participant observation, the conducting of interviews and the examination of documentary evidence. Findings indicate that since the formation of a new governing body in the UK, greater standardisation of the sporting landscape has become apparent, however, spatial, temporal and constitutional boundaries within Ultimate Frisbee remain 'soft' and continue to be indicative of the sport's origins and 'the alternative sports movement' of the 1960s (Bale, 1994).

**Gruffudd, P.**

**Swansea University**

**On the prowl with the possum posse: nature and nation in Aotearoa/New Zealand**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

This paper addresses complex geographies created by the brush-tailed possum in New Zealand. Introduced from Australia in 1837 to stimulate a colonial fur-trade the possum 'jumped the fence' and became a massively effective pest. With abundant food and no natural predators an estimated 70 million possums now colonise over 90% of the nation. They 'target' the iconic native forests, compete with native fauna for food and shelter, and are also accused of eating the eggs of kiwi and kokako. They have an economic impact on pasture plants and on farm animals, as well as being a 'nuisance to amenity' in suburban areas. These impacts are understood within an extremely well-developed and disseminated discourse of biodiversity and biosecurity. This, crucially, is informed by - arguably built upon - a Maori holistic worldview that claims humans share a common whakapapa (ancestry) with other animals and plants and have a highly-developed sense of responsibility to protect and enhance them. As an 'alien' species, the possum has been the subject of a diverse and energetic eradication programme, ranging from the official creation of Edenic 'mainland islands' to grass-roots and entrepreneurial businesses involved in fields ranging from leisure (such as the Possum Posse) to high fashion. This paper analyses some of these interventions in terms of their claims to embodied knowledge of nature and nation, their appeals to gendered identities (and especially versions of white - pakeha - masculinity), and their presumed reintegration of the wild and the native into postcolonial versions of identity.

**Grundmann, R.**

**Aston University**

**Climate Change as a Challenge for Sociology**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

The Montreal Protocol for the Protection of the ozone layer was signed 20 years ago and is commonly seen as the most successful example of international cooperation towards resolving a global environmental threat. Climate change is another global environmental threat that has been addressed through a process of international cooperation, culminating in the Kyoto Protocol. There are several parallels between both cases, including the important role assigned to scientific expertise, model calculations, distribution of the burden of costs, and others. However, there can be no doubt that there are also differences between the two cases not least the different outcome in terms of policies.

There is widespread agreement that Kyoto is far less successful compared to Montreal. However, there is no agreement on an explanation of this difference. While there are various attempts to explain the difference through single causes (such as different size of the problem or degree of scientific consensus of the issues) this research will look at the historical development from ozone to climate, assuming that different actors have learnt different lessons from the first case and brought these to bear on the second. My analysis will apply path dependency as an analytical tool to examine this issue.

**Gruszczynska, A.**

**Aston University**

**Photo-elicitation in social movement research**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

In this paper I plan to explore issues connected with the use of visual sociology methods, i.e. photo-elicitation, for social movement research. Photo-elicitation (also known as photo interviewing) is a qualitative methodology that introduces photographs into the interview context which can then be used as a tool to expand on questions. In my Ph.D. research project, which this paper is based upon, I am analyzing the processes whereby from 2001 on, marches, pride parades and demonstrations have become the most visible and contested activity of the Polish lesbian and gay movement. I am interested in analyzing the meanings attributed to public activism as well as the model of visibility employed by activists. The main reason behind my choice of photo-elicitation methods is the strongly visual aspect of the marches as they obviously occur in public places. As this paper is based on work in progress (main fieldwork period is planned between October- December 2007), the exact benefits of the photo-elicitation method for my research project are yet to be seen. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that using the photo-elicitation interview method together with other qualitative methodologies such as interviews or participant observation can illuminate dynamics and insights not otherwise found through other methodological approaches. Finally, in my paper, I plan to discuss ethical issues and challenges connected visual sociology methods in social movement research.

**Hadfield, L.**

**The Open University**

**Natural or Normal?: Surrogacy, Anxiety and Becoming a Mother**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

Developments in assisted reproduction have challenged the way in which we have historically viewed 'natural' motherhood. Legally in the U.K a mother is still defined as the woman who carries and gives birth to a child. Yet surrogacy can entail multiple understandings and definitions of who is a mother from the woman who donates the egg, the woman who carries the baby or the mother who raises the child. Drawing on case study material this paper will explore the psycho-social process of becoming a disabled mother via surrogacy. Discourse surrounding reproductive technologies particularly in the early 90s highlighted the moral and ethical implications, yet more recently there has been a shift towards a greater awareness of the benefits assisted reproduction provides. Despite this, I argue anxiety and contradictions involved in donor-assisted reproduction still exist in the lives of the people involved and the society in which we live. This anxiety has the potential to be compounded for some who have the additional challenge of becoming an 'other' type of mother. This paper discusses some of these complexities drawing on psycho-social theorisations of the body and subjectivity. I argue that close attention to the emotional dynamic within our research can enrich our understanding of the challenges to what we believe is 'natural' and 'normal', offering us a more complex insight into the subjective experience of becoming a mother in the twenty first century.

**Hancock, P., Spicer, A.**

**University of Warwick**

**Landscaping the Library - Naturalisation in the Virtual Learning Space**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:30 - 15:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Landscaping has long been associated with the formal management of natural spaces in order to enhance their aesthetic appeal, suggesting a dissolution of the boundaries between culture and nature. Yet this imposition of culture and society on nature, in order to render it both knowable and a source of contained and constrained pleasure, suggests only one dimension of this relationship. Equally important has been the process by which nature has been appropriated back into the socio-cultural domain; often in a manner that propagates the idea of nature as an object of organization.

In this paper we report on an empirical illustration of this process as observed during a study of the spatial and aesthetic qualities of a number of new library, or 'learning spaces', that have emerged across the UK. In particular, we focus on how representations of nature have been introduced into the textual, visual and auditory landscaping of these spaces, including the use of organic motifs such as images of wildlife, rural landscapes and the use of muted earthy colour schemes as well as auditory and tactile signifiers ranging from pre-recorded birdsong to the use of natural materials. We argue that such appeals to a 'naturalised' environment serve at least two purposes. On the one hand, such appeals aim to ground the contemporary learning experience and the value of learning itself in a narrative of natural process, while, on the other hand, seeking to render meaningful the non-place and virtualised character of such increasingly ubiquitous learning environments.

**Harper, S.**

**University of Bath**

**"Shhhhhh! Granddad is sleeping!" Viewing the recently-dead in England and the United States**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Although the death rituals of England and the United States - two "contemporary Western societies", between which there is cultural, social, political, and ideological exchange - possess similarities, the role played by the dead body in mourning is notably different. It appears within death rituals in different ways and for different lengths of time. This paper aims to a) document the ways in which the body is displayed in one American funeral home and one English funeral directors', and b) elicit the meanings given by mourners and the public to viewing, or not viewing, the body. Do mourners in England and the United States have different socially prescribed experiences of the dead body within funeral rituals? How do the two publics assign meaning and value to the physical remains of recently dead bodies, if they do so at all? I argue that the dead body is an active agent within the social space it occupies during the liminal period between death and final disposal.

This research is timely as the aging of the baby-boomer generation will significantly increase mortality rate over the next 40 years, thus also increasing the number of bereaved individuals involved in death rituals. Research into the meaning of these rituals will therefore inform how mourners understand and relate to the recently-dead as more of the population navigate the particularly difficult early days of bereavement.

**Harwood, V.**

**University of Wollongong, Australia**

**Youth citizenship in an age of bio-technical reproduction**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

Taking cues from Walter Benjamin's famous essay, this paper borrows from Benjamin's prescient analyses of modernity to reflect on a critical issue in the 'age of bio-technical reproduction', namely, the question of nurturing youth citizenship. The paper makes the argument that the bio-technical age is linked with discourses of legitimisation such as psychopathologising discourses, and that these discourses pose a challenge to active youth citizenship. The consequence of discourses of legitimisation becomes palpable when citizenship is conceptualised in terms of what Dana Villa (2001) has characterised as 'Socratic Citizenship'. For Villa, Socratic Citizenship works against the "claims of 'experts'" by encouraging citizens to "think for themselves" (p.304-305). In the bio-technical age, discourses of legitimisation are conveyers of expertise that have the haunting capacity to represent an unquestionable social-natural world. This has implications for nurturing youth citizenship in socio-economically disadvantaged communities that have disproportionately high numbers of children and young people diagnosed with disorderly behaviour.

This paper presents data from the first stage of 'The New Outsiders', a study into the culture of discourses of behaviour disorder in socio-economically marginalised communities in Australia, with selected UK and US sites. In these communities there are increasing numbers of young people described as having behaviour disorders or EBD (emotional and behavioural disorders). This paper reports on three marginalised communities in Australia, with data drawn from interviews with youth workers located in these communities, community social profiles, available prescription rate and diagnostic data and school profiles.

**Higgin, M, Evans, A.B., Miele, M.**

**University of Cardiff**

**A Good Kill: socio-technical organisations of farm animal slaughter.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Society's views and attitudes to the slaughter of non-human animals for human consumption is an ambivalent one: on the one hand it is the subject of rigorous scientific, political and moral debate albeit generally undertaken by 'experts' (see Miele et al. 2005, FAWC 2003). On the other hand, the majority of consumers would rather not be reminded of death and suffering as inextricably connected with practices of eating meat or other animal products (Evans and Miele 2007). When the issue of animal slaughter does enter public debate, it is usually concerned with 'unconventional' practices; ie. religious slaughter. Here conventional practices, with their underlying assumptions and knowledges, are rarely interrogated directly, they form the consensus, the Normal, from which other practices are judged.

This paper looks at the organisation of practices, bodies and technology within both conventional and Shechita slaughter. We draw on ongoing work within the DIAREL project focusing on current UK legislation on 'conventional' slaughter and Shechita guidelines on Kosher slaughter, and in-depth interviews with representatives of legislative and certification organisations.

The approach of this paper is to draw on the tradition of STS, ANT and Material Semiotics, (Law 2006 and 2007, Murdoch 2006) to explore how ethical relations between human and non-human animals are enacted and articulated within both conventional and religious slaughter by following the assemblages of moral and religious discourse, scientific research, training, technique and technology that constitute them. In this way, this paper attempts to describe how different figurations of farm animals and their slaughter become defined around a set of ethical practices.

**Higgins, V., Dale, A.**

**University of Manchester**

**Ethnic differences in physical activity, diet and obesity: the research potential of the Health Survey for England**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Obesity is a well established risk factor in many health problems, including arthritis, stroke, heart disease, cancer and diabetes. The latest statistics on the levels of obesity in England are shocking: more than half of all adults are classified as being overweight or obese and among children aged 2-15 over one in five boys (22%) and over one in four girls (27%) are overweight or obese (Sproston et al 2006). The prevalence of obesity varies with ethnicity, for example, in England in 2004, prevalence was higher in men of Black Caribbean or Irish ethnicity than in the general population and lower in men of Bangladeshi, Pakistani, Indian and Chinese ethnicities (Sproston et al 2006).

This paper discusses the author's research which uses the 1999 and 2004 ethnic boosts of the Health Survey for England (HSE) to examine ethnic differences in two of the most important factors in causing obesity: diet and physical activity. The research also looks at how parental behaviour influences children's eating patterns and level of physical activity. The paper provides background, methodology, some preliminary results and in addition it highlights the valuable resources available to researchers from the Economic and Social Data Service.

**Hines, S., Sanger, T.**

**University of Leeds**

**Transforming Bodies: Transgender Embodiment and the Limits of the Nature/Culture Dichotomy**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

Transgender bodies call into question the relationship between 'sex' (nature) and gender (culture). While queer theory has celebrated the transgendered body as a site that highlights the discord between the natural and the cultural, many strands of feminism have defensively returned to nature in their critique of trans practices. This paper speaks to such debates in order to critically analyse the position of the natural in theoretical and political discourses around transgender.

First the paper will examine debates around transgender from queer theory and feminism. Second the paper will draw on the recent empirical research projects of the presenters into transgender practices of identity and intimacy, to substantively explore trans peoples bodily subjectivities, and to examine how these narratives trouble both queer and feminist models of theorising transgender.

The paper will argue against a dominant trend to theorise transgender through an either-or /culture-nature binary. Rather, it will locate transgender as a pertinent arena through which to examine the interconnections of nature and culture, and, moreover, to explore the ways in which the natural itself is culturally constructed and socially experienced.

**Hinterberger, A.**

**London School of Economics**

**The genomics of difference: exploring the intersections between genomic and political understandings of race, ethnicity and populations**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

This paper explores the intersection between genomic and political approaches to race, ethnicity and populations with the aim of understanding how these categories are re-coded and re-enacted in genomic approaches to biomedicine. Through a multi-sited ethnography of Canada, and specifically of Genome Canada (which is the national research body dedicated to genomics research), this paper explores how markers of genomic difference are mobilized, controlled and accorded properties. Drawing on interviews with Canadian scientists and bioethicists, along with participant observation at conferences and workshops, the paper explores centrally how categories of ethnicity and Indigeneity are situated in Canada and in turn, how these intersect with

genomics research and its outcomes. The paper argues that one of the most pressing ethnical issues of current genomic research is the manner in which researchers negotiate the 'promise of genomics' in relation to concepts such as race, ethnicity and Indigeneity. It further argues that debates on genomics and race must be displaced from the dominating framework of "black-white" oppositional categories in order to address the multiple political identities and struggles that are emerging in Canada, along with the spaces of ethics presented to negotiate discourses of genomic diversity. Overall the paper contributes to emerging cartographies on genomics and race by interrogating the relationship between bioethics and genomics research within contemporary multicultural societies.

**Hird, M.**

**Queens University, Ontario**

**Symbiogenesis and gaia**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.25

This paper explores the increasing scientific interest in Gaia and symbiogenesis theories as a cogent approach to socionatural systems such as climate change and biodiversity. Together, they utilize an interdisciplinary mode of inquiry calling for non traditional approaches to pressing environmental concerns. The paper will suggest new directions of social scientific research that forefront interdisciplinary, non(human)animal centred approaches.

**Hobson-West, P.**

**University of Nottingham**

**Governing the laboratory animal**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

The non-human animal is an important feature of modern laboratory science. For centuries, animals have functioned as stand-ins for human bodies in scientific research. In the UK, data on the numbers of animals used in testing and research are published annually by the Home Office. Following Latour, the animal body is taken out of the lab and inscribed into a highly mobile series of numbers and graphs. As well as heated debate over the statistics, the very presence of animals in the laboratory continues to attract a great deal of social movement activity. The laboratory animal remains a highly charged political object, as well as a scientific one.

The laboratory animal body is also a highly regulated object. The most important piece of legislation is the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, widely claimed by supporters to result in one of the strictest regulatory regimes in the world. This regulation is sometimes framed as a 'solution' to public ethical concern about the use of animals. Using sociological analysis, this paper will take animal research legislation as a starting point to investigate underlying assumptions about the relationship between humans and animals and about the role of science in drawing boundaries between ethical and unethical practice.

**Hockey, J., Clayden, A., Powell, M.**

**University of Sheffield**

**Back to Nature? Conceptions, materialisations and experiences of natural burial**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This paper makes the concept and practice of 'natural burial' its starting point. Drawing on preliminary data from a three year ESRC-funded project, it explores the ways in which this new approach to disposing of the human corpse has been materialised since its inception in 1993. While it is an option chosen by only a minority, the UK is world-leader in the provision of natural burial grounds with over 200 sites already in existence. What the paper examines are: the ways in which the providers of opportunities to bury 'naturally' have drawn upon a sometimes conflicting diversity of professional, ecological, religious and financial perspectives in setting up natural burial grounds; the conceptions of the natural which inform the choices of those who either pre-book a plot for themselves or bury a relative or friend naturally; the ways in which the embodied experience of natural burial/grounds mediate such conceptions, particularly over time. Thus the theoretical questions we are asking concern not only the images through which different individuals perceive 'nature' but also the values which they attach to practices which are described as natural. That said, we engage critically with social constructionist perspectives. Rather than viewing the concept of 'nature' as simply a lens through which the environment is perceived, we argue that sociologists need to take full account of how such 'constructions' relate to both embodied experiences of landscape and the agency of dynamic, organic environments themselves, as they undergo both seasonal change and annual cycles of growth and decay.

**Hodge, A.**

**University of Exeter**

**Farm Animal Welfare and Sustainability**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Farm-animal welfare is conventionally associated with animal productivity; healthy animals being those that produce efficiently. However, as the contemporary debate over farm-animal welfare shifts, emphasising the recognition of animal sentience and cognition on the one hand and the promotion of 'natural' animal behaviour on the other, so the relationship of farm animals to broader environmental concerns, and farm-level environmental management also changes. Under the guise of sustainability, farmers are increasingly required to respect both animal welfare and environmental management conditions. Although policy documents frequently bundle these two domains of concern into singular strategies for achieving sustainable farm management, it is far from clear, both on a practical and ethical level, how welfare concerns might contribute towards the sustainability debate, or if animal welfare and sustainability goals are compatible. Does the emergence of these new considerations help us to articulate sustainability in ways that reflect the more complex ethical, human/non-human and spatial relations that characterise contemporary animal husbandry? Is it possible to talk about animal sustainability or is it all about humans and how might this alter our conceptions of sustainability?

Drawing on my current PhD research as I embark on a campaign of semi-structured interviews with actors involved in livestock production and the formulation of sustainability and welfare policies within the food chain and agricultural sector, this paper considers how discourses, rationales and practices concerning farm-animal welfare and sustainability have been articulated and negotiated at the farm level and the impact they have had on farming practices in Southwest England.

**Hodkinson, P.**

**University of Surrey**

**MySpace or Our Space? Space and Identity on Social Networking Sites**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.12

The dramatic recent take-up in use of MySpace, Facebook and other social networking sites by young people, has been the subject of extensive academic and journalistic curiosity in recent years. The focus of this exploratory paper is upon the ways in which such sites function as particular forms of social space for their users. Building on previous work by Hodkinson and Lincoln (2008), I suggest that, the interactions and expressions of identity which take place on social networking sites tend to be centred upon territory which in particular ways is claimed and experienced as individual, something which contrasts with the public or communal form taken by many previous forms of online communications. The paper will outline the case for understanding the settings for MySpace and Facebook communication in such a way, before going on to explore its implications for the patterns of communication and exhibitions of identity which take place between users.

**Holford, J.**

**University of Nottingham**

**The Politics of Measurement: European Citizenship**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

This paper challenges the 'governmentality' approach as applied to citizenship in the European context. Nikolas Rose, drawing on Foucault, argues that under conditions of 'advanced liberalism', the state has survived through the 'invention and assembly' of 'technologies of governance'. These both discipline and, in the broadest sense, educate: 'autonomization plus responsabilization'. This paper develops and illustrates a methodological critique of this view. Governmentality theorists draw too heavily on policy-as-text, and underplay the role of people as actors in the creating and contesting policy. Moreover, in separating power from agency, and conceptualising it as inherent within social structures, they emphasise continuities rather than situations where decisions can lead to change. Their method encourages the conclusion that citizens' activity is successfully directed into officially-sanctioned channels.

Empirically, the argument is supported by (i) a case study of a recent European Commission initiative (since 2005) to develop indicators of active citizenship, and (ii) evidence drawn from a FP5 project on learning of active citizenship. Prima facie, the attempt to measure and apply indicators to the exercise of citizenship appears precisely to constitute (or to contribute to) a technology of governance in Rose's sense. This paper argues that, on the contrary, the problems encountered in this exercise illustrate the limitations of 'governmentality' as an analytical category. Evidence from the FP5 project shows that in the exercise of citizenship, citizens do not simply learn established or routine forms of behaviour, but create new forms of citizenship knowledge and activity.

**Horlick-Jones, T.**

**Cardiff University**

**Technology, materiality, sociality and practical reasoning: the 'signature' of GM crops and the limits of constructionism**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

In this paper I will examine critically some of the underlying sociological ideas present in recent debates about the social acceptability of new technologies. I focus on the notion of constructionism: a perspective and analytical approach that recognises, and seeks to explicate, the ways in which the categories of human discourse are socially negotiated and selected. I will argue that whilst the use of constructionist ideas has enriched such debates, and moved them away from a narrow technocratic reductionism, they have done so at the risk of losing track of the specific features of technological artefacts. In seeking to include human sensibilities in the analysis, a preference has been given to sociological theories of reality at the expense of engaging with what I will call the signature of the technology: the specific ways in which it is articulated in practical reasoning and discourse within real-world settings. These arguments will be illustrated using data drawn from the recent government-sponsored public debate about the possibility of commercialising the cultivation of GM crops in the UK.



**Hossen, A. M.**

**Carleton University, Ottawa**

**Institutional Ethnography: A Method Of Studying The Coping Mechanism Of Natural Disaster**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

Institutional Ethnography (IE) is one of the qualitative methods of understanding the daily living experiences of local people. IE brings to that task with a set of guiding principles, criteria for evaluation, and language of discourse that facilitate personal and group self-perceptions of behaviors that are preparatory, experiential, and reflective/evaluative that are associated with identified live experiences. I will use natural disaster of inland flooding in Bangladesh as the "research issue" to explore the usefulness of IE as a tool for social analysis that occurrence which affects the lives of the people. With the guiding principles of IE, I will give greater emphasis to the effects on the grass root people. The three major rivers of the world, namely the Brahmaputra-Jamuna, the Meghna, and the Ganges merge at the mouth of the westerly point of Bangladesh to form the largest delta of the world. The result is the annual flooding of a large area of the country covering a combined catchments area 1.55 million square kilometers (Thompson and Sultana, 1996). This major disaster disrupts the everyday lives of Bangladeshi people in the form of loss of lives, destruction of private property and public infrastructures, displacement of families, all of which have a negative impact on the social, cultural and economic life of the people and the country.

**Ismail, T., Yousafzai, A.**

**BUIITEMS, Pakistan**

**Pakistan: status and constraints in plant biotechnology**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

Pakistan is a developing country in Asia. About 70% of its population is rural and depends on agriculture for its livelihood. The Pakistan Agricultural Research Institute prioritises exploration of modern biotechnology options to improve agriculture. Universities, research foundations, and private laboratories are involved in tissue culture research and commercial production. To date there are no commercialised molecular marker assisted selection (MMAS) products in Pakistan. However research is proceeding by collaborators using MMAS to develop maize lines resistant to Maize streak virus, and drought-tolerant maize. The National Biosafety Committee has approved research trials on genetically engineered sweetpotato, maize and cotton, and a seedless citrus has been produce by NIAB (National institute of agriculture Biology). Funding for research and development is mostly from donor agencies while state funding caters for recurrent expenditure of institutes. Public awareness on biotechnology issues has increased due to the efforts of NCB - National Commission, on Biotechnology and others. Major constraints include the fact that research is donor-funded, hence Pakistan cannot drive her own agenda. The rate of brain drain is very high. Institutional linkages are weak and there is an absence of explicit policies to govern biosafety. The way forward includes intensified efforts to retain capacity and create linkages. Curriculum development should incorporate biotechnology and allow for early exposure. The enactment of laws should be expedited to spell out national priorities and investment strategies for biotechnology research and development.

**James, N.**

**University of Leicester**

**Ethical and Methodological dilemmas in conducting research in young offenders' lives**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

In discussing methodological and ethical responsibilities for conducting research with young people, there is not only a need to examine the research process itself, but also to give voice to the young people's perceptions of the research. This paper will examine this issue in more depth by discussing the affective nature of research on young offenders. By drawing on the findings from a pilot study that explored the impact of drama on their learning transitions, the paper will explore young offenders' understandings of their participation in the study and the impacts this had on their lives. The paper will argue that by placing the voices and perspectives of the young offenders at the heart of the research methodology, they began to contemplate life on the outside and reflect on their future roles and values. Whilst such experiences were empowering for the young men, the paper concludes by highlighting the need for researchers to be ethically and methodologically reflexive when young people's hopes and expectations are raised as a consequence of participation in research.

**Jamieson, L., Wasoff, F. Simpson, R.**

**The University of Edinburgh**

**Solo Living in Early Adulthood: Social Integration, Quality of Life and Future Orientations**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Living alone, or solo living, is one aspect of considerable household change occurring in many Western societies in recent decades, particularly amongst people of working age. There are however significant cross-cultural variations: within the UK, solo living has increased most rapidly in Scotland. The increasing incidence of solo living amongst adults in age groups typically associated with being partnered and parenting may be interpreted as an aspect of more general processes of social disintegration or of greater democracy in intimate relationships. This trend is also consequential for a range of policy areas such as pensions, health and housing. Recent analysis of people living alone below pensionable age in the UK (Lewis 2005, Wasoff et al. 2005b, Williams et al. 2004) casts doubt on the most pessimistic accounts and on the more simplistic 'swinging-singles' stereotypes.

Solos are not a homogenous group, and the experience of living alone is mediated by factors such as gender, age, socio-economic circumstance, and routes into solo living. Growth in solo living is also not solely an urban phenomenon. This paper draws on ongoing research comparing the experiences of men and women aged 25-44 living alone in different rural and urban localities across Scotland. It explores variations in social capital and social integration, and future expectations regarding personal life such as partnership and parenting, as well as in relation to employment, housing and care needs. It concludes by considering the implications of the findings of this research to social theorising about individualism, intimacy, identity, sense of risk and social change.

**Jenkins, T.**

**University of Kent at Canterbury**

**"He certainly is not a museum object": The emerging cultural meanings of human remains to British museum professionals.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

There is a long tradition of displaying and researching skeletons and body parts in museums. After the Enlightenment they were presented as part of scientific, ethnographic, archaeological or medical museums. Today the old thinking which allowed human remains to be used for research and displayed in museums is changing, in America, Australia, Canada and New Zealand and in particular, in Britain.

UK professionals are beginning to conceive of human remains in a different way to before and they have become a focus for multiple concerns and activities. Dead bodies or remnants of, have been repatriated to overseas indigenous groups; buried, repositioned, or removed from display; audiences consulted on their display and exhibits. A discourse of 'respect' that humanises the remains and which conceives of practices that 'objectify dead bodies' as harmful, is developing.

This paper aims to chart the influences on this focus on human remains and elicit the meanings of respect. By declaring the urgency of tracking the contemporary preoccupation with human remains in museum institutions, this paper will argue for a greater focus on the cultural lives of dead bodies today.

**Jones, D.S.**

**North East Wales Institute of Higher Education**

**Managing the Pregnant Body: An exploration into the cultural construction of risk-screening in pregnancy.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.09

How has the development of screening for 'risk' in pregnancy contributed to an understanding of pregnancy as a culturally-managed social process? Has the distinction between the 'natural' and the 'cultural' been blurred by the medicalisation of pregnancy and the manufacture of risk discourses by medical 'experts'?

This paper aims to explore how pregnancy is increasingly subject to the agendas of elites - with the 'natural', unmanaged pregnancy represented by the 'expert community' as itself 'high-risk'. In keeping with Beck (1992), risk is seen as a socially manufactured and managed process, with pregnancy increasingly defined and classified according to both scientific screening tests and - underpinning such tests - a set of cultural beliefs about disability and 'abnormality'.

The paper presents findings from my published, and ongoing research, into perceptions of risk and pregnancy. Accounts of pregnant women's - and midwives - experiences of taking part in antenatal screening for chromosome abnormality/neural tube defects is drawn on to illustrate the arguments being made. My research suggests that screening is - for pregnant women at least - a contested and controversial area - that evokes emotional responses that can transform the experience of pregnancy from 'natural' and highly personal to a managed, socially controlled process. The 'natural' and the 'social', I suggest, have become enmeshed to the extent that pregnant women increasingly define and relate to their pregnancies in 'frames' that draw on 'scientific', medicalised meta-narratives. The late-Modern need to measure, predict, rationalise and control has created an experience of pregnancy in which 'nature' and the 'natural' world are seen as something to be feared, with antenatal screening a tool through which predictability and hence control can emerge.

**Jones, S., Charles, N., Davies, C.**

**Swansea University**

**Gender balance, political culture and working environment in the National Assembly for Wales**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 6

Ramphal 0.03/4

This paper is based on an ongoing ESRC-funded research project looking at 'Gender and Political Processes in the Context of Devolution'. The project explores the relationship between gender and devolution in Wales, looking at both the National Assembly for Wales and Welsh local government. It is investigating how different gender balances affect policy development and political culture at these two levels of government. It also explores the engagement of civil society organisations with local and regional government and the extent to which gender is a salient political identity for collective organisation.

This paper focuses specifically on themes emerging from semi-structured interviews with 31 National Assembly for Wales members (AMs) which explored the political culture and working environment of the National Assembly, as well as the AMs' views of their work-life balance. In particular we consider attempts to create a family-friendly working environment, the extent to which it is realised in practice, and the symbolic significance of a commitment to family-friendly working practices. We also examine AMs' experiences of 'doing politics', particularly whether it is experienced as adversarial and/or consensual, and how and whether this differs from the politics and political culture of local government in Wales. We investigate the extent to which gender parity may or may not influence these processes.

The interviews took place during the second term of the National Assembly (2002-2007), following the referendum in favour of devolution in 1997, and coincided with a period when over 50% of the AMs were women.

**Karapehlivan Senel, F.**

**University of Essex**

**Rethinking the Right to Education: A Sociological Analysis**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 1.15

'Although there has been a recent expansion of academic interest in the theory and practice of Rights, a specifically sociological approach to this topic (rather than a legal or political science approach) has yet to develop. This paper aims to contribute to the emerging field of sociology of human rights by analysing the right to education from a sociological perspective. A political economy approach will be adopted for the analysis of the right to education which, as Ted Benton argues (2005) requires an analysis of power relations and structural inequalities in capitalist society. This paper will have a critical approach to liberal-individualist theory of human rights which has emphasized civil and political rights without considering the effects of the economic, social, cultural and political inequalities of capitalist societies on the realisation of these rights. It will argue that economic, social and cultural rights, on the other hand, despite their formal recognition, have been reduced to 'consumer rights' with the dismantling of the welfare state and privatisation of public services since the 1970s. In this paper I will ask how successful the right to education is in addressing the current social, economic and political realities. It will be argued that even the right to education is not completely exempt from this individualistic perspective and needs to have a broader definition to address the social and economic inequalities in the society. It draws on the case of Turkey by using the findings of macro and micro analyses of my PhD research.'

**Karlsen S., Nazroo J.Y.**

**UCL**

**Influences on a sense of 'Britishness' among different faith communities in England**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Debates regarding the attitudes of different faith communities towards their lives in Britain never seem far from public or media agendas. Concern is voiced that some communities wish to live their lives separately from the rest of British society, and that this will have negative consequences for social cohesion and ethnic relations and lead to the alienation and radicalisation of minority (particularly Muslim) groups. Despite a lack of empirical evidence to corroborate such concerns, they have coincided with an increase in displays of prejudice against certain faith populations and there are reports that this prejudice is considered more socially acceptable than other forms of victimisation.

This paper will present findings from a follow-up survey to the Health Survey for England 1999 which suggest that the majority of individuals from ethnic and religious minority communities in England think of themselves as being 'British'. But that this 'Britishness' exists alongside other forms of national/ethnic identity, and a desire to maintain non-British traditions. The form that this 'Britishness' takes is adapted in light of other aspects of an individual's identity, as well as experiences of and attitudes towards life in Britain. Strength of an identity related to being a member of an ethnic minority group was found to be associated with particular ethnic and faith affiliations and certain migration characteristics. Exposure to victimisation appeared critical to whether or not respondents both felt able to access a sense of 'Britishness' and recognised a need to preserve 'traditional' ways of life considered under threat.

**Kemp, S.**

**University of Edinburgh**

**Is Complexity the 'Missing Link' Between the Social and Natural Domains?**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Complexity theory, a relatively recent mode of thought, offers us new ways of thinking about an old issue, the relationship between social and natural entities. Many of complexity theory's more substantive theoretical tools were developed to describe particular types of phenomena in the natural world. However, since around the mid 1990s, a growing number of social theorists and researchers have argued that complexity theory provides concepts which are just as productive when applied to phenomena in the social domain. In this paper I want to assess the extent to which one particular idea from complexity theory in the natural sciences, that of self-organization, can be used to convincingly describe certain social phenomena. The paper has two main aims. The first is to clarify what self-organization entails, which will involve, amongst other things, considering its similarities and differences to concepts such as autopoiesis. The second aim is to assess how convincing existing applications of the concept are in the social sciences, such as the arguments of Chesters and Welsh (2005) that the 'alter-globalization movement' can be characterised as a self-organizing phenomenon.

King, A.

Kingston University

**"Are you really suggesting that all young people are gay?" Using Queer Theory to trouble the identification of young adulthood.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

Recent studies within the sociology of youth and adulthood have implicitly refuted a developmental model of age widespread in psychological and biological discourses. For instance, life course and biographical models both imply that the relationship between age and identity is socially and historically constructed, and subject to structural constraints. However, many of these studies appear to retain a division between 'natural' and 'social' in terms of this most taken-for-granted ontology. Thus, young adulthood is viewed as something one inevitably becomes through a process of biological and social transitions.

In this paper, I take the notion of transitions to young adulthood as my object of critique. I draw upon queer theory, in particular the work of Judith Butler, to argue that this aged identity category is performative. I also supplement this theoretical approach with insights from ethnomethodology and conversation analysis, applying these to interview accounts where young people are talking about their experiences of becoming young adults. I contend that young adulthood is neither a taken for granted category of identity or for that matter a socially constructed effect; rather, I propose that it is a performative accomplishment, which draws upon and reconstitutes a discourse of chrononormativity; a discourse which both enables and constrains our understandings of, and subjectifications of, age. Therefore, I propose that we need to queer age in the same way that we have sought to queer sex and gender, to open up a space to rethink what it means to grow up and grow old.

Kirby, J.

Edge Hill University

**Natural body, social mind: Have we utilised the full radical potential of G.H. Mead's thought?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.09

The depth and richness brought to our understanding of sociality within G.H. Mead's thought remains under-utilised. Mead adopts an 'in flux' approach to 'becoming' wherein situated cognition is a central organizing process within a dynamic, materialist and reflexive approach to the self/society relationship. For Mead, the organism (body) is the situating foundation for social life within a pre-existing society that frames and shapes the 'in process' development of inner mental processes of 'mind' and 'self'. He thus brings together concrete (material) and abstract (ideas) dimensions of social experience by retaining a situated mind and body link through the cognitive (social) act of thinking. In this approach there is no absolute separation between nature and culture, body and mind, materiality and knowledge, they are all interconnected dimensions of social experience (Burkitt 1998). Mead argues that individuals act habitually, non-consciously in the absence of 'problematic' social situations. When encountering 'problematics', individuals become reflexively aware as they think and 'problem-solve'. This paper reports on an application of Mead's thought within a doctoral study exploring the 'problematic' phenomenon of voice-hearing, or in medical terms 'auditory hallucination', from the perspective of those who experience it. The commonality shared by participants was 'hearing' or 'feeling' a voice with no obvious material origin; this problematised the bodily ear as being the 'normal' way the body deals with sound, which in turn was the catalyst to 'becoming a voice-hearer'. This finding highlights that whilst the body is a 'natural' biological organism, how we think about it is social.

**Koteyko, N., Busby, H.**

**University of Nottingham**

**Vital promises: Web advertising of novel 'health' products and services - probiotics and cord blood banking**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

The paper will explore the representations of health, nature and science on two sets of websites that advertise products and services where the making of scientific claims is critical to success- but where the science is contested, and the claims are promissory.

The data presented will draw on an analysis of the textual and visual representations from (8) websites advertising dairy products and supplements containing probiotics and (7) websites advertising commercial cord blood banks. These are products and services whose claims have yet to be realised in practice, but to which great hopes are attached, that relate to the promotion or enhancement of health.

Based on methods from the framework of critical social semiotics, the analysis explores the website design, the social relations that are constructed in the paper, the normative or social values that are implied, and the projected audience.

We shall then look more broadly at the wider resonance of the claims and suggestions made in these websites. The concluding discussion will focus on issues of trust and responsibility in this context, and ask: How do companies seek to establish or compete for trust on these websites? And what notions of responsibility are promoted in these websites?

**Krpic, T.**

**Ljubljana University, Slovenia**

**Your Body, My Pain**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Although body art performance is first of all a form of modern artistic expression, it can be also identified a sort of highly unstructured and rather small community, occasionally constituted around unusual artistic event in a specific environment, for instance in art gallery. Body art performers use marginal reflexive body techniques with intention to produce authentic and timely limited artwork. They use their bodies as a vehicle for expressing their thoughts and emotions. Audience of the body art performance also plays a significant role. During the body art performance there is a constant flow of communication between the body art performer and the audience. For the outside observer, the body art performer represents the active pole of the body art performance, simply because the body art performer actually acts on the stage, while the audience represents the passive pole, for people are only rarely invited to assist the body art performer and mostly stand still while watching the body art performance. It looks like the audience has little or even no effect on the body art performance and this is the main reason why researchers do not pay much attention to the audience. But in fact both, body art performers and the audience, are important for interpretation of the constitution of the body art performance. The key to the question lies in feeling of pain. The body art performers use specific reflexive body techniques in order to wake a feeling of pain in spectators.

**Kurashima, A.**

**University of Manchester**

**Body Techniques as Sensually Constructed: A Case Study of a Tai Chi Class in Manchester**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Body techniques are sociologically understood as a function of society, in that it is the result of 'embodiment' of the social position of the agent. However, while it is convenient to understand techniques this way, it does not necessarily grasp the dynamics in the course of the acquisition of techniques. This is largely due to the teleological framework implicated in the term 'embodiment', which presupposes body techniques as entities external to the agent, towards which the agent is objectively oriented. The positing of this objective orientation is justified by equating the 'bodily' with the 'unconscious', allowing the observer to dismiss the agents' ever-changing sensual understanding of techniques as 'subjective', on the grounds that the real acquisition of techniques are taking place on the 'bodily' and hence 'unconscious' level.

Does body technique precede the agent? Is the agent's fluctuating grasp of technique in the course of its acquisition a merely subjective apprehension of an external entity, instead of being constitutive of the entity itself? I shall show otherwise, by examining a Tai Chi class in Manchester, based on data gathered in participant observation for a period of 9 months. Despite Tai Chi being a body technique deeply rooted in Chinese cultural tradition, a close examination of the lessons reveals that in the course of practice, techniques are first stripped of cultural meaning, then constructed anew on the foundation of bodily sensations, which are different with each student, even when they are practicing in the same class under the same instructor.

**Lahiri, A.**

**Centennial College of Applied Arts & Technology, Toronto**

**Biotechnology and Neoliberalism**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

In this paper, I intend to illustrate the shifting paradigm of industrial policy from state led developmentalism to neoliberalism via the example of biotechnology policy in a developing country such as India. Biotechnology is a particularly good case to illustrate this shift in paradigm essentially because it is illustrative of all the essential traits of contemporary capitalism called neoliberalism : hype and hope; commercial capital over industrial capital; use of speculative capital to generate intellectual capital; and capital accumulation by dispossession by means of institutionalized conversion of intellectual capital into intellectual property. The arguments justifying such an illustrative route forms the first part of my paper.

In the second part of the paper, I wish to demonstrate that biotechnology and neoliberalism are co-produced and that the political and economical structures of neoliberalism overdetermines the emergence of biotechnology. 'Overdeterminism' is a term used by Louis Althusser to suggest a contextual relationship but not necessarily a causal one (Althusser, 1969. For Marx). My analysis unfolds in three inter-connected parts : first, a historical evolution of India's industrial policy from state-centered developmentalism from the 50s to the 80s and then state-decentered neoliberalism since the early 90s; second, an examination of the role of the Indian State in biotechnology policy which reveals a chimera of both state-led developmentalism as well as market-oriented neoliberalism; and thirdly, as conclusion, the necessity of state intervention to address the three concerns of sustainable development- economic, social and environmental justice for the majority.

**Lapping, C**

**The (Inter)Dependency of the Subject (and)on Social Regulations: Classed and Gendered Responses to the Institutional Authority of the University**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

This paper explores the theoretical and methodological basis for constructing a description of gendered positions in relation to institutionalized discursive practices. Using concepts derived from the analysis of gendered practices within psychoanalysis, it develops a description of the different modes through which young male students respond to the threat presented when the authoritative institution on which they depend is embodied in a female tutor. The data on which this description is based is drawn from a comparative case study of undergraduate modules in contrasting disciplines and institutions. The paper analyses male students' unsolicited accounts of their female tutors, and situates this analysis within an account of the institutional and disciplinary contexts within which the students' were positioned.

Objectives:

- to explore the theoretical and methodological basis for constructing a description of gendered practices in relation to institutionalized discursive practices
- to explore the implications of recontextualising psychoanalytic concepts (e.g. Adam Jukes' conceptualization of 'encapsulated psychosis' and Judith Butler's theorization of 'melancholic incorporation') into sociological analysis
- to describe the relationship between students' subjectivity and the institutionalized regulations of the university
- to develop a description of the different modes through which young male students respond to the threat presented when the authoritative institution is embodied in a female tutor
- to reflect on the difficulties of presenting this kind of data without in some way essentialising, or appearing to essentialise, gender

Lee, J.Y.

University of Nottingham

**'You tell me, am I healthy or not?': Korean woman immigrants' experience of health and illness in the UK**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

In this presentation, I aim to explore how the perceptions of health and illness and the health-seeking behaviours of Korean woman immigrants change after migration to Britain. The data consists of 17 semi-structured qualitative interviews of young mothers in their 30s, who came newly wed to and experienced childbirth in Britain. Korean women, in the course of adaptation to English society, constantly reflect on their perceptions of health and illness, which accordingly leads to diverse health-related behaviours.

Young women especially experience dramatic changes before and after pregnancy and childbirth, which is when most of their contact with the British medical system occurs: first, they realise that they now have a new and different responsibility for their family - i.e., they are the sole 'health guards' for their family; second, they notice that their bodies are 'not the same' after childbirth and they have not received 'proper' care, despite their understanding that their bodies are 'different' from those of British women; and lastly, the degree of medical intervention influences their health-related behaviours for themselves, their husbands and children. Thus, there is ample confusion and ambiguity embedded in the accounts they give about their experiences and bodily condition. Whilst this presentation examines how Korean young mothers experience health and illness in Britain, it also raises, in part, the question of culturally competent care, which may have been overlooked by the British medical system.

Liu, S.

University of Essex

**The Interplay of Social Integration and System Integration in the Sociology of Bourdieu and Mannheim**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

This paper reviews the sociology of Bourdieu and Mannheim to dissect how they integrate the social dimension and the system dimension. Bourdieu elaborates the ways that capital determines the relationships of domination and subordination between actors and their struggles to maintain or transform such relationships. Mannheim develops a view about how contradiction or incompatibility between modes of thought of actors influence the relationships between them and drives social system change. They converge on the point that the belief or mode of thought of the dominant group assumes the dominant belief through struggles against groups with competing beliefs. Their shortcoming, however, is that Bourdieu does not provide beliefs or the principles of action with specific connotation, while Mannheim furnishes no basis for power relationships. A synthesis of their work is necessary to consider how both aspects of capital and ideas in concert generate social actions and relationships.

Lonie, D., West, P., Wilson, G.B

University of Glasgow

**Popular music and embodied emotion: the meeting point of structure and agency.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

The relatively recent empirical focus on the sociology of emotions has led to debates about how emotions are related to social structure; specifically if a causal relationship exists between social structure and our emotions. This presentation considers the relationship between emotions, social structure and the agent by focusing on how music is consumed and embodied as a cultural product.

As part of a wider doctoral project, semi structured interviews were carried out with 18 participants. The interviews were analysed using Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis (IPA) and a range of themes emerged. The themes relating to emotion highlighted the unique place of music as a mediator between embodied emotion (experienced and described by the participants) and intended emotion (intended emotion from a product of the social structure). The results of the analyses indicate that whilst for some participants the embodied emotional experience is the same as the intended emotion, for others the embodied emotion contrasts with the intended emotion. The agent experiences a process of catharsis and ownership of emotion which undermines the music as a social product, but enriches it as a personal emotional product. This model highlights the importance of emotions in understanding the relationship between the agent and social structure, as well as explaining how emotions function as facilitators for changes in this structure. By listening to popular music in both a group and individual setting the agent can engage in emotion work integral to individual emotional health, as well as maintaining or transgressing the dominant social structure.



**Lowe, P., Lee, E.**

**Aston University**

**Mothers' ruin? The construction of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome in the UK**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

Recently, The Dept of Health changed their advice about drinking in pregnancy, and by 2008 alcohol will carry warning labels on drinking whilst pregnant or trying to conceive. Previously in the UK, the risk of Foetal Alcohol Syndrome was only associated with excessive drinking, now the risk is associated with any alcohol consumption. Yet, at the same time, it is generally accepted that there is little medical evidence of that low levels of alcohol consumption have an adverse impact on the foetus. Moreover, there has been a shift from a specific condition into a range of 'Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders'. This move from a specific disorder to a range of possible alternatives means that children can be said to be effected even when they are not exhibiting sufficient diagnostic criteria to be included in the original category.

This paper will explore how these new concerns about alcohol use whilst pregnant have emerged. Drawing on studies from other countries, and evidence from documents published by policy and pressure groups within the UK, it will show how the growth of concerns about drinking whilst pregnant can be associated with broader trends in society rather than specific scientific evidence of risk. In particular, the cultural concerns over women's binge drinking, 'feral children' and the idea of maternal/foetal conflict position women as both potential abusers and saviours. Finally it will consider how extending the ideal of 'good mothering' into a preconception period, has implications for the policing of all women's behaviour.

**Lusted, J.**

**University of Lincoln**

**'It's in their make-up': 'Race', biology and culture in English 'grass roots' football**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

There is probably no better sociological example of the (con)fusion between nature and culture than the idea of 'race'. While academic accounts of 'race' have long since discredited natural connections between biology, culture and intelligence, the desire to categorise human populations into discrete 'racial' groups remains remarkably persistent. One of the key attempts to come to terms with this persistence has been Barker (1991), whose 'new racism' thesis proposed a decline in the role of biology in racialised discrimination in favour of cultural explanations.

Barker's approach has informed British government understandings of 'race' in recent years. This paper takes up an apparent renaissance in viewing 'race' - and racism - through a specifically biological lens (see Carter 2007, Skinner 2007). Using data collected from PhD research into 'race' equality policies in English grass roots football, it assesses the various ways in which those who control and organise the local game interpret the increasing ethnic diversity of their playing population, and the associated race equality policies they are being told to implement. Interviews with representatives from County Football Associations suggest that longer-standing ideas of 'race' are being employed; ideas that might be traced to the Victorian origins of the game, where scientific racism guided the institutionalisation of 'race' ideas into the early structures and cultures of the game. It concludes by suggesting that - in this particular setting at least - 'nature' appears to remain an important source of meaning for those attempting to make sense of their increasingly diverse local sporting environments.

**Lyle, S.A.**

**University of Warwick**

**Classed Embodiment Among New Graduates**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This paper will examine the emotional and psychic experiences of graduate labour market entrants in light of the expansion of higher education and the graduate labour market (Elias and Purcell, 2007). The theoretical background of this research is based in the competing arguments surrounding workplace stress and social anxiety on the one hand and the social reproduction of class (always understood to be 'raced' and gendered) and its affects on the other (Bourdieu, 1984; Skeggs, 1997, 2004). In sociological literature the examination of evidence of workplace stress, such as illness and the expression of strong emotions, often takes the institution and the activities that take place within it as its starting point. While historical context is often taken into account, this paper argues that more attention has to be given to psycho-social dynamics, that is, employees' social background and its relationships to embodiment and affects (Sayer, 2005; Walkerdine, 2002; Wainwright and Calnan, 2002).

The analysis is drawn from in-depth qualitative interviews with recent graduates working in the area of professional financial services. Participants were asked to talk about their experiences of higher education and job recruitment and were interviewed in the early and intermediate stages of their new graduate jobs. Identification of the kinds of pressures to which graduates are exposed, especially in the early stages in the recruitment process, are underlined by interviews with senior graduate recruiters.

**Macdonald, G.**

**University of Bristol**

**"Rhetoric or reality?: Children's voices in private family court proceedings involving domestic violence cases."**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

The issue of children's involvement in decision-making that affects them is currently receiving unprecedented attention in the UK. This is largely as a result of a paradigmatic shift in sociological thinking regarding 'children' and 'childhood' over the last couple of decades. Developments in the Sociology of Childhood coincided with the rise of the Children's Rights Movement which resulted in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989. Article 12 of this Convention states that all children capable of forming their own views have the right to express those views freely in all matters that affect them and that children's voices should be heard in judicial proceedings affecting them. Consequently, the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) have made it their policy to consult with all children with whom they have an involvement.

This paper draws on recent research and initial findings emerging from a doctoral study on children's inclusion in private family court proceedings in cases of domestic violence. Based on this research, this paper will begin to explore some of the theoretical and practical issues of including children in 'difficult' legal decision-making regarding their lives. The key questions explored are: to what extent and how are children's voices represented in court welfare reports?; How far do children's views, wishes and feelings impact on assessments and on CAFCASS recommendations to the court?; And what are the strengths and barriers to working inclusively with children in cases where risk and safety are important concerns?

**Mah, A.**

**London School of Economics**

**The Toxic Legacies of Niagara Falls: Between Science and Society**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

This paper is concerned with how people construct, make sense of, and interact with ideas of science, health, and the environment in relation to toxic legacies; and how race and class are factors in the spatial proximity of residential communities to toxic sites. These issues are explored through the case studies of two neighbourhoods adjacent to abandoned chemical industrial sites in Niagara Falls, Ontario and Niagara Falls, New York. The impacts of toxic dumps and abandoned industrial sites upon the health of residents and on the environment have been studied mainly within the fields of epidemiology, environmental science, public policy, public health and environmental law. These studies are highly contentious, with problems surrounding the difficulty of scientific quantification of the link between pollution and illness, and the politics of environmental activism. This paper addresses toxic legacies from a sociological standpoint, exploring the uncertainty in people's lives that comes from both real and perceived risks associated with living near to toxic sites.

**Mahler, J.**

**Lived Time as Real-Life Methodology**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

The paper will outline the passage from what started as an ethnographic exploration of lived time in Guatemala and ended as a perspective for communal coexistence within contemporary global capitalism in London. Let's understand lived time as subconscious flow of life-energy. Let's understand the subconscious as nature. Let's contrast this notion of nature to consciousness, rationality, representation or the symbolic, with which it is coexisting. Let's understand the latter as culture, or the social. A real-life methodology wants to generate knowledge (i.e. culture) that responds to the present state of nature. But is there still nature within global capitalism? Let's replace nature with 'the real' and characterise global capitalism as the explosion of the (modern) cultural and social by the now unbound or 'real' play of life-energies. Lived time as real-life methodology became in this passage an approach that could account for some of the most urgent tasks that contemporary social sciences have to cope with, such as speed, diversity, singularity, fragmentation and inter-cultural communication. Lived time as real-life methodology became an approach that radically affirmed and made use of the unavoidable subjective dimension of the researcher's encounter with the object she is investigating. Lived time as real-life methodology started in a Deleuzian manner as explicitly non-representational (emancipating nature from culture), but then moved beyond this towards a psychoanalytically informed attempt to generate real-life representations through internally holding the researched other over time (generating culture out of nature).

**Marron, D.**

**The Robert Gordon University**

**Credit, Consumption and Freedom**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

This paper sets out to examine the theme of consumer credit and questions the relative lack of attention given to this area within a now well-developed sociology of consumption literature. Drawing on Calder's (2002) identification of two cultural 'myths' that surround credit, an overview is provided of the contrasting positions that theorists, as well as wider society, have staked in conceptualizing the phenomenon of consumer borrowing: one based on 'credit' as a democratizing force that enhances the freedoms and self-determining possibilities enjoyed by consumers; the other based on 'debt' as a damaging economic and cultural development that can be contrasted with a virtuous past and through which individual freedom and self-determination is degraded. It is argued that this follows a wider janus-faced understanding of consumption. Drawing on theoretical ideas of 'governmentality', this paper attempts to overcome this dualism by seeking to demonstrate how credit has historically been a governed process and how processes of governing borrowers have become transformed as institutional forms of consumer credit have developed over the course of the 20th century. The central argument advanced here is that freedom is a contingent component of all credit transactions and, within conventional mainstream forms, has become a key resource that is drawn upon by lenders in governing credit consumers.

**Marshall, J, L.**

**University of Central Lancashire**

**Issues of 'Risk', 'Trust' and 'Choice' in relation to low-paid parents and the childcare dilemma**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

This paper will investigate issues of 'risk', 'trust' and 'choice' in relation to the formal childcare sector and the informal childcare sector for low-paid parents living in Britain. Whilst the Labour Government have made a number of positive changes in the formal childcare sector with for example the National Childcare Strategy, childcare provision continues to be a 'national disaster' in Britain as the childcare sector is market led and childcare providers usually operate in more affluent areas. Sociological research shows that low-paid parents rely on family and friends for childcare provision as this is less expensive than formal childcare provision and in what Ullrich Beck terms 'risk society' they place more 'trust' in people that they know and love. Government policy does not take into account the childcare 'choices' of low-paid parents as informal childcarers are not rewarded by the State. Low-paid parents and informal childcare providers make up what Zigmund Bauman refers to as the 'invisible poor' as the State effectively makes the childcare choice for them- they will receive money towards childcare if they use formal provision and they will not receive money towards childcare if they use informal provision. This paper will put forward the argument that informal childcare provision ought to be funded by the Government as the 'choices' of low-paid parents should be

**Martin, P.A.**

**University of Nottingham**

**Social science and the making of neuroscientific futures**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

This presentation will consider the emergence of neuroscience as a 'new field of hope' in which high expectations of science and technology are being used to mobilised resources and enable innovation. In common with other areas of biotechnology, these developments are associated with the production of both utopian and dystopian futures in which human cognition and behaviour can be enhanced or controlled in novel ways. In doing so, the neurosciences are seen to be renegotiating the boundary between the 'natural' and the 'cultural', as well as raising profound social and ethical issues. How then should sociology engage with these developments? Two examples will be used to address this question. Firstly, the debate on cognitive enhancement technologies will be analysed to examine how neuroscience is reimagining the limits of human embodiment. Secondly, the field of social neuroscience will be used to explore novel discourses about what is 'human nature'. In both cases, it will be argued that many of the underlying assumptions that underpin these constructions of human capabilities and identities are shared by both scientists and the ethicists and social scientists studying the area. In this sense, sociologists are playing an important role in the co-production of this emerging field of hope through work on neuroscience and society. In conclusion, it will be argued that social scientists need to be both more critical of scientific claims about the power of neuroscience, and reflexive about their own role in the construction of technoscientific futures.

**Maruyama, S.**

**Loughborough University**

**How poor women have been constructed by welfare policy in Japan**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Body

Ramphal 0.03/4

Welfare policy presumes the nuclear family of a male breadwinner and a female caretaker. It favors those who live in the traditional family model while penalizes those who deviate from it. The lives of women who have no husbands are regulated by it, especially the ones of the poor getting by on the welfare benefit.

Japanese welfare policy for poor women fundamentally has been divided into two channels, one designed for single mothers with young children and the other designed for prostitutes. Mothers relying on the social welfare have to resign themselves to poverty but are still protected, though their treatments are different depending on their reasons to be single, such as widows, the divorced or the unmarried. Prostitutes, on the other hand, have been punished by the Prostitution Prevention Law, which was enacted in 1953 after the abolishment of the state-regulated prostitution system. In these two channels, poor women who have no infants, such as domestic violence victims and the homeless have been provided with rehabilitation facilities for prostitutes regardless of their experiences as sex workers, only because they have vacancies. These two positions either as mothers or prostitutes and the different manners in which the former should be protected and the latter punished have been constructed by welfare policy based on the normative family model. Through this presentation, I would show the historical and political process of this construction and discuss its implication for women, especially in the setting of the recent increase of poverty in Japan.

**Mason, J., Davies, K.**

**University of Manchester**

**Personal Heritability and Everyday Life: theorising family resemblances**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Ideas and assumptions about personal heritability strongly pervade everyday lives, and one important dimension to this is the question of family resemblance. Resemblances in appearance, mannerisms, temperament, disposition, health/illness, emotions, aptitudes, abilities, sexual orientations etc are lived and made sense of by people in their everyday lives as well as through a range of expert discourses. Explanations about what causes family resemblances, and what their meaning or consequence might be, are often strongly held, although not always compatible with each other. They draw upon and sometimes reframe ideas about nature, culture, the social, biology, genetics, the spiritual and the sensory, as well as what personhood, family, kinship and affinity mean. These ideas may be gleaned from personal experiences as well as from different versions of 'expert' knowledge and normative cultural understanding. The 'living' of resemblances involves a range of interpersonal or interactive processes, including recognition, acceptance, resistance, denial, negotiation, orchestration and manipulation. Such processes are often heavy with emotion, whether that be pleasure, pain, irritation, fear or disappointment.

Exploring heritability and family resemblance takes sociology into exciting and challenging territory, both methodologically and theoretically, not least because it demands that we understand interactions as more than social, or that we expand what we mean by social. This paper will outline some of these challenges and opportunities, drawing on preliminary findings of an innovative (mixed methods) study of 'Living Resemblances' conducted as part of the Real Life Methods Node of the ESRC National Centre for Research Methods ([www.reallifemethods.ac.uk/research/resemblances](http://www.reallifemethods.ac.uk/research/resemblances)).

**Mason, J., Muir, S.**

**University of Manchester**

**Familiar frictions? living and narrating differences in family background**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

This paper focuses on how couples who self-define as coming from different family backgrounds live and narrate their differences and similarities. It will explore in particular their experience of celebratory occasions, including Christmas. It draws on preliminary findings from a study of Family Background in Everyday Lives ([www.reallifemethods.ac.uk/research/background](http://www.reallifemethods.ac.uk/research/background)).

Family background is a concept in everyday parlance, through which people live and narrate their lives in association with and in relation to others. Through attribution of and negotiations around family background, people situate themselves and others in dynamic connection to other people as well as to places and to cultural 'markers', past and present. Background is weighed and understood often in highly embodied and sensory as well as socio-cultural ways. It overlaps with, but does not straightforwardly equate to, conventional variables of sociological stratification such as class and ethnicity.

Differences in family background can be brought into sharp relief on celebratory occasions such as Christmas, Hannukah, Diwali. These occasions may involve the physical co-presence of family members who 'represent' differences in background, but also they entail and engender stories and narratives of what different sides or parts of families are like, as well as what the occasions themselves are meant to symbolise. In exploring how these elements come together, the paper will consider the methodological and theoretical value of the concept of background itself in relation to existing sociological approaches. As a concept that derives from the lived experience of relationality and connectivity, we suggest it has considerable sociological promise.

**McGovern, P.**

**Salford University**

**"Back to Square One" - notes on the evolution of a heart disease self-help group**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

This paper, using data from my doctoral research, will reflect on the growth and subsequent fragmentation of a community-based group for people with heart disease in an urban area of high deprivation where coronary heart disease accounts for a quarter of male deaths. This self-help group was set up twenty years ago by a local man who had been diagnosed (at 46 years) and died soon afterwards from heart disease. His extended family became the committed organisers of the group. The group received lottery funding nine years ago and expanded to operate from five sites with four members of staff. This funding has now run out.

Using examples from participant observation and depth interviews with the Management Committee, staff, volunteers and members of the self-help group, this paper will explore the process of social transformation and changes in the social positioning of agents in this field using a Bourdieusian analysis. It will be argued that the expansion of the group has highlighted the difference in tacit assumptions of these four categories of social agent about the focus of the group and has made fragmentation inevitable. This paper will end with some reflections on the positive and negative effects of grant aid on small voluntary/community groups and the disjuncture between government policy and practical reason in the field.

**McGrath, N.**

**Glasgow Caledonian University**

**A Sense of injustice: The significant of malodour as catalyst to grassroots environmental action**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

This paper will explore the social and cultural significance of malodour in the context of perceptions of environmental risk and hazard, and to the process of meaning construction underpinning collective action in relation to such perceptions. It centres on resistance and protest about proposals for a 5th landfill site in the North Lanarkshire village of Greengairs, a semi rural community identified as an area of significant environmental disadvantage by organisations such as Friends of the Earth, Scotland. The paper draws on narrative accounts of issues, events and actions obtained from activists in these protests, and will focus on the lived and embodied experience of residing in the shadow of landfill sites and more specifically, on the role of a sense of smell in the identification of such sites as environmental 'bads'. The emphasis on foul odours in terms of aesthetics but also in terms of an indicator (even cause) of health risk emerges as a major source of grievance and catalyst to action. This paper aims for a socio - cultural interpretation of the significance of sensory perception to the process of meaning construction in relation to collective action and protest, necessarily locating the sense of smell within existing discursive practice around environment, nature and social justice.

**McLachlan, C.**

**University of Manchester**

**Stakeholder responses to wave and bio energy: symbolic (dis) harmonies**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Previous work on stakeholder responses to renewable energy technology developments has tended to focus upon wind energy. As developments are proposed that involve other technologies, it is timely to consider responses stakeholders may have. An in-depth interview approach has been combined with the collection of a wide range of secondary data in order to analyse the formation of opposition and support in two case studies (Eccleshall Biomass in Staffordshire and the Wave Hub in Cornwall).

Four key issues have emerged from the cases; (1) the role of local experience, knowledge and 'alternative' experts, (2) the process of consultation and planning and how this can multiply aspects of controversy, (3) the wider framing of the development such as national energy policy, international CO2 emissions and climate change, (4) symbolic interpretations of both the technology and its proposed location. The paper shall focus on this last issue.

Symbolic interpretations of the technology and its proposed location/place were multiple and often conflicting. The symbolic references to the technologies included; low-tech, hi-tech, green, pioneering, unknown, industrial/man-made, natural. Symbolic references to the location/place include; rural, natural, pristine, industrial, a resource (for exploitation or protection). These differing interpretations of the technology and the location/place have resulted in various combinations of symbolic (dis) harmony that impact upon assessments of the appropriateness of the development.

Notions of control over the definition of 'place' and the associated suitability of developments within it will be discussed as will the impact of communications strategies that assume hegemonic symbolic interpretations.

**McLennan, G.**

**University of Bristol**

**The Dawkins Debate: where should sociologists stand?**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Public Sociology

Social Studies 0.09

At a time when the debate around Dawkins's *The God Delusion* has become a major publishing and civil society phenomenon, it is strange that sociologists, who are talking much about 'public sociology' and 'sociology and its publics', have been entirely absent from these polemics. Some figures in cultural theory, such as Terry Eagleton, have encouraged what appears to be a common view amongst some social critics, that the camp of Dawkins, Hitchens and others represents something like an atheistic/secular 'fundamentalism'. What should sociologists think of these issues? Should we be intervening in any particular way? And can we even establish a stable reading of the principal texts that articulate the 'debate'? This paper gives a steer on how to approach these questions, from the point of view developed in my recent Sociology article on postsecular social theory. In doing so, major explanatory issues arise about the 'naturalness' of religion, even in the sense of the 'natural sociality' of religious phenomena, that connect directly to the overarching theme of the conference.

**Merryweather, D.**

**Liverpool Hope University**

**Trials and tribulations of conducting focus group research with young people.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

Risks routinely associated with everyday lifestyles such as alcohol consumption, drug-misuse and violence, are amongst the most pressing issues facing young people today. Moreover, taking a post-structuralist stance, risk-discourses can be viewed as occupying a key role with regard to individual subjectivities, making available a wide range of normative subject-positions to be taken-up or resisted. One way of exploring this relationship is to attend to the conversational interactions of young people, examining how they talk about risk and how they position themselves and others in so doing. But how does one do this? How can conversational interactions on the topic of risk be encouraged and suitable data generated? One solution is to engage in focus group research, bringing together young people from similar backgrounds and facilitating discussion of the risks that characterise their everyday lives. However, this is no straightforward matter. Accessing suitable young people is often subject to the whims of gatekeepers and once participants have been recruited there is no guarantee they will talk. So how are such difficulties to be circumvented? How can talk be facilitated and moreover, how can barriers to meaningful conversational interaction be overcome. This paper draws on current research to consider the trials and tribulations of conducting focus groups with young people. A number of problems relating to this method are highlighted with particular attention paid to the various strategies employed by way of overcoming these. Finally, a range of possible solutions and strategies for future development will be suggested.

**Miele, M., Evans, A., Higgin, M.**

**Cardiff University**

**Assessing the quality of life of animals**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Technology and social organizations are transforming the habitats of both farm animals and humans and new breeds of farm animals and new animal farming systems in which humans and animals interact are establishing themselves. These assemblages of animals and farming technologies are subjected to different ideas of good farming and different perceptions of what constitute a good life for animals. They also entail different interpretations of the way in which humans and non human animals can interact and it is becoming increasingly unclear what would be an ethically justified way of treating animals.

The EU Welfare Quality(r) project has, over the last few years developed animal-based, welfare assessment protocols for several classes of farmed livestock, based on scientific findings from welfare science research groups in Member States across the EU. The project is now beginning to examine possible mechanisms for using these assessment protocols to evaluate different animal farming practices.

This paper looks at the organisation of the on farm animal welfare assessing practices proposed in Welfare Quality in a case study of the assessment of different farming systems for the production of broiler chickens. It addresses the ethical intuitions participants in these diverse practices have and it aims to identify how farmers and scientists define the quality of life of farm animals in different farming situations by exploring how the ethical relations between human and non-human animals are enacted and articulated within these practices.

**Milne, R.J.**

**University College London**

**Between Red and Green? Using molecular farming to understand the relationship between agricultural and**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

It has become common in STS to talk of biotechnologies as 'hybrid' technologies that transgress boundaries between species, disciplines or regulatory regimes. In this way the production of pharmaceuticals in genetically modified plants, or 'molecular farming', traverses medical and agricultural biotechnologies and represents a new direction for both. As such, it presents new questions for regulators, researchers, companies and environmental organisations as it reworks contemporary debates around genetically modified crops and pharmaceutical production. This paper considers how it also opens up a number of new questions for studying biotechnology and society, which have often focused on one or the other of these arenas. In particular it allows a more detailed investigation of the existence of a 'red/green' divide in public attitudes. Studies such as the Eurobarometer have shown a consistent split between positive attitudes to medical and negative attitudes to agricultural biotechnology. This paper considers how this divide is developed and challenged in a series of focus group discussions of molecular farming. It examines how participants place molecular farming within broader discourses around biotechnology, agriculture and medicine and the role played by relations with these discourses in constituting, stabilising and maintaining the separation of medical and agricultural biotechnology.

**Misztal, B.A.**

**University of Leicester**

**Mapping the conditions of human vulnerability**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

The paper aims to enhance sociological understanding of the concept of vulnerability by mapping the conditions of human vulnerability and ways in which people cope with vulnerability. Such a perspective can be developed by expanding on Arendt's (1958:27) concept of 'the frailty of human affairs' and Arendt's search for 'control mechanisms' that bestow upon human affairs faith and hope. It conceptualizes vulnerability as rooted in the human condition of dependence on others, in the unpredictability of action and in the irreversibility of human experiences. The paper discusses three mechanisms for reducing vulnerability; trust, promise and forgiveness, which can be seen as an individual asset, and other times as an attribute of a society, and which operate on different levels. Concluding remarks suggest that to understand vulnerability and its remedies matters as such an understanding could help us to comprehend the essential conditions and the greatest obstacles to the construction of a peaceful cosmopolitan world.

**Moffat, B., Johnson, J., Shoveller, J.**

**University of British Columbia**

**A gateway to nature: Teenagers' use of marijuana outdoors**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

Increasingly, many young people are disconnected from the natural world; rather, they inhabit a technological world that focuses on computers, MP3 players, and cell phones. Although experiences in nature have long been a source of fascination, little is known about how youth independently access and make sense of nature. The research on youth focuses primarily on exploring experiences with nature within the context of educational and recreational programs. We set out to uncover the perspectives of youth who chose to use marijuana outdoors. A substance such as marijuana is often viewed as a "gateway" leading to "harder" drug use; rarely do we consider how marijuana might be a gateway to positive experiences.

We apply a narrative analysis to explore the ways in which youth describe their marijuana use in nature -- an important aspect of the culture and context of use. The setting for this study was two communities in British Columbia, Canada and involved interviews with 45 teenagers, aged 14 – 18, in which they described and interpreted their experiences with marijuana use. Participants indicated how they connected with nature through the use of marijuana in a climate that both discourages and normalizes its use. Youth framed their marijuana use in relation to four narratives: freedom in nature, the pleasure of leisure, awe struck by the natural world and making meaning of the world. These narratives suggest that while "nature" is often constructed as separate from young people's lives, marijuana use in nature bridges this divide.



**Moles, K.**

**Cardiff University**

**The Illusion of Nature: Constructing, Taming and Authenticating the Natural**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

Parks are human creations. Despite their natural appearance, with an abundance of trees and green space, they are actually an illusion of nature, designed from scratch and then re-presented back to human audiences in a cultural performance. This paper will explore the construction of a public park; the processes that have been involved in producing the cultural performance and what they tell us about the changing interaction between nature and society. Through tracing the different ways nature has been manipulated, tamed and authenticated within the boundaries of this park, this paper will provide an insight into the ways natural space exists in our urban lives.

**Molloy, C.**

**Liverpool John Moores University**

**Media constructions of dangerous dogs**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

At the end of the twentieth century widespread anxieties about the risks associated with 'dangerous dogs' were addressed through legislative change in the UK. The introduction of canine breed specific legislation in the form of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 was designed to completely eradicate certain types of dogs. Since the introduction of the 1991 Act in the UK, the legislation has provided a regulatory model that has been adopted by many other countries and states.

This paper proposes that the concepts of risk and risk society provide a particularly useful theoretical and critical standpoint from which to discuss the discourse of dangerous dogs and the implementation of breed specific legislation in the UK. This paper examines how dogs are constructed as risks and as objects of competing discourses within the popular media. I argue that the dangerous dogs discourse draws on a range of gendered and popular fictive discourses. This paper also proposes that within the dangerous dogs discourse the 'pit bull terrier' has brought about a major shift in the contemporary definition and classification of companion canines.

**Moog, S.**

**University of Essex**

**Beyond the Great Divide? A Critique of Recent Efforts to Transcend the Nature/Culture Binary in the Work of Radical Ecologists and of Bruno Latour.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

In recent years, various theorists have suggested that our current environmental crisis is not just the result of flawed technical, economic or political systems. Ironically, radical ecologists such as Carolyn Merchant and critical scholars of science and technology such as Bruno LaTour have suggested that it is, in fact, our very conception of nature that is at the root of our problems. Nature is conceived as that which is not culture, the natural is opposed to that which is uniquely human, and these oppositions have been conceptualized within a body of other parallel, and politically laden binaries: subject/object, self/other, man/woman, society/biology, human/animal, civilized/savage. It is precisely this binary split, they insist, that we must somehow destabilize, or transcend, on the road to a more ecologically benign mode of life.

Much of Ted Benton's work has been dedicated to this very issue: the need to interrogate the constitutive dualisms that have set nature apart from culture, biology apart from society, and the natural apart from the social sciences. But Benton's project has been quite different than that proposed either by radical ecologists or more recently by Latour. In this paper I trace, 1) the sources of powerful appeal of the radical ecological and Latourian approaches, and 2) the ways in which Benton's call for a transcendence of misleading nature/culture dualisms -- not through their erasure or elision, but rather through investigations of the "relations between these abstractly counterposed domains" (1991:7) -- offers a fundamentally more coherent approach to practical ecological politics.

**Morgan, B**

**Essex University**

**The Fear of Death and the Midlife Crisis**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Midlife signifies an important climax in a person's life. It is at this point that 'the individual has stopped growing up, and has begun to grow old' (Spillius, 1988, 234). It represents a period in which the individual starts to realise the inevitability of their own death and for some people this means that the countdown to death has begun (Kearl, 1989, 465).

This paper looks at the fear of death and its relation to the midlife period. It explores how an individual comes to fear death and techniques they employ to allay these fears. The human mind often deceives itself into believing in its own immortality through psychological trickery such as denial, repression, or sublimation. However, it has been suggested that in midlife this psychological self-deception begins to weaken and subsequently the middle aged individual begins to realise that time is passing by quickly and death is a more realistic possibility.

This paper will draw upon examples from the life-story interviews I have conducted with 'middle-aged people'. It will outline some of the defining characteristics of this life stage, with specific attention to how issues around death, dying and mortality affect this age group. In particular it will be looking at the generational shift that often occurs in midlife; the death of the parental generation, the emergence of the new generation through grandchildren and the impact this has on the midlife individual's awareness of their own ageing and mortality.

**Morgan, K., Cole, M.**

**University of Bristol**

**The Discursive Representation of Nonhuman Animals in a Culture of Denial**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

The exploitation of many nonhuman animals is driven not only by economic motives but also by a culture of denial as regards the infliction of pain and suffering on sentient beings. There is a contradiction underpinning the exploitative treatment of farmed animals in the context of a society which celebrates affective relationships with companion animals.

This paper focuses on differential media representations of the treatment of farmed and companion animals, setting out the way in which they are distinguished through discourses of utility and intimacy respectively. Farmed animals tend to be presented as little more than machines, as technological products to be consumed at will, in other words as objects. Companion animals tend to be represented as intelligent, loving, worthy of our protection and as capable of entering into intimate relationships with us, in other words, as subjects

Stories of abuse of puppies or kittens are rightly treated with horror; however the daily abuse of farmed calves, piglets, lambs or chicks is obscured and denied. The contradictions inherent in our treatment of nonhuman animals can only be explained by a denial of subjecthood to certain categories of animals, namely farmed animals. Media representations play an important role in enlisting the tacit support of consumers. In discursively constructing certain practices as 'normal', such representations enable a differentiating processes of subjectification and objectification which simultaneously facilitates a continuing denial as regards the way in which we permit farmed animals to be misused.

**Morton, R.**

**University of Warwick**

**Home Education: Constructions of Choice**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Teaching and Learning

Ramphal 3.41

Families who choose to home educate generally do so due to some form of dissatisfaction with school-based education and this is often linked to their lifestyle. Common perceptions of home educators oscillate between images of the 'tree-hugging hippy' and the 'religious fanatic'. Whilst attempting to go beyond such simple and stereotypical dichotomies, this paper will examine two very different groups of home educators and their differing constructions of childhood and the social world. For the first group home education is constructed as a 'natural' choice which is often presented in political opposition to existing social structures, while for the second group home education is predominantly a 'social' choice relating to the conscious transmission of various forms of capital. Based on qualitative research, including data from interviews and participant observation, this paper will argue that, even where home education is constructed as natural, the social aspects of home education choices cannot be ignored, whilst acknowledging a third group for whom home education is not perceived as a choice.

**Murata, Y.**

**Kyoto University**

**Grandmothers Working in a Crèche: Motherhood, Generation and Nationalism in Japan**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

Recently, there are a growing number of programs and activities that promote the encounter between elderly people and mothers with younger children in Japan. With the population rapidly aging and birthrate falling, elderly people (especially women) are expected to perform a greater role in the field of child-raising support. According to the 2006 White Paper, these include such activities as nursing children both at home and in day-care facilities, which are often funded by the central and/or local governments.

Behind this happy picture of inter-generational assistance, however, some highly political issues can be pointed out. For example, why should it be grandmas and not foreign workers that help mothers mother their children? (Following the Agreement Between Japan and the Republic of the Philippines for an Economic Partnership in 2006, a growing number of female Filipino workers are allowed into the country to work in the nursing industry, but this is limited to the care of the sick and the elderly.) Another issue is the absence of fathers in this picture.

With these questions in mind, I have conducted a research at a children's day-care facility in Kyoto, which was founded by one of the largest associations of the elderly in 2002. The research lasted from April 2003 to March 2005. It will be argued that there still exists a strong belief that mothering should be kept within the family and within the nation.

**Myers, M., Bhopal, K., McGhee, D.**

**University of Southampton**

**Gypsy Traveller Families in West Sussex: Ideas of Safety and Community**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

This paper will examine some preliminary findings from a study carried out in west Sussex. The study aims were to examine and assess the role and effectiveness of the Traveller Education Service (TES). The research is based on twelve (to date) qualitative in-depth interviews with Gypsy Traveller families in West Sussex. It is also based on interviews with members of the TES and members of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Service. The interviews were tape-recorded and the data transcribed. The families who participated in the research were selected by the TES for interview. All of the interviews took place in the homes of the respondents and for some interviews the respondents wanted a member of the TES to be present. Our preliminary findings indicate that families feel the TES are a useful service and it is because of their relationship with the TES that they send their children to school (see also Bhopal et al, 2000). They also indicate that they want their children to go to school as long as they feel their children will be safe and looked after. Our research also revealed there are differing meanings of the term 'community' in relation to how Gypsy families live their lives. This paper will attempt to shed light on how Gypsy families view the role of the TES, their children's education and how definitions of 'community' fit into these meanings.

**Neale, B., Holland, J.**

**University of Leeds**

**Interpreting Lives through Time: Primary and Secondary analysis of Qualitative Longitudinal data**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

In this paper we present an overview of methods for analyzing qualitative data that is generated through or in relation to time. Following a brief introduction on the contours of qualitative longitudinal (QL) research, we review a small but growing body of literature that explores methods for organizing, describing, interrogating and interpreting QL data. Key issues for consideration include the challenges thrown up by conducting repeat cross sectional analysis, in combination with longitudinal case study analysis. We will also discuss the scaling up of QL enquiry to enable reworking of QL data by secondary analysts. The paper will include practical examples of analytical strategies adopted by researchers working in different disciplinary traditions, including methods under development in the Timescapes ESRC Qualitative Longitudinal Study.

**Nee, J., Brady, E., Sheridan A.**

**University College Dublin**

**Reflections on a Randomised Controlled Trial of Supported Socialisation for People with Serious Mental Illness in Ireland**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.28

Supported socialisation, based on the recovery model, is reminiscent of Tuke's 19th century clinical therapeutic method that highlighted the role of hope, respect and compassion in recovery. While the recovery model recognises the neurobiological aspects of mental illness, it emphasises the importance of the individual's role in managing his/her illness and the need for supportive, facilitative services throughout the recovery process. The new vision of recovery expands the goal and nature of care to encompass what is possible for the individual within the context of illness and defining his/her role in pursuing such possibilities despite his/her disability (Davidson et al. 2005). In supported socialization programmes, people with serious mental illness are offered the opportunity to engage in supportive, structured social and recreational activities in the community in partnership with others (Davidson et al. 2004). In this presentation, reflections of researchers, from three disciplines, on the initial findings of the pilot study and early stages of a randomised controlled trial (RCT) of supported socialisation for people with serious mental illness in Ireland will be reported.

**References**

Davidson L, O'Connell MJ, Tondora J, Lawless M, Evans AC (2005) Recovery in serious mental illness: A new wine or just a new bottle? *Professional Psychology: Research and Practice* 36 (5): 480-487.

Davidson L, Shahar G, Stayner DA, Chinman MJ, Rakfeldt J, Tebes JK (2004) Supported socialization for people with psychiatric disabilities: Lessons from a randomized controlled trial. *Journal of Community Psychology* 32 (4): 453-477.

**Newton, T.J.**

**University of Exeter**

**Beyond Anti-Dualism: Parallelism and Neuroscience**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Drawing on a recently published text by the present author (*Nature and Sociology*, Routledge, August 2007), this paper will explore the possibility of rapprochement between life and social science. It will examine the possibility of such rapprochement in four ways. Firstly, problems with an overweening commitment to anti-dualism will be considered. Secondly, the alternative approach of 'Spinozist parallelism' will be explored, especially through reference to debates within neurology, the brain sciences, and 'social neuroscience'. Attention will be paid to William Connolly's attempt to 'pursue conversations between cultural theory and neuroscience' (2002: 9). Connolly's (2002) account will then be contrasted with that of the neuroscientist, Antonio Damasio. Although both these writers claim to be influenced by Spinozism, their orientation and conclusions markedly differ, seemingly conditioned by their disciplinary allegiances, Connolly to cultural studies and politics, Damasio to neurology and biology. Thirdly, the limitations of Spinozist parallelism will be considered in relation to debates about interdisciplinarity. Fourthly, an interdisciplinary conversation between two avowed Spinozists will be examined, namely that between the phenomenologist, Paul Ricoeur and the neuroscientist, Jean-Pierre Changeux (2000).

**Nimmo, R.**

**University of Aberdeen**

**Auditing Nature, Enacting Culture: Rationalisation and Disciplinary Purification in Early Twentieth Century British Dairy Farming**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

In this paper I examine the development of the practice of milk recording in the British dairy industry in the early decades of the twentieth century, focussing upon the analysis of recording as a process of rationalisation, in which the formal measurability of milk yields acted as a powerful mechanism for the transformation of dairy production. I briefly outline the origins of milk recording and explore the social relations which it articulated, the nature and extent of resistance to the practice, and how it underpinned the wider restructuring of the industry. I then go beyond this historical-sociological account by arguing that within the technical, social, and political processes of rationalisation, another less tangible kind of historical process was at work, involving a reconfiguration of human-animal relations which amounted to an enactment of humanist discourse. The heart of this discourse is an ontological division of the world into human and nonhuman spheres, and the belief that the human domain is of a fundamentally different order from the nonhuman; this 'purification' of the human/nonhuman divide is the condition of possibility of the dualism of 'nature' and 'culture' at the ontological heart of modernity. In this paper I explore the process of rationalisation, via milk recording in particular, as a disciplinary mechanism through which this work of purification is achieved, arguing that milk recording constitutes a humanist technology, operating within and through the pursuit of economic efficiency. In this way I explore the nature of the interconnections between social-economic rationalisation and ontological purification.

**Norstedt, M.**

**University of Lund**

**Nature/culture in narratives concerning stroke - an institutional ethnography.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

I wish to present the use of institutional ethnography as a methodological starting point when studying individuals' re-entry into the job market after having been inflicted with a stroke. My PhD project consists of interviews with individuals who have been inflicted with a stroke, interviews with representatives for societal institutions as well as text analyses.

This presentation will only present an analysis of the first group of interviews. By studying individuals' narratives about their own experiences, their interactions with others in close vicinity, as well as their meetings with representatives for societal institutions (such as the Swedish Employment Service, Swedish Social Insurance Agency, the medical care system) I wish to gain insight in individual strategies and practices as well as learn about power relations embedded in Swedish society.

In the interviews I found narratives on interactions with societal institutions but also with friends, family and working colleges. In addition, the narratives dealt with bodily/mentally/cognitive changes, losses and achievements. Behind these narratives and practices I found discourses about the "good" welfare state, employability and normality.

Through these narratives and discourses, I provide a sociological understanding of the nature/culture relation as intertwined and complex rather than a mere dichotomy. The focal point of my presentation then will be that my use of institutional ethnography may provide a possibility to study the field of stroke (and return to working-life) where social and medical factors are seen as interrelated.

**Nosworthy, C**

**University of Reading**

**Embodying Horse-space: the spatial-temporal practice of horse-human interaction**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

This paper makes an empirical contribution to the body of work Thrift (1997) terms 'non-representational theory' by examining the practice of horse-human interaction at the yard of Gary Witheford, a specialist in dealing with horses with 'problem' behaviours. In the wild the communicative behaviour of horses is based around conceptions of personal space, herd space and flight distance from danger. As part of training horses to perform human goals 'natural horsemanship' practitioners work with 'horse-space' using their body language to 'become' horse (Deleuze and Guattari, 1987), in a way that convinces horses to recognise a human as their leader. Drawing on work within the social sciences that gives attention to the unique 'lifeworlds' of animals, this paper gets close to animal decision making by using ethnographic techniques, including the use of a video camcorder, to consider animal mind as it is demonstrated through expressive embodiment. It is suggested that the identity of both horse and human is always in negotiation in relation to their embodied performances.

**O'Brien, K**

**Letterkenny Institute of Technology**

**A Weberian approach to citizenship in a divided community**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

In the British Isles traditional accounts surrounding the concept of citizenship usually develop along liberal or neo-liberal pathways.

That is to say the study of citizenship in these isles derives from the work of the late TH Marshall (1950; 1963). While the importance of his work deserves its time-honoured acknowledgment in the literature, various writers Giddens (1990); Heater (1990); Turner (2000) have taken issue with his argument that citizenship rights were handed down or that they 're-evolved' over the eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However their main differences with Marshall are not along theoretical lines but rather the applicability, or otherwise, of his model to other societies. Roger Brubaker (1992) points out that the nation state is the final arbiter of who is, or is not, a citizen which in the modern world is an act of social closure. This paper will discuss the efficacy of a sociological approach, based on social closure theory, as a means of understanding the struggle that has accompanied the granting of citizenship rights. Northern Ireland will be used as a case study to assess the effectiveness of social closure theory as a sociological explanation for the expansion of citizenship rights in a divided community.

**Omelchenko, E.**

**Ulyanovsk State University**

**The paradoxes of 'straight' masculinity: Homoerotica + homophobia = masculine solidarity?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

This paper discusses the particularities and paradoxes of representations and practices of the body among young men from a skinhead group in a northern Russian city. The research was not originally designed to focus on gender or the performance of masculinity; this theme emerged from interactions between researchers and informants during ethnographic fieldwork when researchers were struck by the contradictions between group members' declared gender positions and their everyday interactions. On the one hand, the young men articulated an aggressive homophobia (underpinned by ethnic and racial hatreds), yet their own interactions were warm, intimate and homoerotic.

'Homosociality' is widely used to understand male solidarities rooted in linguistic and bodily communication based on shared norms and meanings. Among our informants, this strong masculine solidarity is rooted in a striving for intimacy (trust) but also a fear of it (homophobia). Physical closeness - embracing, kissing, touching - is accompanied by critical, ironic commentaries which protect both participants in, and 'witnesses' of, these practices from accusations of excessive softness, femininity and homosexuality. Consequently, competitive sport, demonstrations of correct skinhead style, physical playfulness (the imitation of homosexual intimacy, revealing bare backsides, showering together) emerge as the only space for legitimate intimacy. The paradox of this masculine strategy, however, is that while it seeks to create a space for legitimate intimacy and solidarity, at the same time, it constructs defensive barriers against everything that might appear feminine (weak, soft, homosexual). This paradox, we propose, is one explanation for the crisis of trust within aggressive masculine youth groups.

**Omphornuwat, K.**

**Loughborough University**

**"Do I look good enough to work here?": Looking good practice as learning practice in the workplace**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 4

Ramphal 3.25

One of the most prevalent themes emerging from my ethnographic study with Thai working women and their embodied experiences in a workplace is a relationship between the practice of looking and the female body. This paper aims to introduce the concept of 'looking good practice' conceptualised from the women's reflection and experiences. First, by questioning the uncritical use of the term 'beauty practice', I differentiate the beauty practice from the looking good practice. Second, I propose to view the looking good practice as a learning practice: a process of social learning, especially that of women learning by participating in the practice of looking at other women. Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger's (1991) situated learning theory and concept of community of practice as well as Cristina Grasseni's (2007) concept of skilled vision contribute to the exploration of how the women ongoingly engage in the learning process by which they look at other women, construct their perception towards the ideal and appropriate appearance which they classify as 'looking good' and inscribe their peripheral bodies through the consumption of makeup and work clothes in order to constitute their identity as part of the community of practice. By emphasising on the women's practice of looking as a way of learning, the concept of looking good practice offers an opportunity to position a woman as a subject who looks and learns. The concept of looking good practice, therefore, distinguishes itself from other forms of looking at female body which position a woman as an object-to-be-looked-at.

**Palacios, M.**

**Free University of Berlin**

**Social Ties and Normative Commitment: A Study of the Effects of Individualization on Youth Behavior in Latin America**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This paper presents the findings of the qualitative and quantitative research on "Social Ties and Youth Culture in Latin America", funded by the International Labor Organization and the Ford Foundation. This study analyzes how the transformation and weakening of the main socializing agencies (family and education) and the changes of the job market affect the way how the new generations integrate into our society. It is shown that social ties and emotional attachment are basic conditions not only for the subjective well-being of individuals, but also for the very possibility of social cohesion: this study has found that there is a strong relation between the presence of significant social ties and emotional involvement, on the one hand, and normative commitment, on the other hand. Teenagers and young adults that had good and stable relations with family members and friends showed a very low disposition to transgress the main rules that organize social life, whereas those with lower degrees of emotional attachment were very much inclined to dismiss any social rule, the law and to use violence. The study concludes that the effects of individualization in Latin America not only present a challenge in economic terms (i.e. the reduction of social inequality), but also, and maybe mainly, the challenge of social cohesion.

**Parker, D., Song, M.**

**University of Nottingham**

**Ethnicity and New Media: Online Social Networks and the Expression of Collective Selfhood**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

The British Chinese population is an interesting case study of the role of new media due to its geographical dispersal, and relative invisibility in mainstream media. In this paper we draw on an ESRC funded study of online identities to explore how second and third generation British Chinese young people are using Web 2.0 technologies such as social networking sites, internet discussion forums and personal web logs to communicate their experiences, and seek face to face as well as online communication.?

We argue that the networking possibilities of the Internet have only begun to be explored and exploited, but there are emerging aesthetic, visual, and textual styles of expression distinctive to this group, invoking a wide array of East Asian cultural references, and the communicative practices engendered have the scope to enhance the social and political mobilisation of a hitherto underrepresented constituency.?

**Parker, J., Stanworth, H.**

**Swansea University**

**Still 'Born under Saturn'? Naturalist rhetoric and accounting for contemporary artistic commitment.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

We discuss the use of the category of 'nature' in accounting for the contemporary role and identity, 'artist'. Referring to extended interviews with artists and field-work in a local art-world, we consider what is entailed by commitment to being an artist. Artists tend to rationalise their commitment in a-historical and naturalistic terms - as being 'driven' or 'called', and as producing art as person-specific projects which challenge conventions. Arts educators rationalise their regimes as "mak(ing) a place where people feel at ease to be who they are, and bring what they have naturally in themselves to bear". (Craig-Martin). However, commitment to artistic natures is conditioned by the state of art systems and art audiences. This system shapes the forms of artistic practice (favouring conceptualism) and selects producers positively oriented to certain aesthetic norms. Art-school post-structuralism creates a tension between aesthetic levelling and aesthetic valuation. Vertical and horizontal structuring is difficult, forcing ordering though emphasis on the natural dispositions of actors and the group boundary between artists and non-artists. We suggest an elective affinity between the rhetorical resources of naturalism and post-structuralism in contemporary accounting for art identities and practices. The distinction between 'successfully being an artist' and 'being a successful artist' is crucial. We consider what enables artists to appropriate their natures (as they see it) and know themselves to be 'real artists'. What are the relative functions of making art-work and participating in identity-confirming events and spaces?

**Paton, K.**

**University of Edinburgh**

**Gentrifying Working-Class Culture: Rethinking processes and effects of contemporary state-led gentrification**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Working-class communities are effectively problematised by contemporary urban policy. Surplus to service economies, the living antithesis to New Labour 'modernisation', industrial working-class people and places seem to require regeneration. Subsequently, the social worlds in these neighbourhoods are subject to profound change. Yet we know little about the cultural and material realities of those who occupy such contested spaces. Gentrification is both an important discursive strategy and prescient research opportunity, expressing both structural change and UK and global policy which attempt to shift culture practices of working-class communities. From new-build developments to socially-mixed communities, gentrification privileges and legitimises middle-class settlement and habitus. I argue that this is an attempt to control and civilise behaviours, realigning delegitimised working-class identities to be more congruent with the market and moral economy. Conceived as hegemony, gentrification reflects and reinforces neoliberal governance, whereby working-class groups are persuaded to accept and internalize new values and norms.

I argue that hegemony remains an important explanatory concept that can strengthen the heuristic value of gentrification as process of class transformation. It use can powerfully foreground complex processes of change in working-class neighbourhoods. I present ethnographic data from a study into the effects of shifting hegemonies in housing in Partick, Glasgow. The paper details how residents both resist and conform to change in this gentrifying neighbourhood – negotiating class identity through informal and social networks, whilst also passively conforming to the effects of gentrification. Through this it offers a representation of contemporary working-class culture which, while altering, remains cohesive and legitimate.

**Peggs, K.**

**University of Portsmouth**

**A hostile world for nonhuman animals: human identification and the oppression of nonhuman animals for human good**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

In 2006 over three million experiments were carried out on nonhuman animals. This paper explores how approval of such experimentation lies in the acceptance of human animals as having essential primacy over nonhuman animals. Performative notions of identity challenge essentialist notions of identity and primacy and so enable an exploration of human primacy identity claims. Discourses used by Pro-Test, a lobby that advocates such experiments, are studied in order to explore 'justifications' made for their use. In promoting such experiments Pro-Test is engaging in, this paper argues, a form of human primacy identity politics based in continued inequality and the sustained oppression of nonhuman animals. This paper concludes that discourses extolling scientific advancements, made on the basis of the exploitation of nonhuman animals for human benefit, do not signal human moral progress but rather reiterate an immoral human primacy identity that dissolutely exploits power relations to privilege the human.

**Perng, S.**

**Lancaster University**

**Circulating the body with digital tourist photographs**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

This article investigates how one body becomes communicative with the circulation of digital photographs. The investigation challenges the long tradition of organising the experiences of a place with the visual. It also explores how the using of digital cameras performs different relations between the body of tourists, conviviality and co-presence. In doing so, the article aims to further the discussion on digital cameras by suggesting that using cameras not only performs sociality but also sustains a sense of being co-present to a place by the circulation of photographs. It is enabled by the emerging tendency of photographing embodied activities as well as democratised writing of itineraries. Nevertheless, underneath these apparent facts afforded mainly by the use of digital cameras and the Internet is that photographs become fleshy. The role of photographs is therefore reshaped by exploring how being-in-the-world in the same place with one's body connects to that of another. And with such practices, the meaning of being co-present is enriched. Contrary to predominant literature, when circulating and sharing photographs are concerned, the co-presence involves being proximate to a physical place, as opposed to the 'life on the screen'. Furthermore, the sense of being co-present does not necessary emerge in real-time, as it does with face-to-face meetings. Therefore, the body is not only crucial to the production of visual culture and performing tourist places, but also sharing and sustaining these performed images of places through photographic practices.



**Pilkington, H.**

**University of Warwick**

**The weight of the Vorkuta sky: Young people's visual and verbal articulations of 'place'**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.12

This paper is work in progress based on recently completed fieldwork in a deindustrialised city in the Russian far north undertaken under the auspices of a transnational European project (STREP-CT-CIT5-029013) on 'Subcultures and Lifestyles'. It considers how a common structural constraint on young people - 'place' - impacts upon their visual and verbal articulation of their everyday regardless of (sub)cultural affiliation. The paper outlines key tropes of young people's narratives about 'place', highlighting: the natural (landscape and territorial isolation); the social (Vorkuta's emergence as a city through forced and temporary settlement); and the cultural (the heritage of prison camp and criminal gang culture). The paper pays attention to: the comparisons and contrasts between respondent and researcher representations of a particular urban space; the fusions and dissonances between the visual and the verbal articulations of place among respondents; and the changing representation of their engagement with urban space by respondents over a period of four years of research. Finally, the paper considers how young people engage reflexively with these verbal and visual representations of place through symbolic displays and performances of the 'deviant' heritage of the city.

**Plows, A., Birch, K.**

**Cardiff University**

**the problematic framing of "biocitizens" in policy and biopolitical discourses**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Biology

Ramphal 0.03/4

This paper considers two ways that the bioeconomy has been conceptualised. First, despite international policy discourses characterising modern biotechnology in terms of its "potential" contribution to economic competitiveness and health, there is little evidence to reveal a dramatic impact of biotechnology on economies or health at present. This paper will argue that the bioeconomy is built upon changes to political economic institutions, both global and national, designed to construct and shape a new market for biotechnology. Second, whilst a number of scholars, drawing on the work of Michel Foucault, have argued that the bioeconomy entails a process of technoscience and economic co-construction, this does not avoid the premise in international policy discourse that posits potential or hope as an inherent characteristic of biotechnology. This paper will argue that such a theoretical position leads to a number of problematic issues with regards to how we conceptualise biocitizens and biosubjects. In particular, the use of bio-labelling in such debates presumes that the biosciences are uniquely relevant today, rather than extension of existing structures (e.g. markets) or means to side-line other issues (e.g. social justice). In so doing they lose sight of the "so what" question. What does the focus on potential and hope mean for the framing of health and the biomedical industry? Drawing upon quantitative and qualitative evidence, we will focus on this question: first, the problematic assumption that we can choose our health and, second, implications for social justice in terms of responsibility, economic burdens, and "blaming and framing" individuals.

**Popov, A.**

**The University of Warwick**

**'Roots' and borders: narratives of 'territory' in young Cossack identities**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.12

This paper is a part of an ongoing project studying young people who identify themselves as Cossacks and/or take active part in official and unofficial Cossack organisations in two southern Russian cities - Krasnodar and Sochi. In this region (Krasnodar Krai), Cossack ethnic revival receives highly visible support from the provincial authorities, manifested in the regionalist slogan 'Kuban - the Cossack territory'. The paper explores how young Cossacks mobilise this imagined territory of Kuban in the production of multi-layered ethnic and regional identities. In particular the paper shows how 'blood' and 'soil' metaphors are employed by informants, who are predominantly urban residents, in the process of representing and reproducing their Cossack identity as one which is 'rooted' in the local land. At the same time, the Kuban as a space is often defined through references to state, ethnic and natural (landscape) borders and frontiers in the past and present. These borders and frontiers are themselves, however, interpreted in diverse and ambiguous ways by modern Cossacks; the meanings attached by young people to their Cossackhood are, consequently, also extremely diverse. The paper draws on ethnographic research conducted during spring-summer 2007. It is also informed by the author's reflections throughout the research on his own positionality, specifically his own Cossack origin.

Rafanell, I.

University of the West of Scotland

**Feminism and the problematic body: The social construction of embodied sex identity**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

Second wave feminism emerged as a political and theoretical force, introducing the sex/gender binary as one of its central tenets. Operating as a parallel distinction between nature and culture, it retained links with biological essentialism, accepting the biological foundation of the sexed body. The distinction between sex (as a biological given) and gender (as socially constructed) remained unchallenged until the arrival of radical constructionists like Butler.

Butler's *Performative* approach emphasizes that the constitutive power of discursive activities applies to 'sex' as well as 'gender', questioning the essentialist biological bias of mainstream feminism. Detractors claim she discounts the world of 'things' in favour of 'words' (Jackson, 1992), ignores the constraining force of the body's materiality (Bordo, 2000), understands constitutive power as a 'God-like' hidden hand (Moi, 2005) and neglects the meaning-making formation of interactive dynamics (Jackson and Scott, 2007).

Implicit here is an understanding of the natural realm as 'constructed'. My paper suggests that Barnes' *Performative Theory of Social Institutions* clarifies Butler's argument for the sexed body as social construct. Barnes' emphasis on the constitutive power of the micro-dynamics of collective practices develops Butler's constructionist position and dispels the idealist accusations levelled at her model. Combining Butler's and Barnes' performative approaches provides a different understanding of the social bases of natural facts, and helps resolve the problematic reification of the biological body within feminism. My argument centres around Kusch's notion of Artificial Kinds, and an interpretation of the biological materiality of the sexed body as an *alter-referent* produced by the performative activity of a collective of discursively interacting individuals.

Raisborough, J., Adams, M

**Making a difference: Ethical consumption 'in the round' of everyday lives**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

Our daily shopping practices are increasingly marketed as opportunities to 'make a difference' via our ethical consumer choices. 'Fairtrade', 'Red' and 'Cafedirect' are examples of these opportunities. Research has concentrated, in the main, on the various ways a consumer's reflexive and moral sensitivity is targeted through framing narratives deployed by Green and Red initiatives and through the advertising images of the products themselves. This paper departs from this prevailing focus by extending Liz Stanley's (1988) emphasis on 'actual everyday lives' to explore how 'ethical' opportunities are recognised, experienced and taken-up in 'round' of the everyday. The 'everyday' is approached here via a specially commissioned Mass Observation directive ('Making a difference': June 2007) distributed to over 500 'mass-observers', a volunteer panel of writers in the UK. Our on-going thematic analysis of their autobiographical accounts aims to explore a complex unevenness in the ways 'ordinary' people experience and negotiate calls to enact their ethical agency through consumption and the relevance and meaning it holds. Situating ethical consumption, moral obligation and choice in the everyday further allows us to question, following Bourdieu's distinction, if it is possible to locate everyday approaches to ethical consumption in broader practices of (un/conscious) social categorization and self/other identification (e.g. 'moral selving'), in terms of for example, class and nationality. We conclude that approaching 'everyday' data in this way raises important methodological and interpretative issues which cannot be overlooked.

**Ransome, P.E.**

**Swansea University**

**The boundedness of the concept 'Society'**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

This conceptually-oriented paper explores the notion of boundedness as it applies both as a means of distinguishing between fields of human knowledge in the Social and Natural Sciences and in respect of renewed debates about what kind of conceptual model of 'society' is most useful in analyzing actually-existing society today.

The inception of Social Science was marked by a strong insistence from its founding figures that Social Science could justly claim to constitute a field of serious academic research in its own right because it had successfully identified a subject-matter distinct from Natural Science. Its basic unit of analysis would be the actually-existing entity called society and, mapped onto this, its central heuristic device would be a model of 'society' as something which had observable systemic properties and effects. Renewed debates about these basic assumptions and especially about the continuing usefulness of a systemic-properties model of 'society' have raised fresh doubts about where the epistemological boundaries lie between fields of knowledge (Urry 2000 and 2003, Fuller 2006). This paper argues that although it is certainly justifiable to argue that actually-existing society has changed sufficiently to reconsider current models of 'society' and of 'the social' it is not possible to proceed without some form of agreeable analytical conception. The renewal of a strong sense of boundedness between the fields of Natural- and Social-scientific knowledge increasingly depends on developing epistemological consensus amongst social scientists about the boundedness of the heuristic model of 'society' they are using to inform their research questions.

**Ravenhill, R.**

**Independent**

**The Culture of homelessness: integration of members into mainstream society**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

This paper is based on the book 'The Culture of Homelessness' due to be published in 2008. It will look at the vibrant nature of the street homeless culture and the impact it has on people attempting to re-integrate back into mainstream society. The paper will begin by demonstrating how the culture develops out of need and necessity, serving specific purposes. Inadvertently homeless culture then locks people into the culture making it difficult for them to leave. International comparisons will be drawn, using dutch and american research. Social exclusion and inclusion will be discussed, looking at the process of exclusion from mainstream society; initial inertia and entry into the homeless culture; and the impact of exclusion from the culture as people attempt to re-integrate back into mainstream society.

The paper will discuss the various functions of the homeless culture, including the pscho/social support mechanisms, inverse hierarchies and pecking orders, violence, commaraderie, death and dying, roofless people and their children. It will be demonstrated that some of the needs that the culture caters for are difficult to replicate in mainstream society making it difficult for people to move on. Similarly the very nature of the homeless culture means that to leave the streets is to fail at being homeless.

The paper will discuss the significance of finding that once on the streets, the homeless culture is almost identical in Western societies. The implications of this being the creation of realistic exit routes from the streets and ending episodic/repeat episodes of rooflessness.

**Rees, A.**

**University of York**

**The biological challenge to the social sciences**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

The biological challenge to the social sciences is both a threat and an opportunity to those working in the latter fields. It is a menace as long as the reductionist and universalising - albeit sexy - tales of evolutionary psychology are allowed to circulate uncontested in the public arena. It is an opportunity if sociology in general can recognise and act on some of the crucial insights of the sociology of scientific knowledge: that scientists disagree over the correct interpretation of observation almost as often as sociologists do, that they constantly debate and adapt definitions of what is to count as 'good scientific practice', and that they are not only capable of reflexive self- and disciplinary- analysis, but - in certain areas of biology at least - practice it more assiduously than some of those involved in the social sciences. In particular, some biologists are far more critical of the just-so stories of evolutionary psychology than any sociologist. Science does not speak with one voice, and conversations, rather than confrontations are possible between natural and social scientists. That this should be achieved is an essential element in safeguarding the future of democratic debate as we move further into an era where the consequences of unrestricted human manipulation of local and global ecosystems are made manifest.

**Reynolds, L**

**Lancaster University**

**Bifurcations and Recombination's of the Natural and the Social in the UK GMO Controversy'**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

'In its attempt to manage the unruly and hybrid conflict over GMO's, the UK government improvised a series of bifurcations between 'Science' and 'Politics', severing the 'Natural' from the 'Social': Thus two parallel public experiments would become key to the performance of the controversy, one in the 'House of Nature', one in the 'House of society' (to invoke Latour's terminology). In the former were the Farm Scale Evaluations (FSE's) improvised in the late 1990's to attempt a bypass of the political controversy via natural science. In the latter was the GM Nation public debate, proposed in response to this manoeuvre. Furthermore, each of these 'houses' had a special government committee: First arose the traditional narrowly science based expert advisory body called ACRE (Advisory Committee on Release to Environment) which was then supplemented with a new parallel body called the AEBC (Agriculture and Environment Biotechnology Commission) which included more diverse forms of knowledge. Each of these bodies would draw authority from their respective public experiment - ACRE from the FSE's and the AEBC from GM Nation. Finally, in the choreography of this controversy, GM Nation was concluded before the publication of the FSE results. The paper argues that such an arrangement separated 'facts' from 'values' with the public's voice subjectivised and restricted to the latter, preventing the production of knowledges and fora necessary to hold hybrids like the GMO to account. The paper concludes by examining proposed alternative arrangements from STS where science is reconnected with its wider context'.

**Rhodes, J.**

**University of Manchester**

**'Race' and Narratives of Social Change in a Northern Town**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

The breakthrough of the BNP in Burnley from 2001 has offered an important insight into the way in which 'race' and racism are articulated in contemporary, localized settings. As much of the literature on far right support would suggest, conflicts over scarce resources was an integral part of the emergence of the BNP as a political force. However, via an engagement with BNP voters in the town it is clear that other factors were at play. The racialized geography of Burnley and an exclusionary conception of 'local' identity has meant that, for BNP supporters, 'race' featured heavily within accounts of social change. Voters for the party saw the demise of the town as being intrinsically linked to the growth of the 'Asian' population. The paper will illustrate the way in which 'race' was used in narratives of change. It will also argue that the actions of New Labour, particularly since 2001, and broader societal shifts have led to a situation in which such narratives have increasingly taken hold, as the government has increasingly vocalized the cultural rather than the structural roots of social problems.

**Richardson, D., Fay, M., Monro, S.**

**Newcastle University**

**Naturalising Difference; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equalities Initiatives in Local Government.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

Sexual politics and identities have fragmented as new patterns of social interaction and 'lifestyle' have emerged. Since the 1990s, the dominant political discourse of social movements concerned with 'sexual politics' has been that of seeking access into mainstream culture through demanding equal rights of citizenship. Equality is interpreted through notions of similitude with heterosexuals, and it is through claims to naturalness and normalcy that social integration is justified. This is a significant shift. Earlier women's and gay liberation movements were not seeking to be normalised, but were highly critical of mainstream society. They contested many of its core institutions and practices, deconstructing supposedly 'natural' heteronormative assumptions about family and gender. Processes of detraditionalization and pluralism have since enabled lesbians and gay men to make their case for equal rights, through the inculcation of norms of respect for social diversity as part of good citizenship. Paradoxically, by drawing on respect for diversity, lesbian and gay movements may further their efforts in seeking social conformity as 'normal lesbian/gays', who espouse the norms and values of the 'ordinary' (heterosexual) citizen.

This paper discusses these issues in relation to emerging findings from a new ESRC funded qualitative study on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equalities initiatives in local government. The study takes an innovative action research approach in conducting a cross-cultural exploration of equalities work in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

**Roberts, C**

**University of Lancaster, County College South**

**Mysterious puberty: popular and technoscientific accounts of becoming teenage**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.28

A recent paper in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism describes the biological regulation of the onset of puberty as a 'long-standing mystery' (Palmer and Boepple, 2001: 2367). Whilst epidemiological studies in developed countries have shown that puberty is occurring earlier and earlier, adequate physiological explanations of this phenomenon have not yet been developed. Despite this, popular representations consistently rely on 'sex hormones' to explain the development of binary sexual differences and reproductive capacities.

Puberty is a time of significant intertwined social and biological change. Tempted by simplicity and normative narratives of sexual difference, however, popular representations neglect the complexities of technoscientific knowledges around puberty and sex hormones, opting instead to make declarative and graphically-illustrated biologically-determinist claims. Rendering 'the social' secondary and reactive, such representations fill the gaps of technoscientific knowledge with normative assumptions about sex and reproduction.

This paper discusses examples from technoscientific and popular representations of puberty. Critically reading these texts in juxtaposition, I ask when, where and how hormones are figured as productive of sexual differences in humans and what implications this has for developing feminist understandings of puberty.

**Roberts, M., Backett-Milburn, K., Lawton, J., Mackinnon, D., Wills, W.**

**The University of Edinburgh**

**Middle class parents' and young teenagers' conceptions of diet, weight and health**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

The role of class in explaining young people's health-relevant behaviours is both multifaceted and dynamic however not enough is known about the perspectives of young people and their parents and how this fits into a complex social world. For instance, attitudes towards physical activity, diet and overweight/obesity may differ between middle-class teenagers and young teenagers from lower socio-economic backgrounds and also between teenagers with different body shapes.

This paper is based on a qualitative study in Scotland which focuses on higher social class families with young teenagers who are overweight, obese and 'normal' weight in order to explore their diet and eating practices, perceptions of body weight/size and health-related activities. This paper reports on findings from in-depth interviews with boys and girls aged 13-14 years and their parents.

Our findings suggest that physical activity contributes towards these families' notions of 'healthy' behaviour, with body aesthetics also viewed in relation to diet and exercise. 'Healthiness' itself is often taken for granted by these families. Finally, class identities are performed through food, eating and other everyday health relevant behaviours.

These findings add to our knowledge about the different ways in which higher social class teenagers and parents view adolescent bodies and also give insight into understanding social class as a driver for weight, health and diet.

**Roberts, T.**

**University College London**

**Rational choice theory, partnerships and the management of marine resources: A case study of the management of European Marine Sites in the UK.**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

Sociology is a discipline developed during the period between the enlightenment and the emergence of the current environmental problems. As a result the environment and its relationship with social action has traditionally been neglected by sociology. However, over the last two decades, social scientists have started to recognise the importance of the relationships between people and the natural environment. As our interest in the environment has developed it has concentrated predominately on issues affecting terrestrial ecosystems, consequently the marine environment has until recently been ignored. The importance of incorporating socio-economic considerations into marine conservation policy is increasingly being realised and recent European legislation (1992 Habitats Directive) provides specific new responsibilities for governments to set up a network of European Marine Sites which are managed through partnerships. Engaging people in the management of marine ecosystems (particularly in temperate seas) is challenging due to their perceived lack of aesthetic value and the assumption that the sea is so immense it can withstand unlimited exploitation. As this paper demonstrates, rational choice theory offers a useful approach to the analysis of the relationship between the social action created through partnerships and the management of marine resources. This is illustrated by in- depth case studies of the management of the Thanet Coast and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast European Marine sites in the UK.

**Rose, N.**

**London School of Economics and Political Science**

**Neuropolitics**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

I will discuss the social and political implications of recent developments in the neurosciences, and consider the extent to which these will have the same consequences as the rise of the psy sciences in the twentieth century

**Rozanova, J., McDaniel, S., Northcott, H., Keating, N.**

**University of Alberta**

**Social engagement of older rural Canadians: community culture matters**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

Social engagement of older adults has advanced to the forefront of the research and policy agenda as one of the principal social determinants of health and well being in later life. Yet some studies indicate that only engagement that is meaningful and optimal from the perspective of older adults themselves, but not the engagement that results from constraints or coercion, may have positive outcomes (McPherson, 2004). This paper will deconstruct assumptions about social engagement as beneficial for all individuals (and a universal pathway to well-being in later life), by exploring what constitutes meaningful (i.e. optimal in content and in intensity) social engagement from the perspective of older persons with different characteristics in terms of gender, age, socio-economic, and health status. Particular attention will be paid to ways in which rural community culture may influence social engagement by mediating or reinforcing inequalities of personal resources. Using the constant comparison method to analyze the data from 55 in-depth qualitative interviews with 89 older adults, we will track their experiences as they navigated the context of three rural communities in Canada, and construct a mosaic of meaningful social engagement for older adults. Drawing on critical cultural gerontology, we will provide evidence of support for the assumption that well being is determined by the 'best fit' between late-life identity, levels of engagement, and forms of governmentality regulating social interactions within communities.

**Rubtsova, A.**

**Emory University, USA**

**Social Construction of Infant Feeding: The Role of Global Cultural Scripts**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

This paper investigates the cultural construction of a seemingly natural process, infant feeding. Existing research shows that the initiation and duration of breastfeeding is influenced not only by biological but also by various socio-cultural factors. This study goes beyond previous work by arguing that the cultural construction of infant feeding operates increasingly at the global level. Drawing on sociological and anthropological theories of globalization, I propose that global cultural scripts offer increasingly specific prescriptions about infant feeding and these prescriptions have an impact on infant feeding practices around the globe. Statistical data show that, throughout the twentieth century, infant feeding practices changed in similar directions all over the world. For example, before the 1940s breastfeeding was prevalent everywhere, but from the 1940s to the 1970s a worldwide decline in breastfeeding is evident. My general research question is whether and how world-cultural scripts (e.g., international baby-care literature, advertisements by transnational baby-food companies, campaigns by international breastfeeding advocacy organizations) impact individual infant-feeding practices. I also investigate how these world-cultural scripts interact with local socio-cultural institutions and individual circumstances to produce specific infant-feeding decisions and discourses. To do so, I conduct 60 interviews with mothers of infants about their infant feeding decisions and practices - 30 interviews in Ukraine and 30 interviews in the USA. In addition, I conduct interviews with members of several international breastfeeding-advocacy organizations to investigate the construction and contents of world-cultural scripts regarding infant feeding.

**Rudoe, N.**

**The Open University**

**Narratives of pregnancy: participant observation with 16-18-year-old mothers to be**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

Social exclusion and teenage pregnancy are discursively and empirically linked in New Labour policy that aims to reduce teenage conceptions in England and to improve support and opportunities for teenage parents. My ethnographic study (conducted in London in 2007-2008) of an alternative educational setting for pregnant 16-18-year-olds seeks to examine the young women's narratives of pregnancy, situating these in the context of their educational and family histories. The potential for conflict in the interaction between policy and practice in the area of teenage motherhood is reflected in my reluctance to address the concept of 'social exclusion' or prevention of teenage pregnancy with my participants. This paper discusses the ethical issues and dilemmas surrounding participatory research in this setting, and the necessity of 'leaving policy and academia behind' in order to elicit and interact with participants' accounts of self and future motherhood. The fieldwork involves a continuous reflexive consideration of the researcher-participant relationship and a process of becoming an insider, while remaining an outsider.

**Salehi, S.**

**Leeds University**

**A Study of Factors Influencing Environmental Behaviour**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

The present study was conducted to investigate people's behaviours toward environmental responsible behaviours with applying quantitative methodology. Research questions included:

- A. how can post-materialist value account for environmental responsible behaviours in an Iranian society?
- B. What is the effect of socio-economic variables on environmental responsible behaviours?
- C. What are the effects of new environmental paradigm, environmental concern and environmental knowledge on environmental responsible behaviours?

Eight hypotheses were suggested and variables of the research were defined by nominal and operational definitions. Questionnaire was designed and developed from a variety of sources for data gathering purposes. The questionnaire consisted

of (1) a demographic module, (2) a post-materialist values module, (3) an environmental behaviour module and (4) an environmental knowledge module (5) a new environmental paradigm module and (6) an environmental concern module. The survey pilot was carried out in both rural and urban area of different states with a sample of 100 people was drawn from three different provinces. The final questionnaire for the main part of the study was administered to a total 715 individuals using a stratified random sample in southern areas of the Caspian Sea as part of Iran. Data entry was made by using computer software program SPSS. Descriptive statistics such as mean, median, standard deviation etc have been employed to identify the social characteristics of respondents. More over, Pearson's r and chi-square, analysis of variance (ANOVA) were conducted to test the hypothesis.

**Sayers, D.**

**University of Essex**

**Standardising Diversity: paradoxes and problems in the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Government

Ramphal 3.41

The European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages (ECRML) embodies a growing reflexivity about the effects of globalisation and modernity on Europe's linguistic diversity, and the rights of linguistic minorities. It aims to forcefully elevate European endangered languages into the discourse of modernity, so that they might survive. This paper examines what 'linguistic diversity' actually is, whether such legislation can protect it, and thus what are the limits for European pluralism.

Ratifying member states must demonstrate 'use' of their minority languages, primarily in education but also government, media and business. A standard language is needed to reliably measure language use and the proficiency of language learners. The normative imposition of that standard, however, can cause the diverse existing dialects of these languages to lose prestige and die away. So while minority languages may be 'strengthened' numerically, these new downward pressures represent a powerful and paradoxical form of symbolic violence against the language and its speakers.

The two case studies are Welsh and Cornish, showing how the purported success of Welsh has undermined its intra-linguistic diversity; and how disagreements over standardisation have stalled the Cornish revival. I therefore argue that modern language revivals fundamentally require standardisation; and that while this may protect 'the total number of languages' in some broad sense, this may come at the expense of diversity overall, and set up new hegemonies undermining their egalitarian aims.



**Scourfield, J., Shiner, M., Fincham, B. and Langer, S.**

**Cardiff School of Social Sciences**

**Gender and suicide across the life course: integrating qualitative and quantitative data**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

In considering the problem of suicide, governments and mass media in the UK have tended to emphasise the particular vulnerability of young men. Although such an emphasis has some empirical justification, the authors of this paper claim that it is both partial and potentially misleading. The analysis draws on official statistics and the results of an innovative study, based on a qualitatively-driven mixed method sociological autopsy of individual suicides. On the basis of these data, the authors argue that the relative vulnerability of 'young' men to suicide is often exaggerated and that insufficient attention is paid to the diverse social circumstances of suicidal men and women across the life course. Using 100 cases from a coroner's office in the UK, they show that patterns of suicide can be seen to map on to conventional features of a socially structured life course, with young people in crisis, mid-life gendered patterns of work and family and older people in decline.

**Scully, J.L.**

**Newcastle University**

**The biological challenge to social science**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

In their common attempt to account for features of collective and individual human life, social science and biology have always had a more closely entwined history than either social scientists or biologists often like to remember. Today, however, they are showing particularly intense and distinctive engagement around the site of the body, and especially the anomalous body. In theorising the disabled or impaired body, biomedical models are conventionally positioned in antagonism to models which consider disability to be an effect of social forces, and disability studies has tended to reinforce this polarisation. Second wave disability researchers have found this dichotomisation problematic; and for those of us who have migrated into social science from biology, rather than the other way round, social science presents its own epistemic and ethical challenges.

**Sempik, J.**

**Loughborough University**

**Therapeutic Gardens: exploring perceptions of nature and health**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.28

The concept of 'therapeutic landscapes' as places and situations that are endowed with a reputation for 'healing' has been developed to include places that promote well-being and health. Influences stem not only from the environment itself but from the activities that take place within it. Farming and gardening are activities that have long been regarded as 'healthy' and there has been steady growth in the use of therapeutic farms and gardens. We have examined the use of such environments for people with physical, mental and social problems in order to explore why they are considered to be beneficial.

Users of gardens spoke of their enjoyment of 'being outside' or 'being in the fresh air'. This construct had a wide variety of nuances - a sense of freedom or escape from the confines of the indoor environment of work, institution or hospital; an opportunity for connectedness with nature itself which was interpreted as a form of secular spirituality through the fulfilment of a need beyond the ordinary (but without a deist or religious dimension); an aesthetic view of the outdoor environment as a personal place of beauty to which there was attachment and loyalty; a social environment which promoted interaction and inclusion.

Therapeutic gardens fulfil users' needs through a number of different dimensions. The different themes within individuals' perception of 'being outside' suggest that such interpretations may be personal ones but the overall dimension of 'nature' is an essential one for promoting well-being.

**Sharp, G.**

**University of Brighton**

**Mass catering, fast food and ecological troubles: the away from home eating choices of university students.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Food

Ramphal 0.12

The human relationship with food and eating has been changing radically in recent years. Changes in work patterns, quickening pace of life and newer cultural influences on our eating habits has meant that meal times have become aperiodic, often speeded up and mobile. This is accompanied by a highly industrialised food production system that has assisted in the spread of fast food containing high proportions of artificial and synthetic ingredients the provenance of which is largely unknown to the consumer. The ecological consequences of this production and consumption system are also far reaching.

Expenditure eating out in the UK now matches expenditure eating in the home. Studies suggest that food consumption around a set, rule bound, time is in decline and that this is assisted by increased availability of fast food. The eating experience, particularly in the public realm, is under-researched. The Fordist canteen lunch still has a surface presence; yet typical food choices reveal the incursion of more fragmented eating practices into daytime public eating.

Results are presented of participatory research conducted in one university on the eating experiences of students on several different campuses during the daytime. Questionnaires and interviews partly designed and administered by student co-researchers investigate the desire for 'conviviality' and explore the effects of environmental consciousness about sustainability, food provenance, food miles and fair trade on students' choices of what, where and when to eat.

**Shaw, C.**

**University of Sussex**

**The measurement of disaster: facts and values in climate change**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

Current state and corporate responses to the long emergency of climate change are predicated on normative assumptions about what constitutes a 'dangerous' or 'tolerable' level of warming. It is argued that the values underpinning these assumptions remain unexamined in public and policy discourses on limits to anthropogenic forcing of the climate. This paper claims that this neglect is the consequence of allowing a formal rationality to dominate the climate change debate, which inevitably legitimises responses grounded in an instrumental, rather than a moral, reason. Responses to climate change predicated on instrumental reason are here problematized as not only failing to provide any solutions, but at the same time extending that portion of the world which can be considered 'standing reserve' to include the global atmosphere, which becomes re-imagined as a repository for industrial pollutants. It is argued that the failure to examine the role of values in the 'limits to warming' debate represents a missed opportunity for humanity to reappraise its relationship to the natural world and the notions of progress which have led us to this situation. This paper discusses ways in which Sociology, in embodying a relevant body of critical thought, can assume its as of yet unfulfilled role in developing democratic facts/values debates, within the context of 'limits to warming' discourses. Strategies identified challenge Sociology to play a key role in shaping the key debates currently facing humanity.

**Sheach Leith, V., Brownlie, J.**

**The Robert Gordon University**

**'Biobundle'? Locating the Infant Body in Sociological Research**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Despite an increasing concern with older children's bodies within sociology (Bridgeman, 2002; Prout, 2000), with some notable exceptions (Murcott, 1993), the infant body remains intriguingly absent. Given that sociological discourses which locate children as active agents have struggled to be inclusive of infants (though see Alderson et al, 2005) it is understandable that for the most part, these particular bodies have remained conduits for exploring the experience of becoming a parent, and particularly becoming a mother. While we have found ourselves restricted in similar ways - accessing infants through adult talk and text - in this paper we draw on three recent research projects to explore how we can move beyond a precultural approach towards infants and, as Gottlieb (2000) has it, beyond seeing them as 'biobundle'. While these projects have very different foci - organ retention (Sheach Leith, 2007), immunisation (Brownlie and Howson, 2005; 2006) and physical chastisement (Brownlie 2006) - each can be read as sociological case studies of how the agonism between nature and culture is played out on the site of the infant body.

**Shumar, W.**

**Drexel University**

**Critical Ethnography in the Neoliberal American University**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.41

Recent research on higher education has focused on the processes of commodification. The commodification processes in several American universities have led to social-spatial re-arrangements. At one level American universities are becoming a cross between a shopping mall and a corporate research park. At a larger level universities are having a greater role in economic development and hence spatial re-arrangement of cities, towns and rural areas. These structural re-arrangements are tied up with larger reorganizations of space in the "knowledge economy", occurring in different ways depending up the global flows occurring in the region and the policy reactions engendered.

As universities become caught up in regional economic development, their traditional roles as sites for critique become compromised. In response to a loss of critical space, this paper focuses on the use of student-based ethnography studying "the student experience" as a way to help students understand the current situation of knowledge production within commodified institutions of higher learning and their place within that institutional structure. In this work, ethnography is conceptualized as a theoretical practice where the university students' engagement with the other is filtered through a theoretical lens. That encounter allows students to see themselves and others within institutions caught up in the nexus of global, neoliberal capitalist relations. Further it allows them to see how consciousness is shaped by the practices engendered in such institutional contexts. It is suggested that this form of reflexivity will allow students to think toward less reified knowledge and about social change.

**Siara B.**

**University of Westminster**

**Social movement "Poland is a woman" - a natural or cultural phenomenon?**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

This paper will focus on a social movement "Poland is a woman" that emerged in Poland in late 2006. Its main goal is to bring the issue of women's rights to the fore of the state politics. This movement's priorities, including issues relating to equal pay, domestic violence, contraception and abortion, generally are not new, but interestingly this movement emerged in a specific political context, where the right-wing government is turning towards traditional (patriarchal) view on women and their place within the society. Although the situation of women in Poland has worsened during the last two decades, current government has suggested introducing some extreme policies that could make the situation of women more difficult i.e. prohibiting any contraception or making abortion laws even stricter. This movement has a very general aim - empowerment of women - which could generally lead to changing a culture and particularly to enforcing gender equality. Interestingly, this movement neither sees itself as led by a specific political approach, nor as a feminist movement; it's "everyone's". However, it looks upon the European Union Gender Equality Framework and it sees a modern democratic state as an elastic mechanism that should be adjusting to societal changes, including gender-related ones. This paper will be a discursive analysis of the issues surrounding emergence of this movement and its early days - the analysis will focus on what is perceived as natural/ cultural in a gender perspective by both the members of the current Polish Government and this movement's leaders and supporters.

**Simbuerger, E.**

**University of Warwick**

**Disciplining the discipline - sociology's complicity in constraining its most analytical voices and devaluing sociology's role in public discourse**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Public Sociology

Social Studies 0.09

Sociologists have been increasingly blamed for failing to confront critically major challenges in society such as emerging issues related to the biosciences. As a result, other disciplines, especially in the natural sciences, seem to take over the role sociology has had over decades in public discourse. In order to improve sociology's ability to analyse developments in society and to regain analytical force in public, sociologists are often recommended to increase their engagement with other disciplines. In this paper I will shed light on the paradox that whilst intellectual permeability and open-mindedness are considered as integral parts of sociological thought and might be beneficial to an improved understanding of society, the discipline itself is to blame for its partial failure in analysing challenges in society by constraining sociologists in their attempt to practise intellectual permeability. I will discuss the nature of these constraints exerted by the discipline based on insights from my doctoral research on the self-understanding of sociologists and their relationship to the discipline in England. Qualitative interviews with sociologists in sociology departments, who work at the intellectual boundaries between sociology and other disciplines show that with peer sociologists not recognising the inherently sociological character of their fellows' work, publishing in sociology journals, getting funding, more established and ultimately more visible in public as sociologists become increasingly difficult. These mechanisms of exclusion within sociology raise questions about the discipline's responsibility in rendering some of its analytically most powerful work less visible and in thereby devaluing sociology's role in public discourse.

**Singleton, C., Green, E., Neil, B.**

**University of Teesside**

**Emotional journeys: unemployed women's narratives of self, identity and trauma**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Body

Ramphal 0.03/4

In this paper we explore the place and meaning of emotion in women's narratives of self in everyday life in relation to employment and employability. We draw upon new empirical data from a European-funded multi-method action research project focusing on unemployed women who experience multiple barriers to employment. We consider women's identification of key life episodes and experiences which shape sense of self and identity. For many of our participants such experiences are traumatic and impact upon self-esteem and well being. The research combined life-narrative interviews with self-esteem questionnaires and personal 'journey' documents. The project engaged with women from a diverse range of social backgrounds, enabling in-depth exploration of the complexities of womanhood and identity. Within the paper we discuss women's reflections on the self, unemployment and personal development, in particular focusing on emotion within narratives of 'marginalised' identity and traumatic life experiences. The data reveals emotional vocabularies which are complex, fluid, context-dependent, and are often intense and sometimes contradictory (Lupton, 1998). These include feelings of worthlessness, being 'out of control' and feeling 'stigmatised' and also feelings of confidence, happiness and being 'in-control'. We discuss the presentation and enactment of feelings within fieldwork settings, where narratives about the self and body elicit intense emotional responses (Bondi, 2005) and explore the meaning of emotional 'silences', where feelings are restrained, concealed or 'inexpressible' (Craib, 1995). The narratives also reveal the ways in which women develop strategies for managing and 'overcoming' trauma and painful emotions in everyday life (Bendelow & Williams, 1998).

**Skinner, D.**

**Anglia Ruskin University**

**Life Science, Social Science and 'The Public': Shifting Debates about Race and Biology**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Biology

Ramphal 0.03/4

A recurring claim of recent theory is that the current intellectual and institutional ascendancy of the life sciences present a challenge to the validity and/or vitality of social science. Figures such as Peter Dickens, Nikolas Rose and Steve Fuller suggest that the social sciences must respond to these developments but differ sharply as to what kind of crisis social science is facing and also as to how it might maintain or regain its relevance.

Exploring shifting debates about race and biology is a useful way of testing theorists' suggestions as to how social science should reinvent itself. In particular, this case highlights the part played by 'the public' (as both lay social actors and generalised other) in discussions within and between the natural and social sciences. In a number of significant ways biology is creeping back into understandings and experiences of human similarity and difference. This is happening in ways that confound the clear distinction between (false) biological differences and (real) social differences that has underpinned much social science work on race and racism since the middle of the twentieth century. This change, however, merely highlights contradictions that have long been present in social science's stance towards race and the natural sciences. Social scientists have tended either to dismiss or to defer to science in this area rather than seek meaningful engagement with it. Similarly social scientists have been too willing to rely on pronouncements about what 'science says' rather than develop and articulate their own clear ethical and political positions.

**Smith, G. J. D.**

**University of Aberdeen**

**Rooms without doors? Researching 'closed settings' - getting in, getting out**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Methodological Issues

Ramphal 3.25

A significant multidisciplinary literature now exists in the burgeoning field of surveillance studies, yet little attention has been paid to the methodological issues arising from investigating restricted surveillance apparatus, studying secretive agencies or researching what I like to term closed research settings. The above can include: government, police, consumer or workplace databases; the intelligence services, the police and the military; Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) monitoring rooms, etc. Such surveillance technologies, practitioners and sites are, by their often physically latent, technologically sophisticated and secretive nature, extremely difficult fields to permeate with an ethnographic approach - a central tool for the acquisition of phenomenological and ethnomethodological understanding. This raises a key, but frequently neglected question: how does one actually go about researching surveillance?

The following paper provides an overview of the various difficulties associated with access to, conducting participant observation within, and writing publications on, a particularly well-guarded surveillance setting: namely, the CCTV 'room of control' (Smith, 2007). The author describes experiences taken from his doctoral research, reflexively presenting the complex plethora of practical, emotional, and ethical issues which emerged on entering into, researching, and subsequently leaving, this particular locale. It is argued that greater attention from surveillance scholars must be paid to discussing the various methodological approaches and strategies employed in their work, thus helping educate those who follow. The author concludes suggesting a need for greater dialogue between researchers and surveillance practitioners, thus facilitating the availability of modern and future surveillance technologies, sites and groups for continued (necessary) social scientific scrutiny.

Smith, R.J.

Cardiff University

**Building Meanings: A multi-modal qualitative approach to understanding research settings.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Research Methods

Ramphal 3.25

The multi-modal approach offers the opportunity to empirically document, analyse and, most importantly, preserve social relations and interactional orders that exist within a research setting. Through the combination of methods of data collection and analysis a complex understanding of a space or institution can be achieved in which sites of action, interaction and organisation are not treated as neutral or passive but as active constituents in the process of the creation of meaning. Likewise, the actors within the locale are seen to reinterpret the setting and construct multiple alternative meanings. This approach refutes the primacy that is given to certain interactional orders by various perspectives within qualitative sociology and highlights the contours and connections of various social realms. Through the combination of qualitative methods such as visual analysis, fieldwork, and interviewing it is possible to capture the network of representations, interpretation and meaning present within the research setting and the relationships which exist between them.

This paper will outline a multi-modal qualitative methodology which has been designed and operationalised for the analysis of regenerated 'public' spaces. However it will be suggested that this approach could equally be applied in alternative settings, including various institutional research sites. Examples of how this research is conducted and how analysis of such a complex corpus of data is carried out will also be discussed. Furthermore the paper will detail the theoretical foundations upon which this methodology is designed demonstrating that this approach to qualitative research is based on far more than simply mixing methods.

Stingl, A.

**The constitutive/regulative difference in the history of German physiology, in American Sociology and in contemporary debates.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Cultural Constructions of Nature

Ramphal 1.03

At the end of the 18th century German biologist Johann Friedrich Blumenbach and Immanuel Kant began a discourse on vital forces and natural mechanisms.: should these be viewed as either the constitutive causality for the life sciences to be studied or regarded as regulative principles, providing conceptual tools through which research was possible? The discourse fragmented into strains, spanning the worksof illustrious figures as Helmholtz, J.Müller, W.Griesinger to E.Mach, Emil Kraepelin and Claude Bernard.

Twice in subsequent history two scholars in the history of thought unified and synthesized the positions into "scientific revolutions".

First philosopher/physiologist Rudolf-Hermann Lotze, whose work was studied by generations of American exchange-students, opening the American thought-scape for ideas of the next generation of students, whose theoretical language would reflect the conceptual constitutive/regulative difference.

Secondly economist/sociologist Max Weber whose works discussed Wundt's contributions to experimental-psychology with the same ease as they did Menger's marginal utility. In the wake of this discourse the language of sociologists as renowned as e.g. Talcott Parsons was infused by their theoretical language. Ironically, the history of our academic disciplines has in the past two to three decades suffered first from (a partially necessary) iconoclasm of the 68-generation and then from the massive budgetarian crises. Ironically for I can show that the issues of current debates, within the cultural sciences themselves, as in between the economic, natural sciences and the humanities are fundamentally the same ones as debated in the past two hundred years of the scientific discourse.

Straw, D.

**Between Emotion and Self-Interest: Reconstructing an Interdisciplinary Approach to Human Rights**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

In an interdisciplinary context, this paper considers the possibility of a more distinctive and coherent Human Rights sociology. A broad overview of existing theory highlights fragments of emotion and 'social constructionism'. These are often influenced by political science or philosophy and dubiously related to sociological ideas of 'morality'. However, in building from its heritage of economic societal concern and recommendation, and in reconciling and developing certain aspects of this previous theorisation, I outline the basis for a new Sociology of Human Rights. This sets itself between enlightenment ideas of the relationship between emotion and economics, world system perspectives and the contemporary debate on cosmopolitanism. In a modern example of seemingly irresolvable political accusation and denial of Human Rights violation, an outcome is seen which can be regarded as a broader account of social process, or as a moral expose of the related issues.

**Szerszynski, B., Reynolds, L.**

**University of Lancaster**

**Climate technics**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.25

At the present time, the theoretical – and rhetorical – task of establishing the truth of anthropogenic climate change seems to be giving way to the practical one of finding effective responses to it. The Stern Review (2006) discursively reconstructed climate change as offering economic opportunities for those with the foresight to start developing technologies of mitigation and adaptation. Since then, a range of technologies have been advanced as means to avoid catastrophic climate change, including nuclear power, biofuels, renewables, CO2 capture and storage, synthetic biology and even the geo-engineering of oceanic and atmospheric processes. Yet the very simplicity of this narrative – first scientific diagnosis, then technological cure – hides a more complex, folded reality. In 'Morality and technology: the end of the means' (TCS, 2002), Bruno Latour argued that a technology can never really be a mere means to an end. Instead, technologies are detours, dislocations, which stand between us and our goals, transforming them, setting us on new trajectories and bringing into being new worlds. In this paper we explore the way that imagined technical solutions to the climate problem have come to shape the very scientific diagnosis of anthropogenic climate change. We suggest that such a critical enquiry is necessary to reveal the deeper political stakes involved in how we respond to climate predictions.

**Taylor, Y., Addison, M.**

**Newcastle University**

**'From the coal face to the car park? Intersection of class and gender in the North East'**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

This ESRC funded research adopts a multi-dimensional approach to explore women's lives in the North East in the context of de-industrialisation and the transition to a service sector, leisure based economy. It investigates the emergence of new femininities in a situation of industrial 'degeneration' and regeneration, investigating what has hitherto been under-researched when compared with attention that has focused on boys' and men's experiences of these social processes. Industrialisation has been supposed as good (for men) and de-industrialisation bad (for men). There has been little attention to women's positioning within economic regeneration/degeneration, the move towards and assumed fit into a 'feminised' labour force. The story of de/industrialisation and increased opportunities for women also negates the differences between differently positioned women. This research explores women's varied (self)positioning within regional transition/stagnation and the significance of gender and class in mediating identifications with 'past' landscapes, present desires and material im/possibilities. It is based on 60 in-depth interviews with women, across the age-range, in three locations across the North East, which have been selected for their distinctiveness in terms of recent history and class character.

**Taylor, Y.**

**Newcastle University**

**Methods and meeting points: intersections of class, gender and sexuality**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 2

Social Studies 0.09

While 'intersection' is now a common trope in discussions of social dynamics and identities, in the case of class and sexuality these intersections are often gestured towards without being fully interrogated or fleshed out. This paper will draw upon my research 'Working-class life: Classed outsiders' (2007) examining the significance of class, gender and sexuality in the lives of women who self-identify as working-class and lesbian, achieved through interviews with 53 women in the UK (Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Highlands in Scotland and Yorkshire and Manchester, England). As well as demonstrating the research application of 'intersectionality' I hope to reflect on my own identifications/contradictions/journeys as potential bridges, and gaps, between theory and practice, exploring both the potential and problems of intersectionality.

**Thomas, F.**

**University of London**

**linking understandings and experiences of HIV/AIDS with the natural environment**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

The Environment

Ramphal 2.41

It is widely acknowledged that AIDS impacts negatively upon rural livelihoods in developing countries. However, little attention has been given to exploring the links between physical and emotional experience and the ways in which they are bound up with wider understandings of, and interactions with, the natural environment. Drawing upon research undertaken in the Caprivi Region of Namibia, this paper examines the ways in which narratives of HIV/AIDS are inherently bound up with changes to natural resource use and accessibility, and places this within the context of broader socio-cultural change and perceived disruption to the social and moral order. Particular focus is placed upon changes to generational hierarchies and values which are seen to have resulted in the breaking of taboo and an undermining of respect for the natural environment. The paper then moves to examine the links between emotional well-being and the ability of individuals living with HIV/AIDS to participate in subsistence, natural resource based livelihood activities. While self-respect and enhanced well-being were recorded during periods of illness remission, AIDS-related illness invariably results in periods of sickness and dependency. It is argued that an inability to participate in livelihood and social networks results in decreased emotional well-being and a fuelling of stigma and blame against people living with HIV/AIDS.

**Throsby, K.**

**University of Warwick**

**"Seeing the lite": testimony and evangelism in published weight loss autobiographies.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.28

Personal narratives of successful weight loss are ubiquitously present in the popular media. In the social and cultural context of a declared "war on obesity", these stories testify to the unacceptability of the fat body, signal the restoration of the disciplined self, and serve as a "how-to" manual for weight loss. Drawing on a series of published books, this paper explores the ways in which autobiographical accounts of weight loss align themselves with contemporary discourses of obesity as unhealthy and undesirable, and position the authors as evangelists in the "war on obesity". This, I argue, enables the authors to identify as lay experts and role models to others, giving positive meaning to the difficult experience of weight gain and loss. The paper argues that the autobiographical stories that can be told are profoundly marked by gendered norms of body and behaviour, and while the act of "spreading the word" is clearly experienced as empowering by the authors, in many cases, it also marks the entrenchment of norms of gendered inequality.

**Tonner, A**

**University of Strathclyde**

**Cook book choice a matter of self-identity**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Emotions and the Body

Ramphal 0.14

Cookbooks have long been recognised as more than instructional texts rather as a literary genre with narratives beyond the functional. This paper discusses the influences which guide choices of cookbook and cookery writer for a group of thirtysomethings with particular attention to the role that their narratives of self-identity play within this choice. In the sociology of consumption the role of self and identity is a recurring one particularly among those who view consumption as an act of integration between external objects and self, often through a process of personalisation. Whether food consumption can take on such significance is well debated but cook books in common with other forms of literature, this paper contends, become well used and take on increased symbolism for their owners. Cookbooks have a heterogeneity of style from the instructional owner manual style of Larousse through to the lifestyle led work of Oliver and Slater so that they can embody not only representations of contemporary culinary culture but also extend far beyond the kitchen to create aspirational cultural narratives.

Utilising narrative analysis of semi-structured interviews this paper explores the narrative construction of self, drawn in part from attitudes towards food and cooking, outwardly manifest through choices of cookbook in order to add to understanding of symbolic consumption practice.



**Tulle, E.**

**Glasgow Caledonian University**

**Healthy ageing and sports participation: Bourdieu and the cultural reconstruction of the natural body**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.09

Exercise in later life is associated with better health, mobility and well-being. However exercise participation decreases with increasing age and less than a quarter of people aged 60 and over, a preponderance of whom are women, exercise enough to prevent the decrements of old age. The sports science literature has sought to explain the reluctance of older people to exercise by focusing on individual motivation and the structure of exercise interventions, arguing that ageing bodies are no longer bodies of decline. Policy intentions also focus on encouraging older people to take up age-appropriate exercise regimes but these do not often work. We need to shift attention away from individuals and focus instead on the structural and cultural context in which the aspirations and dispositions for exercise can emerge. Bourdieu's theory of social action can help us reframe the potential and propensity for sports participation as the outcome of class, gender and age habitus, with physical fitness as the acquisition of forms of physical capital and embodied dispositions consistent with the demands and logic of the sporting field rather than as a purely 'natural' urge. The urge to exercise is structured and exercise reinscribes the body with a new set of dispositions. Within this theoretical framework the accumulation of physical capital is not aimed at the prevention of disease or disability but is a by-product of long-term involvement in the sporting field.

**Tuomainen, H.M.**

**Taste vs. structure: the role of substitutes in Ghanaian food in London**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Food

Ramphal 0.12

Cooked food, and foodways in a broader sense, are products of culture and strongly linked with ethnic identities. The maintenance of previous food habits helps migrants retain a significant aspect of their sense of ethnic identity. According to Douglas, it is the patterning of a whole cycle of combinations that bestows on food an ethnically distinctive expression.

This paper explores the role of substitutes and structural issues in the maintenance of ethnic foodways. It presents findings from a study examining the relationship between migration, foodways, ethnic identities and gender among Ghanaians in London. The study was grounded in qualitative and theoretical research on meals. The micro-level analysis of current and past food habits within households was set in a wider context by exploring the development of the food culture in the community as a whole. Ethnographic fieldwork was conducted in Ghanaian households (18), functions, restaurants and food stores.

The paper focuses on the ways in which Ghanaians have striven to maintain their food habits by using substitutes to preserve the characteristics and formats of Ghanaian meals. The detailed account on the process of substitution shows, for example, that it is possible to compose a culture-specific dish even if the appropriate staple is not available. Structural and sensory properties of a food can be more important for the preservation of the identity of a dish than the actual foodstuff itself, even the original taste. A structuralist approach is necessary to capture the true nature of change and continuity in foodways.

**Twine, R**

**Lancaster University**

**Critical Animal Studies, Posthumanism and the Sociological Imagination - To Describe, Prescribe, or What?**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Animals in Human Societies

Social Studies 0.10

This exploratory and reflexive paper charts the emergence of the Sociology of human/animal relations as well as the more cross-disciplinary 'animal studies' over the last 10-15 years. What have been the concerns of the academic engagement with human/animal relations? How do scholars position themselves on issues of animal ethics? What may be the implications for both Sociology and Sociologists in broadening the social to include nonhuman animal life? This paper argues that challenging the boundaries of the social in this way has potentially significant implications for Sociology, Sociologists and the ethics of everyday life.

The relative 'animal turn' in Sociology could be seen as a further example of the influence of social movements on the discipline accompanied, for example, by arguments of denaturalisation in human action, in this case vis-à-vis other animals. In a more fundamental sense this paper touches upon the place of politics and positivism in Sociology exploring whether the Sociologist's role should be 'merely' to describe human/animal relations or to posit them in terms of theories of power and thus act to change them. What difficulties does the latter present in terms of research role and performativity? This paper concludes by considering the place of posthuman ethics in a reconceived sociological imagination.

**Tyrie, J., Case, S.**

**Swansea University**

**Gender and Rights: Young People's Access to their Entitlements in Wales**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 6

Ramphal 0.03/4

This presentation discusses our research into young people's access to their rights as defined by the Welsh Assembly Government. Extending Entitlement is a Welsh Assembly Government policy defining 10 "Entitlements" that all 11-25 year olds in Wales have. The Entitlements are the Welsh approach to young people's rights. Our questionnaire consultation with young people used a computer based online interactive self-report questionnaire to identify the levels of access to Entitlements.

There has been no previous research into the relationship between gender and how well young people access their Entitlements. Previous research into young people's rights and gender focussed almost exclusively on curtailment of human rights such as prostitution or abuse. In this case we are looking at rights of a different nature. Entitlements include a range of rights including education, information, advice and feeling good and confident.

The presentation will be focusing on the relationship between gender and the level of young people's access to their Entitlements. Quantitative measures of both perceived and actual access to entitlements were taken. Measures of psychosocial risk and protective factors were statistically linked to access to entitlement as potential explanations for gender differences. This data is collected through a series of questions in the domains of education, family, neighbourhood, behaviour and personality and lifestyle. Indicative results suggest that when differences occur, males had higher access than females. The findings of our research will be discussed, as well as possible interpretations of these results from feminist and rights based perspectives.

**Undurraga, T.**

**University of Cambridge**

**Chile faces the future: a study of the latent conflicts and prospects as seen by high-achieving young professionals**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

This research explores how the current generation of high-achieving young professionals in Chile observes the transformations the country has undergone since its return to democracy. The research brought together five focus groups composed of a total of 43 Chileans studying in Europe, soliciting their ideas of Chile's societal model and possible future directions. Broadly, these postgraduates perceive Chile as a deeply market-orientated society, possessing a very stable political and economic foundation but marked by extensive inequality. Chile is also perceived as a self-centred country, isolated from Latin America and vastly influenced by the US, but also evolving according to an emerging scenario of cultural change characterised by greater public transparency and the empowerment of people. Although critics of the unequal character and individualistic spirit of Chile voiced dissatisfaction with the societal model, they also testified to a sense of pride and recognition of Chile's advances, expressing tacit support of the societal structure. In mood, this generation can be distinguished as sensitive, post-traumatic and critical. In particular, they are sensitive to the country's recent political history and to the consequences of social division. The group understands the significance of Chile's peaceful transition to democracy; expressing a clear position with respect to the historical facts, without embracing the hate-ridden and polarised political positions characterising their parents' generation. Their demand for increasing discussion and the further deployment of critical thinking speak loudly about their priorities and interest in Chile.

**Urry, J.**

**Lancaster University**

**Complexity, adaptive systems and lock-in**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.25

In this paper I will examine the analysis of complex hybrid systems for examining the dynamics of anthropogenic climate change. I will seek to develop a sociology of the future that might help us both to imagine and engender a systemic shift to a more benign energy economy and society. The paper will be predominantly theoretical but informed by current climate change debates.

**Walby, S.**

**Lancaster University**

**Theorising Violence**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Theory

Ramphal 1.04

This paper addresses the place of violence in social theory. Violence is about bodies; but it is social. It is about emotions - fear, alarm, hate - but it is social. Violence has often been theorised as instrumental power, but that is too simple. This sociological contribution to the theorisation of violence focuses on its regulation and deployment; variations in the meanings that frame violence; and the changing relationship of violence to complex social inequalities. Global, national and EU processes restructure violences and their associated inequalities: the military and wars; the criminal justice system and its prisons and death sentences; and inter-personal and gendered violence. The paper addresses globalisation, inequality and contested modernities through the lens of violence. It draws on qualitative and quantitative comparative empirical analyses of variations in the regulation and deployment of violence to develop the theorisation of violence.

**Warde, A.**

**University of Manchester**

**Globalization and Food Habits: A comparison of Britain and France**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Food

Ramphal 0.12

This paper critically evaluates claims that the effect of globalization is to produce convergence in consumption patterns by examining change in Britain and France since the 1970s. After some reflection on what it might mean for globalization to generate convergence, it explores evidence about the similarities and differences in trajectory of some central and visible features of food habits in the two countries. Attention will be paid to the amount of time spent eating, meal patterns and formats, habits of eating out and their relation to gastronomy, and the incorporation of foreign cuisines. Evidence will be drawn from the results of some recent research projects. These include a comparative analysis of time use and household expenditure, and some archival research on cultural norms surrounding eating both at home and away from home. The analysis will be framed partly in relation to the earlier comparative analysis by Mennell of Britain and France. It will emphasize the complexity of contemporary change, but argue that in almost no respects is there any divergence in patterns between Britain and France. This does not necessarily imply that globalization is at work, but it does provide a foil to many recent accounts which focus on differentiation within and between countries. To the extent that differences between Britain and France are diminishing, and the evidence on balance suggests that this is occurring rather fast, it might be argued that old stereotypes of distinct culinary heritages and identities need to be revised or abandoned.

**Watson, S.**

**University of the West of England**

**The Idea of the Brain: Deleuze, neuroscience and the biology of 'control'**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Special Event

Ramphal 0.03/4

This paper questions some of the classically materialist, determinist and 'eliminativist' thrust in contemporary neuroscience and neurophilosophy. It does so through an engagement with overlapping insights deriving from a number of, what I will argue are, in fact, metaphysical idealists - of a peculiar kind. These will include (amongst others) the process philosophy of Alfred North-Whitehead, the 'virtual' philosophies of Henry Bergson and Gilles Deleuze, and the speculative work of complexity scientists such as Stuart Kauffman.

**Weicht, B.**

**University of Nottingham**

**The natural care relationship: A critical investigation of the construction of care as natural attachment**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Open 5

Social Studies 0.28

Care for the elderly should be understood as a social practice that breaks into everyone's private sphere at some point in his/her life. The actual care work, however, is carried out by individuals representing particular, often marginalised, groups in society. Looking at the public, political and social discourse on care, one can identify an underlying moral consensus which constructs care work in explicit and implicit distinction to other, namely paid work. In fact, care and the carers are discussed in relation to natural affection, emotional and familial proximity and an underlying feeling of responsibility and compassion. This paper attempts to demonstrate the discursive construction of care as a 'natural' and self-evident activity which leads to an establishment of care relationships as normative assumptions. Two main theoretical outlooks will be utilised: a discourse-oriented perspective in order to identify and analyse the realm of construction and the design of roles and identities and a materialist approach in order to challenge the consequences of social construction of the natural, i.e. the construction of the care relationship as a natural bond. Furthermore the role of gender will be explored and its meaning for the construction of a natural relationship will be discussed. It will be shown that the construction of 'the natural carer' shows substantial similarities to stereotypical female and feminine moralities and identities. The operationalisation of the methodological approach will be carried out using Critical Discourse Analysis in context with several national newspapers and its various forms of coverage of care and carers.

**West, R.**

**University of Essex**

**A Critical Sociological Perspective on Developments in UK Nature Conservation**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Biotechnology

Ramphal 2.41

UK nature conservation trusts have become increasingly proactive on two fronts: in the acquisition of land for major restoration projects and as key players in environmental policy. In the latter case, prominent 'Trusts' seek to reinvent themselves within the framework of social movements, or have subtly gained a foothold in the public sphere by forming networks or 'partnerships' ranging from institutional ties to the alignment of existing campaigns to consumerism. Additionally, conservation philosophy has recognised the need for a new narrative that moves away from the idea of a conceptually and physically segregated 'nature' towards one with which society benignly coexists and interacts. In a somewhat utopian vein, this paper examines the transformation of UK conservation as suggesting a potential agency for social change in terms of society-nature relations: both through large-scale projects and an ecological pedagogy that mediates environmental rhetoric. However, this potentiality is perhaps constrained by several internal contradictions, in this case the shifting meanings applied to community. This paper therefore continues by discussing how the suggestion of 'community' is often problematic, or even selective, in practice. Drawing on ethnographic research in a village affected by an extensive conservation project I outline how new conservation narratives encounter a symbolic resistance in diverse community histories. These are often voiced through issues of real and imagined identities, overlapping discourses, local politics of space, and reconstructed memories of relations with landowners and the environment. It is perhaps only when such resistance is understood that conservation can demolish its own nature-society dichotomy.

**Whiteman, N.**

**Institute of Education, University of London**

**The ethics of academics and avatars: exploring the ethics of the researcher/researched.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Research Methods

Ramphal 3.25

Within Internet research, and social science more broadly, there has been a move from the search for generalised ethical rules towards situated, localised ethical decision-making. In the field of Internet research, the decisions researchers make (in respect of the need for informed consent, for example) are frequently presented as being informed by the nature of the environments we study and the assumptions of those participating within them.

Against this backdrop, this paper explores the extent to which the ethics of those we research can, or should, inform our own ethical decision-making. The paper considers the relationship between the production of ethical positions in two different cultural contexts: the configuration of the ethical manoeuvring of participants within online communities and the ethical decision-making of the author as Internet researcher, manoeuvring, as it were, in the research community. The paper explores the ethical concerns, pressures and restraints inherent within participation in these academic and non-academic cultures and the repercussions of these for research practice. To what extent, for example, should the researcher adopt the code of academic conventions, and ignore the ethical practices of those involved in the researched activities (or vice versa)?

The paper draws from research into the activities of media fans online and is based on two sources of evidence: reflexive consideration of the ethical decisions made during my research practice, and analysis of the negotiation of the ethics of participation within the two online communities that constituted my empirical settings.

**Wilson, C., Brady, G., Letherby, G., Brown, G.**

**Making a difference?: personal and political reflections on our experience of research with young parents**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 09:00 - 11:00

Research Methods

Ramphal 3.25

In this paper we draw on our experience of a number of research projects undertaken over the last six years concerned with the status and experience of teenage pregnancy and young parenthood. We outline the methods (e.g. single and focus group interviews, youth club activities; storyboards) used across our projects and focus on data collection with pregnant teenagers and young parents. We also detail how some of our work has led to involvement in training and policy development at a local level, giving us the opportunity to work alongside young mothers. We consider the implications that this experience has had for our work and for reflexive research practice.

Drawing on our field and policy notes and on visual and verbal data we consider: what is meant by user involvement; the researcher/respondent relationship; the 'insider/outsider' continuum, and research language. We explain how and why the dilemmas we have been left with lead us to challenge what we mean by user involvement/ participation and question what difference we are making to the lives of young people.

**Wolkowitz, C.**

**University of Warwick**

**Behind the Scenes at the Exhibition**

Sunday 30th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:30

Open 3

Ramphal 0.12

This paper aims to provide an opportunity for people at the conference to share their ideas and responses to the student artwork on display at the Conference. As a point of departure it will provide an account of the organisation of the exhibition and competition at the 2008 BSA Conference, its rationale and outcome. As far as possible it will also consider what the range of entries might tell us about the ways in which the relation between the natural and the social is captured and imagined by student photographers and the settings their images depict. The paper is underwritten by reference to recent debates on the role of visual methods in sociological research, especially writing on the use of images as sociological evidence. The paper will also draw on the experiences of tutors and students in an innovative undergraduate module in Visual Sociology.

**Woodward, K, Woodward, S.**

**Dressed bodies and the problem of 'woman'**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Nature, Culture, Gender

Social Studies 0.09

This paper uses the example of clothing and the dressed body to explore the problem of gender categories; following Judith Butler's challenges to the boundaries of gender identity, it focuses in particular upon the question of whether the category 'woman' is still meaningful. Contemporary feminism, sometimes labelled as 'post feminism' or, more positively third wave feminism, is troubled by the suggestion that gender difference is either meaningless or, if asserted, must be subject to essentialist, biologist claims. Do everyday assumptions about being a woman reflect naïve and simplistic classifications or does gender theory need to align itself more closely with lived experience and present a more sophisticated understanding of embodied, gendered selves? Considering both the ambiguities of dress in many contemporary societies and the seemingly oppositional common sense assumptions that clothing is distinctly gendered, this paper presents a theory of embodied sexual difference that avoids the excesses of social constructionism and the essentialism of binary logic, drawing on feminist phenomenology and de Beauvoir's understanding of lived bodies, which are both situated and themselves situations. We draw on ethnographic material and discursive analyses of the diversity of the clothed body.

**Wynne, B.**

**University of Lancaster**

**Redefining the category of the natural as a waystation in (re?)engaging humans: deposing scientific singularity and its ambivalences.**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Special Event

Raphal 3.25

When climate change and human responsibilities for it has been challenged politically and intellectually, the automatic response of the epistemic community of 'experts' who are convinced believers, has been to buttress the 'correct' political stance with more scientific power – more singular voice; more precision; more replication; more unequivocal speaking of Nature's Voice: 'Climate change is real, urgent, and humans are to blame, and need to act, big, now'. A fundamentally similar response has been played out for the other global nature-crisis and its scientific and policy interactions, namely Biodiversity. For climate at least, if not for biodiversity, on the face of it this has been successful. Yet perhaps the creation of an essential, singular and unambiguous Nature-story as a condition of an authoritative effective global social (and policy) authority is at the cost of civic alienation. This paper will explain why the unimagined option of recognised ambiguity, and the essential contestedness of the key normative and propositional concepts, may be a necessary condition of informed and engaged civic practices for human climate sustainability.

**Yearley, S.**

**University of Edinburgh**

**Sociology and climate change before Kyoto II: critical roles for the social sciences in understanding climate change and climate knowledge**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 11:30 - 13:00

Special Event

Ramphal 3.25

This paper focuses on the comparatively neglected role of the social sciences (including economics) in projections about climate change and about societies' responses to changing climates and related environmental phenomena. Using an approach informed by social constructionism and science and technology studies, it examines the part played by the social sciences in making knowledge about the future of humankind in relation to the changing ecosphere. Using a small series of case studies focused on the way that social science features in the shaping of climate knowledge – for example, how value is attached to economic activities in different countries in the course of attempts to calculate the most 'rational' global response to the myriad threats of changing climates, or how societies' presumed responses to climate-change-knowledge are figured into projections of future climates – the paper demonstrates that the role of social scientific "variables" in climate forecasts is much larger than is generally appreciated. The paper then shows that there is both a) the need to incorporate evidence from studies of the scientific community that studies climate change into the evaluation of these forecasts and b) the need for more social science reflection on the roles of social science in climate-change models.

**Yokoyama, K.**

**Neo-liberalism and social justice in English and Japanese higher education access**

Friday 28th March 2008 at 14:00 - 15:00

Open 1

Ramphal 1.13

The effect of government's market or market-like policies on higher education equity in access differs between countries. A number of sociological and higher education literature have dealt with this theme, finding the gap between government rhetoric and reality. However, the previous studies tend not to focus upon causal explanation about the market and equity nexus on a comparative basis.

The purpose of the paper is to explain why neo-liberal policies have different impacts on equity in higher education access between England and Japan between the mid 1990s and early 2000s. It first elucidates the relationship between neo-liberalism and equity in government policies by using Giddens's explanation for Third Way policies. It, then, examines different socio-cultural and historical conditions which shape the particular access pattern regarding classes, ethnicity, and gender between the two countries.

The paper argues that the different interpretation and application of neo-liberalism and different political and socio-cultural contexts are related to the different impacts of market-oriented policies between two countries. In England, the gap between government rhetoric on social justice and the reality - the continuity of inequity - can be explained by the limitation of political manipulation, which lacks the dynamism to change socio-cultural and historical conditions (cf Archer 1979). In Japan, where the interpretation of neo-liberalism is closer to classical liberalism than British interpretation, the lack of governments' equity policy is related to the efficiency value of Liberal Democratic Party, a ruling party - and the Party's conflict with Teacher's Union, whose propaganda is democracy and egalitarian ideas.

**Yuill, C., Crinson, I.**

**The Robert Gordon University**

**Capitalism, Cortisol and the Bio-chemistry of Alienation.**

Saturday 29th March 2008 at 15:30 - 17:00

Special Event

Social Studies 0.09

In previous work we have explored the utility of Marxian alienation theory as an explanation of health inequalities (Yuill, 2005; Yuill and Crinson, 2007). The main focus of which was to provide a firmly materialist understanding of psycho-social influences that contribute to the wide disparities in health that exist in contemporary Western capitalist societies. We now wish to turn our attention to how negative social experiences relate to biological processes (in particular the 'stress system' and the role played by the chemical cortisol), which, in turn, lead to poor physical and mental health. The main thrust of our discussion will focus on how the historical fluidity of human society, and the distinct emergence of capitalism, affects human biology.

To achieve the above, we will begin with a summary of our work to date. Attention will then turn to Marxian perspectives on nature-culture. This will incorporate the young and mature work of Marx and Engels' later material on nature (material that has been often neglected within the study of health and illness). Such perspectives provide a fertile terrain of theories, which, we believe, offer valuable insights into how we can sociologically articulate emotions, bodies, biology and society. Finally, we will 'map' how social processes interact with certain biological systems.

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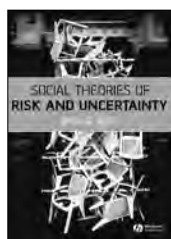


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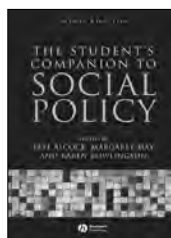


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## POSTERS

There is a designated poster viewing time

15:00 – 15:30 on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2008 in the Mead Gallery, Warwick Arts Centre.

Presenters will be available during this time to discuss their work.

Additional times may be indicated on individual posters.

Posters are listed in alphabetical order of first author.

**Butler,D.**

**Warwickshire College**

### **Ethnographic study of apprenticeship in the horseracing industry**

This poster outlines the research aims and objectives of the first year of a study of the lived experiences of trainees embarking on a career as stable staff in the horseracing Industry. It aims to depict how trainees are socialised into their future roles as stable staff and how their career aspirations and expectations are shaped when at the British Racing School, (BRS) Newmarket and when working in the Industry.

It utilises a methodological approach traditionally associated with ethnography, (participant observation, unstructured interviews, documentary analysis) by following a group of Foundation Modern Apprentices from the start of their mandatory nine weeks of training at the BRS to their place of work at a racehorse trainers yard as they complete their Modern Apprenticeship. The study aims to present a synchronic and diachronic analysis of apprenticeship by describing a subject as it exists in one point in time whilst at the same time incorporating the historical evolution of the subject. To this end the research is using the historical development of indentured apprenticeship in the horseracing Industry to chart the way in which approaches to apprenticeship have evolved and changed within the industry over the passage of time as compared to the everyday world of a group of trainees embarking on their chosen career.

**Golian, Sh., Granyameh M., Mehran, A., Cheraghi, A.**

**Tehran University of Medical Sciences**

### **The relationship between total serum cholesterol changes and postpartum depression**

**Background & Aim:** postpartum depression is a severe, pervasive sadness with labile mood swing that affects 8-15% of women after delivery. Postpartum depression negatively affects mother-infant bonding. There are a lot of factors which make women vulnerable to get postpartum depression that control of them can decrease postpartum depression. Several researchers say that it may be an association between serum cholesterol lowering and depression. The aim of the present study is determining the relationship between total serum cholesterol changes and postpartum depression on women of Lahijan in 1385-86.

**Materials and Method:** This research is a correlated, descriptive analytical study. We studied 101 healthy primiparous women without socioeconomic problems, metabolic disorders, hyperlipidemia and history of depressive disorders. We excluded women with maternal or fetal complication, fetal death and women that were depressed in pregnancy. All women were visited two stages: during 3 weeks before the expected delivery and during 6 weeks after delivery. On both times, we completed Beck Depression Inventory and registered for serum cholesterol. Data were collected with a questionnaire which had three parts: demographic specifications, Beck Depression Inventory and results of laboratory. And then by SPSS software by using descriptive statistics and statistical tests like Spearman and t-test were analyzed.

**Results:** Findings indicate that serum cholesterol declines in the postpartum period and the correlation between reduced serum cholesterol and depression is significant ( $r = -0.33, p = 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion:** The decline in serum cholesterol has a relationship with postpartum depression.

**Mikkelsen, M.R. , Christensen, P.**

**The Research Unit for General Practice, Copenhagen**

**Environmental barriers and motivations of children's mobility: negotiating spaces of risk, rules and emotions**

This paper explores the environmental barriers and facilitators which hinder and promote children's mobility. It is argued that children as 'health promoting actors' are not passively incorporating external stimuli but respond to and actively engage with their environments. Based on an ethnographic study carried out among Danish school children aged 10-13 and their families, the paper demonstrates how children through their movements and non-movements actively negotiate spaces of risks, rules and emotions in response to the impact of the physical and social environments.

**Moselmei, M., Rezaeepour A., Nickshekarnia F., Kazemnejad, A.**

**Tehran University of Medical Sciences**

Nursing and Midwifery educator's point of views about concept, causes and Strategies of conflict management in Nursing and Midwifery schools in Tehran universities of medical sciences, 2005

Background & Aim: Conflict is a natural phenomena and is inevitable in any organization. The way the conflict is viewed may influences the way conflict is managed. This study was conducted to investigate Nursing and Midwifery educator's point of views about concept causes and Strategies of conflict management.

Method & materials: This is a descriptive cross-sectional study. the samples included 229 of all educator's in schools of nursing & midwifery in 3 different universities in Tehran.

The data were gathered by questionnaire in 4 different partse

Results: according to the demographic findings the most percentage (25/8) of educator's were in age 41-46 87.3% female 13.1% PhD 79% MSc and 80.3% were married. The view points of 31.4% were modern, while 20.1% were traditional. The view points of 44.1% (<50%) about causes of conflict were desirable. Strategies of conflict management were 97.8% collaborating 72.5% compromising. 30.4% forcing (dominating), 26.2% accommodating and 8.7% Avoidance.

Conclusion: Although the most of the educator's have modern approach to conflict the traditional view points is still being supported in the educational environment determining the cause of conflict needs further investigation. Collaborating is a desirable conflict management strategy but each method has positive and negative characteristics that should be considered in choosing an appropriate strategy.

**Sanchez, I**

**University of Essex**

**The impact of the antiwar movement in Spain 2001-2004**

In the present paper I would like to explain the impact of the anti-war movement in the case of Spain during the years 2001-2004. I will explain and discuss the notion of impact and it applies to the case of Spain and how the political culture influence in the development of the movement, especially during the years 2001-2004, making special reference to the mobilization of 2003 and 2004. I will try to explain how the mobilization of 2004 after the attacks cannot be explained without the mobilization in 2003 and all it has implication for the change of the government in 2004.

My main hypothesis are the following:

- a) The impact of the anti-war movements depends on the production of effective empty signifiers such as democracy that can be reflected in the opinion polls.
- b) The impact of the anti-war movement also depends on the support of the major party in the opposition, the socialist party in the case of Spain.

**Tyrie, J.**

**Swansea University**

**National Evaluation of Extending Entitlement: Measuring Young Peoples Access to Rights.**

This poster discusses research into young people's access to their rights as defined by the Welsh Assembly Government. Extending Entitlement is the Welsh Assembly Government's policy for young people's rights in Wales. This policy defines 10 "Entitlements" that all 11-25 year olds in Wales have.

A cross sectional survey of 2070 young people aged 11-16 used a computer based online interactive self-report questionnaire to identify the levels of access to entitlements. The questionnaire has two sections, the first assesses the perceived access to entitlements whilst the second attempts to identify the actual levels of access. Because the entitlements are compound concepts, in that they are made up of various elements, a key issue for the research was how to measure both a young person's perception of their access and their actual ability to access their entitlements. Also measured in the questionnaire were background social factors a tool from criminological and medical fields called risk, protective and enabling factors was used for this process.

We will be focusing on the methodological innovation used for consultation with young people and how the project has collected information using an online interactive questionnaire. The computer based questionnaire has grown iteratively through a series of research projects and is a user-friendly and engaging method of accessing the views of young people on potentially sensitive issues. The difficulties involved in measuring perceived access to entitlements and actual access to entitlements are explored. The results from the research will also be discussed.

**Wilkinson, C., Bultitude, K. Dawson, E.**

**Talking Robots: Examining Public Engagement with emerging robotic technologies.**

Robotics, genetic engineering and nanotechnology have been identified as the three most powerful emerging 21st century technologies. Although nanotechnology and new genetics have received varying levels of attention regarding public attitudes, attitudes towards robotic developments have remained relatively under-explored. Talking Robots is a 15-month ESRC-funded interdisciplinary project which is collating data on the process of 'engaging', in addition to compiling information on attitudes to an emerging scientific development, robotics. Robotics can be associated with many existing technological and social experiences within industrialised nations; how we interact with our satellite navigation system, how we perceive laser eye surgery, how computers have adapted our working lives. Robotics is interesting from an engagement perspective as there are added dimensions to the interaction between communicators and participants. It is not only about scientists, technologists and roboticists themselves engaging with publics, but the robot itself may increasingly 'participate' in engagement. The main objectives of the research are to analyse current public attitudes and views towards robotics, study the process of engagement between a variety of scientists, academics and participants, and assess the impact of a range of engagement mechanisms such as public forums, live events and hands-on workshops. Across the duration of the project, Talking Robots is examining at least 10 engagement activities, via a combination of observations, video recordings and semi-structured interviews. The research utilises pre-existing engagement activities, running in parallel with them but operating as an entirely separate project and applying social science research to a science communication programme.

**Youssefi, F., Youssefi, A., Godarzi, Z., Vasegh Rahimpour, F.**

**Investigation of diabetic patients with chronic complications**

**Background & aim:** There are more than 200 million people with diabetes in the world, this number will be increased to 366 million by the year 2030. Iran are having about 6 million people diabetes, Regarding to the variety chronic complication of diabetes such as visual, kidney, etc. However we must accept prevention, control of diabetes is an important task worldwide.

**Method & material:** This is a descriptive study that was done on 110 diabetic (16 male, 84 female) patients in Tehran. This research has been studied randomly. The instrument was structured interview and observation checklist.

**Results & Conclusion:** The findings showed that the sample includes 14 type 1 and 96 type 2 patients (aged 16 \_79). Among them (57.14 %) type 1 and (80.2%) type 2 were female, 36 of them illiterate, 50 patients have elementary educated and 24 graduated from high school. The rate of BMI: BMI between 20-25 = 24 patient, 26-30 = 38, and 31- 35 = 36, finally more than 36 = 6 patients. The average systolic blood pressure  $\geq 130$  and / or diastolic BP  $\geq 80$  mm/ hg. Consequence and 29.61 % (type 2) were 158 - 208 mg/dl. From 110 patients, 69 patients had positive and 41 patients had negative Familial history of diabetes. Regarding high incidence of high blood pressure (41. 20%) and obesity (67. 31 %) patients in Iranian diabetics, it is necessary for patients to control their high blood pressure and change their diet and do exercise.

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## **MYO**

**Address:** First Floor, The Old Firestation, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1JA  
**Tel:** 02476 553 551  
Buffet restaurant offering Indian, Chinese Thai and Mediterranean cuisine.

## **Simply Simpsons**

**Address:** 101-103 Warwick Road, Kenilworth CV8 1HL  
**Tel:** 01926 864 567  
Formerly Simpsons and retaining the quality of food that has gathered such a phenomenal reputation, Simply Simpsons provides a bistro type environment with exceptional value for money.

## **The Gallery Restaurant**

**Address:** 20 Earlsdon Street, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6EG  
**Tel:** 02476 713 222  
European contemporary a la carte menu with a great downstairs bar. For many it remains the definitive Coventry restaurant.

## **The Grand Union Restaurant**

**Address:** 66 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa CV31 2DN  
**Tel:** 01926 421 323  
Dinner at the Grand Union is magical, situated by the canal the setting could not be more tranquil. The chefs love their food and the passion is obvious in every dish they lovingly create in the beautiful surroundings.

## **The Saxon Mill**

**Address:** Coventry Road, Guys Cliffe, Warwick CV34 5YN  
**Tel:** 01926 492 255  
The atmosphere at the Saxon Mill is relaxed, friendly and informal. The menu includes pizza, steaks and pasta as well as contemporary, global touches.

## **Kakooti Restaurant**

**Address:** Spon Street, Coventry CV1 3BA  
**Tel:** 02476 221 392  
This restaurant prides itself on trading on an ethical, organic or fair trade basis to produce its fantastic range of meat, seafood and vegetarian dishes.

## **Rupali Restaurant**

**Address:** 337 Tile Hill Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry CV4 9DU  
**Tel:** 02476 422 500  
Extensive traditional Indian menu including vegetarian options.

# ON THE DOORSTEP

The University of Warwick is ideally located on the border of the West Midlands and Warwickshire, providing easy access to the major cities of Coventry and Birmingham, and the beautiful historic towns of Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Kenilworth and Royal Leamington Spa.

The campus is located three miles to the south west of Coventry and is set in nearly 300 hectares of natural countryside with lakes, woods and beautifully tended gardens.

# NEARBY ATTRACTIONS

## COVENTRY

Coventry is the nearest city to the University of Warwick. Famous for its Cathedral, Lady Godiva, and the devastation brought to the city in World War 2, Coventry is an ever-developing city steeped in history.

**Distance from university campus:** 3 miles (to town centre).

### Entertainment

There are a number of pubs, clubs and restaurants with various venues, and if you prefer a more cultured night out, The Belgrade Theatre in Coventry offers a mixed programme of comedy, theatre and pantomime.

### Shopping

There are a couple of shopping areas in Coventry and a large range of high-street shops. Just outside of the city centre, opposite the train station and on the main bus-route from the University of Warwick campus, is a retail park known as Central Six, home to a number of larger retail stores, including GAP, Boots, Next and several other clothing stores.

### Historical Interest

One of Coventry's most famous landmarks is its cathedral. The original cathedral, St Mary's, was built in the 11th century although very little now remains. The Cathedral of St Michael, Coventry's second cathedral, was begun in 1373, but was famously destroyed when it was bombed during the Second World War. The cathedral was later re-built and consecrated in 1962. The old and new cathedrals now stand next to each other in the heart of Coventry and are both popular visitor attractions.

By 1334 Coventry was said to be the fifth largest town in England, and the first mayor, John Ward, was elected in 1348. Ranulf Meschines, the Earl of Chester, built Coventry Castle at the end of the 11th century but by the end of the 12th century, the castle had fell into disrepair following years of fighting in the area. No outward signs of the castle remain as it is believed to have been sited in Broadgate, now the city centre.

The town wall and gates were completed by 1538, having been built over the course of almost 200 years. During the 17th century Civil War the people of Coventry sided largely with the Parliamentarians. When Charles II, son of the executed Charles I, came to power under the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 he ordered that Coventry's walls and fortifications be destroyed. The order was carried out in 1662 and thus all that remains of Coventry's walls are two gates.

Coventry's development was steady over the next few hundred years, adopting new industries, such as ribbon weaving and watch making. In 1838 the London to Birmingham railway was opened, passing through Coventry. The line still remains and operates a regular service between England's major cities.

The city became a centre for the manufacture of bicycles in the latter half of the 19th century and moved on to become one of the major car manufacturers in the United Kingdom, and remains so today. Coventry has been home to around 130 motor manufacturers over time.

The extensive bombing of Coventry during World War 2 has impacted greatly on its history and landmarks, forcing much of the city to be rebuilt in the post-war years.

# KENILWORTH

The historical town of Kenilworth is the nearest major town to the University of Warwick. Famous for its castle, Kenilworth is a peaceful Warwickshire town.

**Distance from university campus:** 4 miles (to town centre).

## Entertainment

Kenilworth is a peaceful, historical town that attracts many tourists and visitors. Near the magnificent castle ruins are the Abbey Fields. The 68 acres of the Abbey Fields includes a swimming pool (both indoors and outdoors), a lake, children's play area and heritage trails.

Kenilworth has two small theatres, the self-funding Priory Theatre and Talisman Theatre and plenty of restaurants, bars and pubs.

## Shopping

Kenilworth has a shopping high-street in the centre of town. It has a number of major high-street stores but is smaller than the shopping centres of Coventry and Leamington Spa. There are a variety of restaurants close to Kenilworth Castle and in the centre of town.

## Historical Interest

Kenilworth is listed in the 1086 Domesday book as "Chinewrde" with a population of less than 100. Within 200 hundred years, the population had vastly increased and the town's importance multiplied.

Of the greatest historical interest in Kenilworth is the castle. Built in 1129, Kenilworth Castle was home to many lords and dignitaries, and frequented by several Kings and Queens until it was destroyed in 1649 following the Civil War.

Kenilworth Castle's most famous residents were Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester and founder of democracy in England, and Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester and favourite of Elizabeth I. It is also thought that Henry Bolingbroke probably spent many of his childhood years in Kenilworth castle.

English Heritage has looked after the castle ruins since 1984, and it is now popular with visitors to the area. Kenilworth itself is pretty town, with attractive buildings and open spaces. Find out more about Kenilworth on the town's website.

# LEAMINGTON SPA

The town is a short drive from the University campus and offers breadth of entertainment, sites of historical interest, and stunning architecture.

Distance from university campus: 8 miles.

## **Entertainment**

Royal Leamington Spa is home to a vast number of pubs, bars and restaurants. The Royal Spa Centre is an entertainments venue with a theatre and cinema, showcasing a variety of music performances, comedy and dance. The Apollo cinema is also a short walk from The Parade, showing most popular movies.

## **Shopping**

The Parade (Leamington's high street) has several high street shops and department stores. The side-streets from The Parade feature lots of specialist shops, gift stores, and art shops. The Royal Priors indoor shopping centre also has a number of high street and specialist stores. Leamington also has a number of nice restaurants covering all price ranges.

## **Historical Interest**

Originally a small village known as Leamington Priors, Leamington Spa became a town around the beginning of the 19th century. In 1784 the saline springs beneath the village were discovered, and the residents began to build baths around these, claiming that they could cure or relieve a number of disorders. The baths quickly became very popular, resulting in the building of The Royal Pump Room and Baths in 1814. The pump rooms, gardens and bandstand still remain today towards the lower end of The Parade. After World War II the Pump Rooms became a medical centre. In 1996 plans to redevelop the Pump Rooms to include Leamington's library, museum and art gallery, and later a tourist information centre and small café, were put in place. The new refurbished building opened in 1999.

Leamington is also home to a number of grade II listed gardens in the English Heritage Register of Historic Gardens. Now known as the Jephson Gardens, their history dates back to 1832. The gardens are situated opposite the Pump Rooms.

# WARWICK

Warwick sits on the banks of the River Avon and is a pretty, historic town with plenty of visitors' attractions. Warwick Castle, which has played a crucial role in 1000 years of British history, overlooks the town.

**Distance from university campus:** 8.4 miles.

## Entertainment

Warwick Castle holds a number of themed events and festivals throughout the year, and also hosts special ticketed events. Visit their website for the dates of race meetings and other special events.

There are also a number of pubs, bars and restaurants in Warwick that are worth a look. More information can be found on the Warwick Town Council Tourist Information website.

## Shopping

Shopping in Warwick is particularly good for gifts and specialist items such as art and antiques. Warwick has some very good restaurants, cafes and tea-rooms.

## Historical Interest

Ethelfleda, daughter of Alfred the Great, founded Warwick town in the 10th century AD. Its location on a hill by the river Avon made it a perfect site for defence against Danish invaders in 914.

In 1068 William the Conqueror ordered the building of a timber motte and bailey fort on the site of the town in order to secure the area against potential uprisings following his success at the battle of Hastings in 1066. Henry de Beaumont became the castle's first inhabitant.

In the 12th century the timber frame of the motte and bailey fort was replaced with stone structures, forming areas of the castle that remain today. An extensive reconstruction and rebuilding of the castle was carried out by the successive generations of de Beauchamps who lived in the castle from 1268 to the 1440s.

The castle has undergone periods of dilapidation and restoration at the hands of its numerous owners. Charles Guy, the 7th Greville Earl who owned the castle from the 1920s, even built a cinema on the roof of the castle. It is still there today.

In 1978 the castle was sold to The Tussauds Group, who have since restored areas of the castle and opened much of it to the public.

Although many original buildings remain in the town, such as the 14th and 15th century Lord Leycester hospital buildings, a Great Fire in 1694 destroyed many of the buildings on its central streets. The streets and surrounding buildings were rebuilt soon after the fire, giving Warwick the spectacular architecture of the 18th century that remains today.

While a visit to the castle cannot be missed, the opportunity should also be taken simply to wander around Warwick's streets and observe the stunning architecture that covers almost 1000 years of English history.



# STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Stratford-upon-Avon is well worth the short journey from the University campus. Birthplace to William Shakespeare, and historic market town, Stratford has a lot to offer.

**Distance from university campus:** 15 miles.

## Entertainment

Eating-out is particularly enjoyable in Stratford, and there are many and varied bars and pubs. However, Stratford is famous for theatre and is home to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

## Shopping

Stratford-upon-Avon has a small but good shopping centre in the centre of town, and there are a number of main high-street stores. Because of the tourist attraction of the town, the shopping centre also contains a large number of gift shops.

## Historical Interest

Stratford-upon-Avon is one of the UK's most popular tourist towns and place of historical interest thanks to its association with playwright William Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was born in a house on Henley Street in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1564. As a boy he attended the Stratford Grammar School, and later married Anne Hathaway, a local woman. He later fled to London to pursue a career as an actor, theatre-owner and playwright. He returned to Stratford in his latter years where he died at the age of 52 and was buried in the Holy Trinity Church.

There are many remaining historic buildings associated with William Shakespeare in and around Stratford-upon-Avon. His birthplace on Henley Street is now open to the public, accompanied by an exhibition of his life.

New Place is the house where Shakespeare lived until his death in 1616. Although the house no longer exists, the foundations and grounds may be visited accompanied by period furnishings and an exhibition in Nash's House.

Anne Hathaway's cottage is another popular attraction, containing some of the furniture that belonged to the Hathaway family.

The house of Mary Arden, Shakespeare's mother, may also be visited just outside of Stratford. It is home to a Shakespeare museum and other historic items from the 16th century onwards.

Finally, the Holy Trinity Church may also be visited today, containing a monument to William Shakespeare.

Stratford is of historic interest in its own right, being home to splendid architecture from across the centuries, and containing some of the most beautiful gardens in Warwickshire. Stratford-upon-Avon was originally a medieval market-town, so its history dates back much further than the birth of Shakespeare.

# BIRMINGHAM ATTRACTIONS

Birmingham is the UK's second city. Home of the multi-million pound Bullring development and the iconic Selfridges building, the city has something for everyone. Its nearby location to the University and its good transport links, make it a perfect destination for shopping, visiting, and a good night out.

**Distance from university campus:** 23 miles.

## Entertainment

Birmingham is home to a vast array of bars, pubs, clubs, restaurants, theatres and art galleries.

Brindley Place, with its canal-side location and trendy bars and restaurants is particularly popular, as is the Arcadian (near the city's Chinese Quarter).

Broad Street comes alive at night with nightclubs and there are also plenty of bars and restaurants catering for all tastes..

There are also plenty of theatres to attend in Birmingham, including the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre which is home to The Royal Ballet, Birmingham Repertory Theatre and the Alexandra Theatre are also in the heart of the city. Art galleries and museums can also be found in abundance.

The Jewellery Quarter is also worth a visit and the Custard Factory in Digbeth has some interesting outlets and is a den for arts and media types.

## Shopping

Shopping is excellent throughout Birmingham City Centre but the city is now most famous for the Bullring which was reopened in 2003 following a £500 million development. A 15 minute train journey from Coventry station to Birmingham New Street brings you to the door-step of the Bullring which now houses over 140 shops. The futuristic architecture of the Selfridges store is worth a look in itself, even if you don't want to spend any money.

For more exclusive shopping, the Mailbox in the city centre has over 40 stores, restaurants, cafes and bars.

## Historical Interest

Birmingham has a reputation for being an industrial city, clouded by smog and factory towers - but it is quickly losing this image as people realise that the city has more to offer.

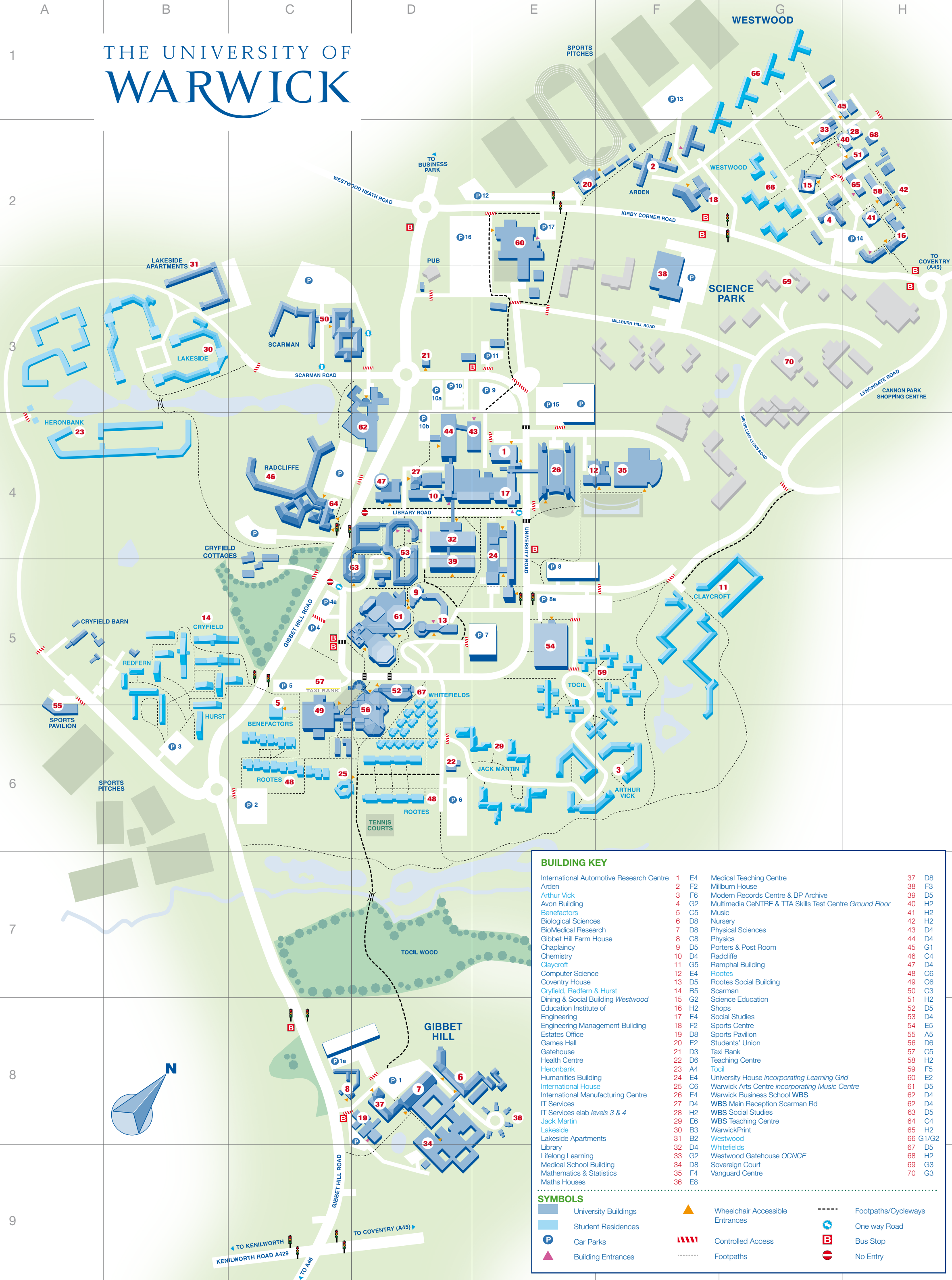
The development of industry has shaped Birmingham's history. In the 16th century the area became popular for metalwork and Birmingham became a market town, but the greatest period of development was in the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Throughout the 19th century a vast number of factories were built in and around Birmingham, bringing thousands of industries to the town. Prominent among these industries was the manufacture of pens, brass, guns, jewellery, and coins.

Access to Birmingham was vastly improved throughout the 18th and 19th centuries linking Birmingham to London with the building of the Grand Union canal in 1790, and laying a railway between these two industrial centres in 1835. Other canals built in the 18th century also link Birmingham to a great many other parts of the country.

In 1838 Birmingham was made a parliamentary borough, and in 1889 it received city status.

# THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK



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