

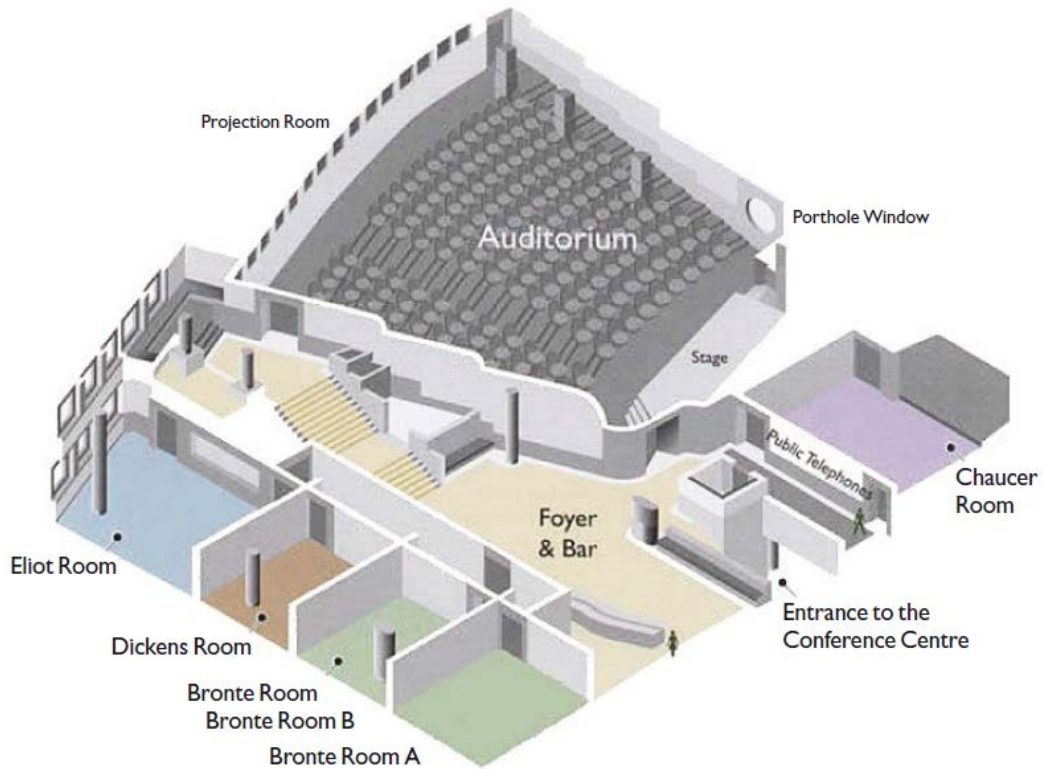


**BSA Ageing, Body and Society  
Study Group Conference 2014:  
Researching Bodies**

FRIDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014  
BRITISH LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON

# Maps

## BRITISH LIBRARY CONFERENCE CENTRE



## MAP OF THE SURROUNDING AREA



# RESEARCHING BODIES

**BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Conference 2014**  
**British Library Conference Centre, London**  
**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

## Contents

Welcome .....	3
Information Digest .....	4
Outline Programme .....	5-6
Keynote Speaker – Prof Les Back .....	7
Plenary Panel .....	8
Paper Session 1 .....	9-14
Poster Presentations .....	15-16
Paper Session 2 .....	17-22
Plenary Panel .....	23
Paper Session 3 .....	24-29
Index by First Named Author .....	30-31

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ISBN: 978-0-904569-33-9

# Welcome

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> **BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Annual Conference: *Researching Bodies***. We are especially delighted to welcome our Keynote Speaker, Professor Les Back from Goldsmiths University, who will speak on *Inscriptions of Love: the body as an impermanent canvas*; and the participants of our Plenary Panel on *Researching Bodies*: Dr Richard Ward (University of Stirling), Dr Christina Buse (University of Leeds), Professor Carey Jewitt (Institute of Education, London) and Dr Rob Meadows (University of Surrey). We welcome all delegates to the conference, particularly those travelling from overseas.

The focus of this conference is on **researching bodies** and we aim to debate and explore the methods and methodologies that we use to research bodies, to reflect on how we know and understand bodies and our embodiment, and to consider the diverse range of methods and methodologies that allow us to elicit different insights into our embodiment. This one day conference brings together academics and researchers whose work focuses on bodies and embodiment and we present a diverse inter/national programme that includes one keynote address, one plenary panel on *researching bodies*, 48 oral presentations, 5 posters and a drinks reception.

We are very pleased to once again have the opportunity to present our research and ideas in such an attractive venue as the British Library. The BSA has made important links with the **British Library** in recent years and Jude England, Director of Public Engagement, is committed to promoting and highlighting the significance of social science research. We hope you will take this opportunity to learn more about social science research resources, as well as gain important links with the British Library. As co-convenors we wish to extend a very special thank you to Jude England and all her colleagues for her continuing support and enthusiasm for our *Ageing, Body and Society Study Group*.

We would also like to thank **Katherine Munro**, Events Co-Ordinator at BSA, for her excellent and efficient organisation of the conference. The BSA office is committed to supporting study groups, and we always enjoy the opportunity to collaborate and work with our BSA colleagues.

There will be refreshments available in the Foyer at break times throughout the conference, and a drinks reception at the end. We welcome any comments you may have on the format or organisation of this or future conferences. Please let me know your views either by speaking to one of the conference organisers, or via email after the conference.

We would like to thank everyone who is presenting their work, chairing a session or contributing to the conference's organisation and success. We hope that you enjoy the day.

**Wendy Martin and Julia Twigg**  
**BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Convenors**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are very grateful for the considerable support of the British Library in hosting this conference. We welcome feedback from delegates about the conference facilities on the conference evaluation form.

# Information Digest

## REGISTRATION

The conference office will be open in the foyer of the conference centre from 09:30 on Friday. Please note that delegates should wear their conference badges at all times, otherwise they may be refused access to conference sessions and service of refreshments and meals.

## MESSAGES

During the conference please direct all telephone messages to the British Sociological Association office on +44 (0)191 383 0839 or the BSA Events Team Mobile Phone on +44 (0)7825 157 068. Please make reference to the BSA Ageing, Body and Society Study Group Conference, as the office staff will need to know how to direct your call.

## PROGRAMME CHANGES

There will be a conference notice board for programme changes, general messages and announcements. It will be situated in the Foyer.

## PLENARY SESSIONS

A keynote address chaired by Professor Julia Twigg will take place in the Auditorium at 10:10 on 'Inscriptions of Love: the body as an impermanent canvas' by Professor Les Back. A Plenary Panel on 'Researching Bodies' chaired by Dr Wendy Martin will take place in the Auditorium at 14:55 with Dr Richard Ward (University of Stirling), Dr Christina Buse (University of Leeds), Professor Carey Jewitt (IOE London) and Dr Rob Meadows (University of Surrey).

## POSTER COMPETITION

Posters are available to browse throughout the conference in the Foyer. Meet the Poster Presenter will take place over lunch at 13:15 – 13:35. The posters will then be moved to the Eliot Room for the drinks reception where the prize will be awarded to the best poster.

The prize, a book token, will be awarded for the poster that presents the topic of researching bodies in the most illuminating, engaging, clear and concise way. All delegates are encouraged to cast their vote before voting closes at 16:25. Voting slips can be found in delegate name badge holders. Details of posters are available on pages 15-16.

## DRINKS RECEPTION

Delegates are invited to enjoy a glass of wine or a soft drink after the conference. The winner of the poster competition will be announced at the drinks reception by Professor Julia Twigg.

## REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH ARRANGEMENTS

Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available during the times advertised in the programme in the Foyer. Lunch will also be served in the Foyer area. Water will be available throughout the conference. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the organising committee (wearing orange badges) if you have any special requirements which we have not met.

## POWERPOINT

All meeting rooms will be equipped with a screen, powerpoint and laptop. Presenters should bring with them a copy of their presentation file on a CD or USB memory stick. Presenters should access session rooms 15 minutes before their session starts or during lunchtime.

Presenters who are scheduled to present in the Auditorium should upload their presentation via the AV room at the rear of the Auditorium as soon as they arrive.

## E-MAIL FACILITIES

Wireless internet is available in the British Library but you will need to log-in. Log-in details will be available at the registration desk. Remember to bring your laptop, as the British Library and the BSA will not provide them.

# Outline Programme

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014

**09:30 – 10.00** Coffee and Registration (Foyer)

**10.00 – 10:10** **Conference Welcome** (Auditorium)  
 Jude England, Director of Public Engagement, British Library  
 Dr Wendy Martin, Co-convenor of the Ageing, Body and Society Study Group, Brunel University London

**10:10 - 11:10** **Keynote Address: Prof Les Back (Goldsmiths University)** (Auditorium)  
 'Inscriptions of Love: the body as an impermanent canvas'  
 Chair: Professor Julia Twigg

**11:15 - 12:35** **Paper Session 1**

	<b>Auditorium</b> Chair: Prof Sarah Nettleton	<b>Eliot</b> Chair: Dr Emma Wainwright	<b>Dickens</b> Chair: Dr Marjoie Silverman	<b>Chaucer</b> Chair: Dr Jacqui Gabb
11:15 – 11:35	<b>Liz Lloyd</b> Internal conversations in old age: experiences of bodily decline and decisions on how to live	<b>Isabel De Salis</b> Gendered ageing: menopause and the creation of meaning	<b>Constantinos Phellas</b> Ageing among Thalassaemia Patients	<b>Emma King</b> Naturalness, unnaturalness and the human exemplar – The development of cultured red blood cells for transfusion
11:35 – 11:55	<b>Jean Davison</b> Researching Ageing Bodies in the Home – a Foucauldian analysis	<b>Bianca Fileborn</b> Discourses on older women's bodies: shaping bodies, shaping lives?	<b>Joseph Greener</b> In Defence of Covert Methods for Investigating Mistreatment in Elderly Residential Care	<b>Pat Mahon Daly</b> The Body in Blood Donation
11:55 – 12:15	<b>Barbara Humberstone</b> Researching the active ageing body through my engagement in alternative/nature-based 'sport': (auto)-ethnography as methodology	<b>Sharon Wray/ Tracey Yeadon-Lee</b> Researching women's reinvention of self and identity during midlife	<b>Tej Purewal</b> Caring Bodies, Uncared-for Selves: Elderly South Asian Women's Reflections on Ageing, Caring, and Lifecycle	<b>Harriet Palfreyman</b> Bodies in Action: Researching the history of surgical practice in the late twentieth century
12:15 – 12:35	<b>Joanne Mayoh</b> Older adults' experiences of physical activity: A path towards wellbeing through empowering embodiment	<b>Abigail Tazzyman</b> Becoming Less Bothered? Young Women's Predictions of How Age Will Impact on Their Body Modification Practices	<b>Deborah Menezes</b> It does not get scary after a while: The construction and reconstruction of self, bodies and place by residents of Care Homes in Goa, India	<b>Richard Milne</b> In Search of Lost Time: The Problematic Promise of Stem Cell Models of the Ageing Body

**12:35 – 13:35** Lunch – Poster Presentations (Foyer)

**13:15 – 13:35** Meet the Poster Presenter (Foyer)

13:35 - 14:55

## Paper Session 2

	<b>Auditorium</b> Chair: Dr Sharon Wray	<b>Eliot</b> Chair: Prof Julia Twigg	<b>Dickens</b> Chair: Prof Barbara Humberstone	<b>Chaucer</b> Chair: Dr Sweta Rajan-Rankin
13:35 – 13:55	<b>Jacqui Gabb</b> Enduring Love? Sex, intimacy and the ageing couple	<b>Chloe Steadman</b> Temporal bodies: Exploring how tattoo consumers negotiate the intricate permanence/impermanence dialectic	<b>Sam Martin</b> Twitter, the City and the Gut: How Coeliacs find food & re-write the city landscape with health-related knowledge	<b>Fiona Holland</b> 'I'm me with a bit missing': Identity and body image in younger women opting not to reconstruct after mastectomy.
13:55 – 14:15	<b>John Jacobs</b> Love Health and Social Capital at Mid-life	<b>Michael Rees</b> The Insider/Outsider status of a Heavily Tattooed Researcher Researching Tattooing	<b>Shadrek Mwale</b> 'Passive labour?' – exchanging the body for the financial rewards in first in-human clinical trials among healthy volunteers.	<b>Sophie Rees</b> Risky bodies and uncertainty: young women living with a history of breast cancer
14:15 – 14:35	<b>Bethany Morgan-Brett</b> Imagining Ageing: Young people's accounts of embodiment in later life	<b>Anna Sadkowska</b> I will breathe in, and fasten anything, and live with it for the day, if I have to: older men's experience of body discomforting in the context of fashion and clothing	<b>Fernanda Marquetti</b> Body and city: public suicide on the boundaries of the metropolis	<b>Mary Madden</b> Researching wounded bodies: impacts and limitations of living with chronic wounds
14:35 – 14:55	<b>Nadya Nartova</b> Age at work: the construction of the age by girls-teenagers and young women in modern Russia	<b>Hettie Malcomson</b> Dance, elegance and ageing in the Port of Veracruz, Mexico	<b>Ana Zahira Bassit</b> Visible persons and invisible links: city, body and mental suffering of homeless people living in a São Paulo's neighbourhood	<b>Jenny-Ann Danell</b> Bodily experiences of Complementary and Alternative Medicine

14:55 – 16:10

Plenary Panel  
Chair: Dr Wendy Martin

(Auditorium)

16:10 – 16:25

Break

(Foyer)

16:25 – 17:45

## Paper Session 3

	<b>Auditorium</b> Chair: Dr Liz Lloyd	<b>Eliot</b> Chair: Dr Dawn Lyon	<b>Dickens</b> Chair: Dr Bethany Morgan-Brett	<b>Chaucer</b> Chair: Dr Janet Fink
16:25 – 16:45	<b>Ana Zahira Bassit</b> Body and Homosexuality: older lesbians and gay men life paths	<b>Emma Wainwright</b> The body-space relations of research(ed) on bodies	<b>Andrew Timming</b> What Do You Think of My Ink: Assessing the effects of body art on employment chances	<b>Jen Tarr</b> Researching Chronic Pain Communication through Arts Workshops
16:45 – 17:05	<b>Caroline Oliver</b> Researching ageing bodies and care management across contexts of diversity and sameness	<b>Francesca Ghillani</b> Transnational Bodies: Migration and Bodily Practices in Later Life	<b>Gunjan Shukla</b> The social construction of the ageing worker: conceptual issues in the development of an embodied perspective	<b>Sarah Wright</b> Reconstructing Ourselves: A collaborative study involving arts, digital storytelling and qualitative research focussed on the experience of complex breast reconstruction
17:05 – 17:25	<b>Samantha Lyle</b> Taboos, silences and half utterances or what's a qualitative researcher like you doing in a clinical trials unit like this?	<b>Richard Green</b> Older men and prostate cancer: Managing experiences of uncertainty	<b>Sweta Rajan-Rankin</b> Immaterial bodies and disembodied voices: Racializing the (in)visible labour of Indian call centre workers	<b>Marjorie Silverman</b> The lived experience of filming: Exploring reflexivity in video-based data collection and analysis
17:25 – 17:45	<b>Siewpeng Lee</b> The ageing body through the prism of Lefebvre's rhythm analysis	<b>Joanna Cross</b> The Significance of the Aesthetic for the Support of Older People	<b>Anastasia Chamberlen</b> Imprisoned Bodies: Methodological Reflections from a study into women prisoners' embodied punishment in England	<b>Leila Dawney</b> Figures of authority

17:45 - 18:45

Drinks Reception

(Foyer/Eliot Room)



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## Professor Les Back Goldsmiths University

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 10:10 – 11:10

AUDITORIUM

### 'Inscriptions of Love: The Body as an Impermanent Canvas'

The lecture explores the ways in which time is deposited in the body and how our emotional lives, triumphs as well as adversities are inscribed on its fleshy canvas. Returning to earlier work on embodied life and tattooing this lecture updates some of the lives featured in *The Art of Listening* (Berg, 2007). In particular, the lecture focuses on the ways in which emotional life is embodied in the context of working-class experience and how a sensuous methods can make admissible life textures that are either ridiculed or vilified. It will be argued that developing alternative ways of narrating working class life is increasingly urgent because an epidemic of class hatred has taken hold within the mass media and within everyday routines of bourgeois judgement. The argument of this lecture will be made through images made by photographer Paul Halliday which is part of a ongoing ten-year collaboration in visual sociology.



Les Back is a Professor of Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. His work attempts to create a sensuous or live sociology committed to new modes of sociological writing and representation. His books include: *Live Methods* with Nirmal Puwar (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012), *Cultural Sociology: An Introduction* with Andy Bennett, Luan Desfor Edles, Margaret Gibson, David Inglis, Ronalds Jacobs and Ian Woodward (Wiley-Blackwell, 2012); *The Art of Listening* (Berg 2007), *Auditory Cultures Reader* with Michael Bull Berg (2003), *Out of Witnesses* with Vron Ware, University of Chicago (2002); *The Changing Face of Football: Racism and Multiculture in the English Soccer*, with Tim Crabbe and John Solomos (Berg 2001); *New Ethnicities and Urban Culture: Racisms and Multiculture in Young Lives* (University College Press, 1996). In 2011 he published a free online book called *Academic Diary* (<http://www.academic-diary.co.uk/>) that argues for the values of scholarship and teaching. He also writes journalism and has made documentary films.

# PLENARY PANEL

## Researching Bodies

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 14:55 – 16:10

AUDITORIUM

### Panel

Christina Buse, University of Leeds  
Richard Ward, University of Stirling  
Carey Jewitt, Institute of Education, University of London  
Rob Meadows, University of Surrey



#### **Christina Buse, University of Leeds**

Christina Buse is a postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Leeds, developing work around affect, emotion, care, and technology. Her PhD research examined older people's usage of new information and communication technologies, and the location of everyday experiences of technology use within 'embodied techno-biographies'. She has since worked as a researcher at the Universities of Leeds and Kent, working on the embodied health and social care needs of older people and family carers. Her recent research includes the Dementia and Dress study with Julia Twigg, which explored everyday experiences of clothing and dress for people with dementia, family carers and care-workers.



#### **Richard Ward, University of Stirling**

Richard Ward is a Lecturer in Dementia Studies at the University of Stirling. Richard is a registered social worker and has a particular interest in social care practice and the support of people with dementia. He is currently writing up a 28-month ESRC-funded study investigating the management of appearance in dementia care. Richard's current research involves exploring the meaning and experience of neighbourhood for people with dementia and carers. He is the co-organiser of the Memory Friendly Neighbourhood Network – an interdisciplinary group with a shared interest in the notion of 'dementia-friendly communities': <http://memoryfriendly.org.uk/>



#### **Carey Jewitt, Institute of Education, University of London**

Carey Jewitt is Professor of Learning and Technology at the Institute of Education, University of London. Her research interests are the development of visual and multimodal research methods, video-based research, and researching technology-mediated interaction. She Directs MODE - Multimodal Methods for Researching Digital Data and Environments<sup>1</sup> ([MODE.ioe.ac.uk](http://MODE.ioe.ac.uk)) and MIDAS Methodological Innovation in Digital Arts and Social Sciences ([MIDAS.ioe.ac.uk](http://MIDAS.ioe.ac.uk)). Carey co-edits *Visual Communication* (Sage), and her recent publications *The Sage Handbook of Researching Digital Technologies* (2013) with Sara Price, and *The Routledge Handbook of Multimodal Analysis* (2013).



#### **Rob Meadows, University of Surrey**

Rob Meadows is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Sociology at Surrey. He has published widely on sociological aspects of sleep, including papers on the embodied nature of sleep and 'unruly bodies' at night. He is currently working on a project looking at embodied change in recovery from addiction (with Sarah Nettleton and Jo Neale). Rob also developed and teaches on an undergraduate model entitled 'Researching Bodies'.

# Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 11:15 - 12:35

## PAPER SESSION 1

### AUDITORIUM

**Chair:** Prof Sarah Nettleton

#### **Internal Conversations in Old Age: Experiences of Bodily Decline and Decisions on How to Live**

*Lloyd, L.*  
(University of Bristol)

Evidence of experiences of bodily decline in old age is often derived from third person accounts but there is an increased interest in older people's own perspectives. Drawing on the findings of a longitudinal qualitative study of Maintaining Dignity in Later Life (New Dynamics of Ageing Programme, ESRC RES-352-25-0016) this paper presents an analysis of older participants' accounts of disruptions to familiar ways of living brought about by illness and bodily impairment. Archer's concept of the 'internal conversation' is utilised to explore the embodied, the performative and the social dimensions of life and the relationship between these through this time of change. It is argued that Archer's concept is particularly useful in understanding the complex processes involved in making the decisions that are typically required in old age about living with ill health and impairment and preparing for a future of further decline. The internal conversations evident in research participants' accounts reflect a strong desire to maintain a sense of self and personal dignity in the context of major change to daily routines, activities and relationships and shifting social identities.

#### **Researching Ageing Bodies in the Home – a Foucauldian Analysis**

*Davison, J.*  
(Teesside University)

The structure of the United Kingdom population is changing with the percentage of people aged 65 and over increasing from 15% in 1985 to 17% in 2010 (Office of National Statistics 2012). During this time older people have been encouraged to remain living in their own homes (National Consultative Ethics Committee for Health and Life Sciences 1998). There is a large body of evidence regarding the home but there is a dearth of research which uses critical social theory. This research examined whether older people resist or conform to dominant circulating discourses regarding the aged body in the home. Narrative accounts were generated from a sample of 12 older people on two separate occasions on a one-to-one basis. The data was transcribed verbatim and condensed via a thematic analysis followed by a discourse analysis using Foucault's ideas. The discourse of the body highlighted how changes associated with ageing were viewed as a problem threatening self-sufficiency creating a vulnerable subject position. Self-surveillance was used to judge what they could and could not manage safely and accompanied by self-discipline so that the body was challenged to do in order to maintain fitness and health. The discourse of the body exemplifies how the ageing body is spoken about from a cultural perspective, in negative terms, and how this construction of embodied ageing permeates the narratives of older people.

#### **Researching the Active Ageing Body through my Engagement in Alternative/Nature-Based 'Sport' : (Auto) - Ethnography as Methodology**

*Humberstone, B.*  
(Bucks New University)

As a 'baby boomer', I explore the ageing body with specific professional interest in embodiment, well-being and alternative physical activity (together with implications for social and environmental justice), I continue to research my physical active experiences whilst also exploring other older people's embodied experiences (Humberstone, 2011; Humberstone & Cutler-Riddick, 2014). Following Pink's (2009:25), sociology of the senses perspective, I pay attention to 'emplacement' ethnography speaking to 'the shift towards more sensuous forms of scholarship in sport and physical culture' Sparkes & Smith (2012: 170).

This presentation considers researching ageing bodies, how the older body learns to be in the world through the 'pleasure' of alternative physical activities. It discusses exploring sensory lived experiences drawing upon (auto)-ethnographic approaches and considers how to (re) –presentation of narratives.

## **Older Adults' Experiences of Physical Activity: A Path Towards Wellbeing through Empowering Embodiment**

*Mayoh, J., Jones, I.*  
(Bournemouth University)

It is broadly accepted that ageing plays an important role in the way that we experience our bodies. Scholars agree that as we age we are more likely to develop a negative and self-conscious relationship with our physical selves which has adverse implications for individual wellbeing. Furthermore, the socially constructed ageing body is one that lacks power within society, and is often pre-defined as 'deviant' in-line with the prevalent biomedical discourse.

Physical activity is frequently outlined as making a positive contribution to successful ageing by providing older adults with affirmative body experiences through promoting physical empowerment and wellbeing. Whilst most existing research exploring physical activity and ageing adopts the bio-medical model that views the body and mind as detached entities, increasingly scholars are adopting a more embodied form of enquiry that allows the ageing body to be understood in a process of action and interaction. Phenomenological approaches have been identified as having particular utility as an embodied method of exploring the lived body experience that can assist in bringing the body back into research exploring the ageing body and physical activity.

This theoretical paper contributes to the modest emerging body of literature that provides an embodied analysis of physicality in order to propose how physical activity may provide existential possibilities for empowerment and wellbeing for older adults. In doing so we draw upon phenomenologically informed dwelling-mobility theory in order to explore examples of how sport provides these opportunities for wellbeing through the experiential life world dimensions of embodiment and identity.

### **ELIOT ROOM**

**Chair:** Dr Emma Wainwright

## **Gendered Ageing: Menopause and the Creation of Meaning**

*de Salis, I., Owen-Smith, A., Donovan, J., Lawlor, D.*  
(University of Bristol)

Menopause is 'a marker between being relatively youthful and young and then suddenly not', it can engender feelings of being unsexy 'like an old hag', or lack of purpose akin to the 'withered apple on the tree'. These were some ways women talked about menopause. Alternatively, menopause is a liberatory experience challenging feelings of oldness or, like ageing, is just 'something that happens'. Here we explore the interrelationship between ageing and menopause in women's bodies and selves during their experiences of mid-life. We use the anthropologist Margaret Lock's notion of 'local biologies' which focuses on the interaction between the social and biological processes of menopause, on the site of the creation of meaning, where bodily experiences become social or visible to oneself and others. It is known that part of the taboo of menopause lies in its connection with the shame of ageing associated with the gendered body in contemporary society. We develop this theme by exploring the varied ways that notions and experiences of ageing manifest in the struggle for meaning in changing female bodies and selves during menopause. Whereas some women experienced ageing and menopause as separate processes, others felt they were integral to each other: profoundly impacting on self-identity, with the association of hormones with youth, and menopause as the end of femininity, degeneration and dying. This research is based on 48 in-depth interviews with women living in the UK at different menopausal stages and is part of an on-going project of repeat interviews over 4 years.

## **Discourses on Older Women's Bodies: Shaping Bodies, Shaping Lives?**

*Fileborn, B., Thorpe, R., Hawkes, G., Minichiello, V., Pitts, M.*  
(La Trobe University)

Although there are diverse discourses and representations of ageing bodies, prominent representations of older women's bodies tend to centre on competing messages about 'healthy' ageing or, conversely, anxieties about the body in decline. These discursive positions are themselves imbued with gender-specific meanings. For older women, ageing 'well' may be associated with normative femininity, and the capacity to present the body in an appropriately feminine way. In contrast, the body in decline may be signified by a failure or refusal to engage in the bodywork required by normative femininity. This raises the question of how these competing discourses may inform women's embodied experiences of ageing. Drawing on qualitative interviews with 58 Australian women aged 55-81, from urban, rural and regional locations, this paper will consider how our participants negotiated these competing discourses in their everyday experiences and decision-making processes in relation to dress, bodily presentation and self-image. While it was apparent that these discourses were a significant influence in our participants' lives, the ways in which they informed these women's practices were complex and context-dependent. For instance, the influence of these discourses varied across public and private settings, and according to relationship context. The paper will present data that illustrates that our women were challenging these dominant messages and seeking to age on their own term.

## **Researching Women's Reinvention of Self and Identity During Midlife**

*Wray, S., Yeadon-Lee, T.*  
(University of Huddersfield)

This presentation is based on a qualitative research study focusing on the strategies women use to re-invent and transform their sense of self and identity during midlife. We discuss our methods and experiences of interviewing midlife women and some of the key issues emerging from our research. These include the impact of researcher and research participant biographies on the interview process, the co-constructed nature of dialogue on the ageing body, how midlife bodies may serve as a medium for the imaginative re-invention of self and identity, and how midlife women's strategies of resilience and hope for the future may be captured. We will suggest ways in which methodological tools can be used creatively in order to ensure they are appropriate for the task. Our aim in this paper is to suggest some methods and approaches which enable both the embodied nature of midlife, and the diversity of experiences and perspectives that characterise this significant period of life, to be explored.

## **Becoming Less Bothered? Young Women's Predictions of How Age will Impact on Their Body Modification Practices**

*Tazzyman, A.*

Ageing women's bodies and body modification practices occupy a contradictory relationship in the popular imagination. As women age their bodies are viewed to move further away from the ideal and require more work, while simultaneously women are expected to be more able to resist external pressures. This paper will examine young women's predictions of how age will impact on their body modification decisions and self-presentation. The term body modification is used to mean the methods which women engage in order to alter their physical body and appearance. All methods of body modification (e.g. invasive or non-invasive; self-administered or other-administered; permanent or temporary) are considered, provided the intention of their use is primarily to alter the user's physical appearance. Based upon 30 life-history interviews, this paper will argue that body modification is a social phenomenon and its practice is significantly determined by social perceptions of age appropriateness and peer norms. Appearance, it shall be contended, is situated as an extension of an individual's identity. It is therefore not simply the material realities of ageing that motivate changes in women's body modification regimes but their awareness of how women are expected to present themselves.

## **DICKENS ROOM**

**Chair:** Dr Marjorie Silverman

### **Ageing Among Thalassaemia Patients**

*Phellas, C., Constantinou, C. S., Loizou, C., Beck, S., Karekla, M., Talias, M.*  
(Rubsí-Research Unit in Behavior & Social Issues)

There is evidence to suggest that the life expectancy among Thalassaemia patients is 50 years of age. For patients with Thalassaemia, thereafter, there is no third age, while ageing in the sense of health deterioration and life-style changes starts much earlier as compared with people without any health conditions. This paper presents the findings of a qualitative study of how patients' with Thalassaemia understand ageing, biography and self-identity. The study used Atlas Ti software for coding and relied on an interpretive approach for analysing patient experiences. Through in-depth interviews, the study shows that patients with Thalassaemia aim to construct their biographies in order to fulfill their cultural goals and social obligations (i.e. education, family, employment etc); however, due to the short life expectancy and the feeling of uncertainty they have about possible complications, they feel that they are experiencing a "biographical unfulfillment". The study is part of a larger research project on the quality of life of patients with Thalassaemia in Cyprus and it is co-funded by the Cyprus Republic and the European Regional Development Fund (EU).

## **In Defence of Covert Methods for Investigating Mistreatment in Elderly Residential Care**

Greener J.

*(Liverpool Hope University)*

The increasing dominance of a tick-box, litigation-fearing approach to ethics is eroding the scope for research methodologies where informed consent for all involved parties is not gained. This presentation unravels the ethical rationale behind a covert ethnographic PhD project examining mistreatment in one elderly residential care home where the researcher worked as a care assistant. The paper argues that covert research can be ethically grounded. Two strengths of the methodological approach are focused on here. Firstly, notions of privacy are often employed by powerful elites to limit scrutiny of certain, often problematic and brutal, areas of social life. Accessing the large, profit-making owner of the care home in question proved to be impossible using an overt stance but it is also arguably in the interests of those residing in the homes to open these places up for academic inquiry. Secondly, a covert position in the field can be crucial for adopting a truly participative approach which can create particular forms of embodied knowledge not possible within other research strategies. The prominent conclusions drawn by the study orientated around the idea that care workers found it unavoidable but to engage neglectful practices due to the organisation of the work in the home. The same findings may not have emerged if the researcher had not occupied the role of complete participant. The paper concludes with some comments concerning under what conditions covert research may be justified.

## **Caring Bodies, Uncared-for Selves: Elderly South Asian Women's Reflections on Ageing, Caring, and Lifecycle**

Purewal, T., Jasani, R.

*(SOAS, University of London)*

This article focuses upon the myth of the South Asian family as a self-fulfilling unit in which a construction of 'looking after their own' is perpetuated which intrinsically erases the agency of bodies providing a large proportion of the function of caring at home. Mainstream social and healthcare services continue to utilise this imagined 'myth' of the South Asian family in their judgments of the needs of South Asian elderly women. Based on ethnographic fieldwork and focus groups conducted at a women's centre in Britain, the paper will highlight a number of themes which reflect the senses of 'self' and 'selflessness' which caring ageing bodies maintain through an exploration of the hubs of support which a group of elderly women identify in their everyday coping strategies. Gendered senses of self, fulfilment and happiness from caring functions of the family are, as we find, bearing the strains of generational shifts around the culture of the family, caring, and expectations of women's roles as they move through the life course—thus marking a fine line between caring bodies to uncared-for selves. The paper highlights how ageing, caring bodies are both utilised by mainstream services as the foundation of 'care in the community' while also being the hallmark of selflessness and self-sacrifice which is a requirement for the replacement of welfare provision under austerity.

## **'It does not get Scary after a While': The Construction and Reconstruction of Self, Bodies and Place by Residents of Care Homes in Goa, India**

Menezes, D.

*(The University of Edinburgh)*

This paper examines the socialisation of residents in care homes in Goa. It focuses on how self, bodies and place are constructed and reconstructed by the residents. The paper evinces the above by highlighting five socialization processes encountered by the residents in the Homes. These include: adjustment of the body, assessment of the body, emphasis on the body, management of the body and relation to the body. Adjustment of the body occurs within the changed physical and social environment upon entering the home; assessment of the body follows within the assessments by the staff during admission which focus on the new resident's body as dysfunctional and limited; emphasis on the body refers to the home's focus on body care as well as the residents' focus on their own ageing and 'unpredictable bodies'; management of the body focuses on the impact of routines, regulations and procedures on the residents' body; and finally relation to the body describes the residents' relations to the boundaries of relationships within the home. This paper thus helps to capture how residents internalise institutional socialisation processes, and the sources of tension and conflict that need to be kept under control in order to ensure the smooth running of the home.

## CHAUCER ROOM

**Chair:** Dr Jacqui Gabb

### **Naturalness, Unnaturalness and the Human Exemplar – The Development of Cultured Red Blood Cells for Transfusion**

*King, E.*  
(The University of Edinburgh)

Transfusions of red blood cells from donors are a mainstay of modern medical practice, however problems exist with supply, cleanliness, and potential recipient reactions. The BloodPharma project is a multidisciplinary research project seeking to grow red blood cells in the laboratory, from stem cells, for the purposes of transfusion. This paper follows the work of the BloodPharma project over the past six years, examining what it means to be 'natural' in the world of blood and stem cells. The high numbers of people requiring blood transfusions makes the discussion of laboratory cultured red blood cells pertinent to more than traditional 'patients'. This research draws on observation, interviews, and focus groups with both the scientists and wider publics. It shows how the scientists must manage the difficult transition from accepted and well trusted transfusion using donors, to a potential new product. Throughout the project the team have looked to the human body as a benchmark, or exemplar, of how blood production should be done. At the same time they have attempted to distance their work from the less publically acceptable 'synthetic' blood products. How this new product is aligned, or distanced, from current blood transfusion has implications both for the regulatory system and for future patient uptake. Findings from research with publics shows the attachments to donated blood, and the wider questions which arise about where to situate this product within our understanding of conventional pharmaceutical drugs and blood transfusion.

### **The Body in Blood Donation**

*Mahon-Daly, P.*  
(Bucks New University)

The paper will discuss narratives from research into blood which illustrates the bodily labour of the blood donor. Blood donation is known to be a form of emotional labour, but by examining the narratives of donors in the action of giving it is possible to argue that there is bodily investment into this hidden aspect of citizenship. The narratives also reveal details of an anthropophysiological, cultural nature and argues how body myths about blood persist in a biomedically dominant world. The data was gathered during research at blood donor sessions in the UK.

### **Bodies in Action: Researching the History of Surgical Practice in the Late Twentieth Century**

*Palfreyman, H.*  
(Imperial College London)

Historians researching surgery have grappled in various ways with writing the history of practice. My current project examines the transformation in surgical practice that occurred in the 1980s and 1990s with the introduction of "keyhole" surgery. This period witnessed a profound shift in the practice of surgery and the skills of the surgeon, yet these embodied aspects of the history are notoriously hard to access using traditional historical methodologies. For example, oral accounts from surgeons can illuminate the processes of operations but more tacit knowledge such as changing ways of manually operating equipment are difficult to capture.

However, this is a question that can be addressed well through a new methodology in historical practice; simulated re-enactment. Retired surgical teams are brought together in an artificial operating theatre environment in order to simulate an operation with the instruments and equipment they would have used in the decades previous. Here the historian takes on the role of ostensible ethnographer, observing the gestures and relationships that are unconsciously performed by participants but that remain an important aspect of the operation. This paper introduces the methodology of simulated re-enactments and presents a discussion of the uses historians of the recent past can make of methodologies borrowed from the social sciences and tailored to address historical questions.

## **In Search of Lost Time: The Problematic Promise of Stem Cell Models of the Ageing Body**

*Milne, R.*

*(University of Cambridge)*

This paper presents ethnographic research conducted in a translational neuroscience laboratory to consider how the ageing body is produced at the intersection of neurodegenerative disease and regenerative medicine. It examines how ageing is practised, materialised and contested in the context of the development of induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) models of human neurodegenerative disease. Modelling ageing using iPSC technology offers the potential to 'close the translational circle', linking clinical care and basic science in a closed system that starts and ends with patients suffering from neurodegenerative disorders. iPSCs provide access to human neurons, understood as equivalent to 'real' neurons because of their shared origin in the patient body. However, closing the loop and establishing the equivalence of cells and donor bodies involves grappling with and redefining the relationship between ageing and time. This process involves establishing new relations between normal and pathologically aged bodies and brains.

This paper introduces a focus on the multiple ways in which ageing is constructed and reconstructed within biomedical research and contributes to understanding the practices and bodies that constitute and complicate the promise of regenerative medicine.



# Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 12:35 – 13:35

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS

### FOYER

Posters are available to browse throughout the conference in the Foyer. Meet the poster presenter will take place over lunch at 13:15 – 13:35. The posters will then be moved to the Eliot Room for the drinks reception where the prize will be awarded to the best poster.

The prize, a book token, will be awarded for the poster that presents the topic of **researching bodies** in the most illuminating, engaging, clear and concise way. All delegates are encouraged to cast their vote before voting closes at 16:25. Voting slips can be found in delegate name badge holders.

#### POSTER 1

##### **Pets and Vets: Medicalising the Ageing Animal Body**

*Fox, R.*

*(Uppsala University)*

Recent advances in veterinary medicine mean that like their human counterparts, companion animals are now living longer and subject to greater medical intervention. Over the past 30 years pets have become increasingly integrated into the home and viewed as companions or members of the family. The greater value placed upon animals, combined with the ever increasing availability of commercial products, mean that owners are now spending large amounts of money on their pet's health, nutrition and welfare. Where once pets were only taken to the vets in the case of serious illness or emergency, the rise of pet insurance and preventative medicine mean that animals are now exposed to medical attention at all stages of life. As animals live longer and new medicines become available, vets are increasingly treating animals for conditions of old age, such as arthritis, diabetes, hyperthyroidism, cancer, heart disease and kidney failure. Where once animals may have died before reaching this stage, or such conditions seen as natural signs of ageing, they are now seen as conditions to be diagnosed and managed. Thus the ageing animal body is constructed as an unhealthy body in need of intervention and control. Such diagnoses often involve difficult ethical and financial decisions for owners over the animal's best interests and bring in to focus the place of animals within human society. Based upon empirical research with vets and pet owners, this presentation explores the medicalisation of the human-animal bond and the consequences of this for an ageing animal population.

#### POSTER 2

##### **Elderly as the Presence of Certain Risk and the Independence in Japan**

*Hayashi Furukawa, T.*

Increasing of the elderly who has risk that disappearance by dementia, victim of fraud and who not death procedure in recently Japanese society. It problem isn't only social welfare services but also justice and security, and growing interest as "social risk". But many Japanese elderly, as ageing body, are in great anxiety the "risk" as themselves problems too. Is the elderly not as the independence? I will show the condition around the ageing and the body as the risk in Japan.

#### POSTER 3

##### **'I Love my Roundy Body': Lived Experiences of Healthy, Non-Dieting Women who Live Outside the Medically Determined Ideal Weight Range**

*Holland, F., Peterson, K.*

*(University of Derby)*

This study used interpretative phenomenological analysis (IPA) to explore the lived experiences of women classified as overweight or obese on the BMI charts. Qualitative research that is not focussed on weight loss experiences with this population has been rare, yet more recently scholars in fat studies, critical psychology and sociology have explored many of the long-held beliefs about fatness, health and weight. In semi-structured interviews, four women aged 40-55 discussed received messages around food, body, health and weight, and their paths to health, well-being and non-dieting. Influenced by feminism and positive female role models, respondents found ways to insulate themselves from the battle with bodies that their culture imposes on them, reinterpreting family and peer pressure to be thinner as they reached adulthood. They articulated the benefits of movement and healthful eating and practiced these behaviours without weight loss as a goal. The interviews reveal women who have increased self-esteem, take good care of their bodies and are resilient to media messages that often lead to body dissatisfaction. The paper concludes with recommendations for health providers to positively work with "overweight" populations and suggests that a 'health at every size' model may warrant further study.

#### **POSTER 4**

##### **'Passive Labour?' – Exchanging the Body for the Financial Rewards in First In-Human Clinical Trials Among Healthy Volunteers**

Mwale, S.  
(University of Brighton)

This paper examines the role of the body in first in- human clinical trials involving healthy volunteers. Drawing on data from an on-going PhD project on human involvement in clinical trials focused on ethical and regulatory issues of human involvement in first-in-human clinical trials in the UK. The paper seeks to build on existing work in sociology of the body in medical research and practice such as Waldby and Cooper (2014) on clinical labour and Rajan (2006) Bio-capital among others. Within this context, sociological and anthropological debates have focused on the ways in which the body has been used in different contexts both as a resource and site for research. Such research has looked at the donation of body parts or the relationship between involvement in clinical trials and financial situations. This paper seeks to add to this debate by extending the focus of analysis solely on ways in which bodies are delineated and utilised by both those who embody them and the corporate research companies and researchers that use them in first in-human clinical trials. Drawing on healthy volunteer accounts and experiences of taking part in first in-human clinical trials the paper aims to show how healthy volunteers' acute awareness that their involvement in clinical trials is an economic exchange and how they subsequently come to see their bodies as a resource for making a living in what I call "passive labour".

#### **POSTER 5**

##### **Silver Shoppers: Investigating Supermarket Service for the Older Consumer Using Cultural Probes**

Waight, E. Yin, Y.  
(University of Southampton)

The Silver Shoppers project investigates the challenges and difficulties that older consumers currently face during their supermarket shopping journey. Encompassing both the physiological and social challenges, this project focuses on the body in the retail environment and the design of new service solutions to aid this everyday practice. Over 65's constitute the most loyal consumer segment, and with an ageing population food retailers need to find ways of accommodating their needs in order to enable older people to remain independent and live healthy lives.

This project uses mixed methods including a qualitative user study phase leading to an extensive consumer survey, collaborating with a major UK supermarket. The user study makes use of innovative exploratory techniques with 30 participants across three regions in the UK recruited for an 8-week user study period. During this time a cultural probe pack will record their daily consumption practices, thoughts and feelings. To supplement this, a researcher will visit three times to conduct video observation of the participant in store and semi-structured interviews. The study will be replicated in China as a comparative investigation led by Tsinghua University. Project findings will enable social scientists, designers and retailers to better understand the needs of the older consumer in order to propose new supermarket service and lifestyle solutions.

# Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 13:35 - 14:55

## PAPER SESSION 2

### AUDITORIUM

**Chair:** Dr Sharon Wray

#### **Enduring Love? Sex, Intimacy and the Ageing Couple**

*Gabb, J., Fink, J.*  
(The Open University)

Drawing on large scale online survey and qualitative research, the Enduring Love? project has been studying how couples experience, understand and sustain long-term relationships in contemporary Britain, paying particular attention to the ways in which gender, parenthood and generation shape experience. In this presentation, we focus on the experiences of 'older couples' in the study (ages 45-65+), to explore how they encounter and negotiate sex and intimacy within their relationships. Findings point to great diversity in relationship experience amongst this cohort, but accounts of couple intimacy and the ageing body were often highly gendered. These couples devised a range of strategies to engage with and/or ameliorate incumbent changes in couple intimacy, including laughter, resignation, separate sleeping arrangements, and living together apart in the home. Here we tease out how these different strategies work to sustain the couple relationship whilst remaining mindful of the impact of socio-cultural contexts, and the emotional and economic resources, that are involved in such practices. We will therefore demonstrate how a focus on everyday 'relationship practices', both as a methodological approach and as a way of understanding couples, breaks down the dichotomy between enduring relationships of quality and good enough or endured relationships, thus enabling us to better understand how partners negotiate the changes in life and bodily circumstances which accompany long-term relationships, as they are experienced over time.

#### **Love Health and Social Capital at Mid-life**

*Jacobs, J.*  
(Southern Connecticut State University)

This study examined the persons, objects and activities described as 'loved' at mid-life as well as the variables that predicted whether participants voluntarily talked about love during a life history interview. As part of the British Child National Development study, 180 life history interviews were gathered shortly after the participants fiftieth birthday. Men who volunteered a report of a 'loved' person in their interview had poor health habits such as smoking and being overweight, and typically remarked upon the caregiving received from partners, daughters and mothers. Whereas, women who volunteered descriptions of their love relationships had failing health and almost half of their narratives were characterised by lost or distress. Women narratives about beloved possessions were largely but not exclusively positive. Homes and gardens were sources of enthusiasm but for those with declining health, beloved possessions typically were tied to past relationships and situations. Men's beloved possessions were predicted by heightened financial resources described as a source of pride or the objects served as a companion or friend such as a bicycles or computer. A different pattern persisted in reference to activities, whereas men's beloved activities became less frequent and more solitary at mid-life involving a sense of frustration if not bitterness about aging. However, women reports of beloved activities were largely positive and associated with having more disposable income and leisure time. Results are discussed in terms of gender differences in adjusting to aging, health and social capital.

#### **Imagining Ageing: Young People's Accounts of Embodiment in Later Life**

*Morgan Brett, B., Lyon, D., Crow, G.*  
(University of East London)

This paper explores the imaginings of young people about ageing, embodiment and the end of life. Our analysis is based on two sets of essays written by young people (15-16 year olds) on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent in 1978 and 2010 in which they were asked to imagine themselves at the end of their lives and look back over what happened. This material provides an unusual opportunity to explore the ways in which young people conceive of ageing and their future embodied selves in the context of contemporary discussions and representations of ageing bodies.

The essays contain rich and fascinating accounts of 'old age' and imaginings about how the end of life will be experienced including events which impact the body such as accidents. In this paper, we discuss the ways in which these narrative accounts may be read, comparing and contrasting across gender and cohort. We ask: How do these young people imagine their health, their

lifestyles, and their intergenerational relationships? How do they define 'old age', where does it begin and when is death expected? How is the ageing body narrated as a site of sustained or lost capacity?

Although the essays often evoke normative and negatively stereotyped models of ageing, we explore what they can tell us about the ways social structures and narrative repertoires underpin young people's imagined trajectories. In so doing we also make a contribution to researching bodies through the use of imagination as an explicit research tool.

### **'Age at Work': the Construction of the Age by Girls-Teenagers and Young Women in Modern Russia**

*Nartova, N.*

*(National Research University Higher School of Economics)*

Theoretical and empirical understanding of 'age' in contemporary sociological debate focuses mainly on the ends of the life course continuum - maturity / old age and childhood / adolescence - as isolated cultural and social spaces with their own logics of living. Chronologically defined youth is almost invisible in sociological research, as it fully corresponds to the cultural imperative of the 'cult of youth' and is not experiencing difficulties with bodily legitimacy.

However, empirical observations in Russia show that anti-aging industry is starting to target younger age groups, offering both 'treatment' and 'prevention' of aging for 'chronologically' younger women. At the same time, there is a shift of 'adult' body practices (eyebrow shaping, wearing heels, etc.) to the earlier chronological periods of life - youth / girlhood. Thus, the practices of extending youthfulness and the desire for visual maturity and 'adult habitus' are chronologically close and stand 'side by side' in the same chronological period.

Thus chronological youth becomes a space of problematization of 'biological' age and its social meanings. Adolescent girls and young women are involved in 'working at' their age, defining desired identifications of age, investing in body and expecting social benefits.

In frames of the presentation I will review the construction of the age by 'chronologically young' girls and women (15-35 years). Basing on 40 qualitative interviews I will provide analysis of 'chronological youth' as a space for construction, definition and redefinition of the age and its body incarnations and representations in a modern Russian culture.

## ELIOT ROOM

**Chair:** Prof Julia Twigg

### **Temporal Bodies: Exploring How Tattoo Consumers Negotiate the Intricate Permanence/Impermanence Dialectic**

*Steadman, C.*

*(Manchester Business School)*

Human existence is temporal (Hoy, 2009; Phoenix et al., 2007); yet, the slippery concept of temporality is difficult to grasp and often taken-for-granted (Brockmeier, 2000). This is perhaps since it represents a ubiquitous aspect of life, alongside appearing rather immaterial. However, multiple material objects help to provide lived experience with a temporal ordering (Birth, 2012), and subjects' embodiment reveals their temporal nature. Marks of temporality materialise on always-ageing bodies, including the modifications sometimes undertaken by consumers following life turning points (Schouten, 1991; Sweetman, 1999), and culturally recognised symbols of old age. Life is ultimately finite for human beings, although persons across time and space frequently strive to deny their impermanence through myriad practices aimed at constructing life as permanent, and thus at achieving immortality (Bauman, 1992; Cave, 2012).

To address the underexplored construct of temporality, and its entanglements with ageing bodies, the study adopted the context of tattoo consumption, alongside a quasi-ethnographic research design comprising observation at a UK-based tattoo studio and tattoo convention; in-depth interviews with nine tattoo consumers, using their bodies as elicitation devices; and photography. The most significant finding is that, through tattoo acquisitions, removals, and 'cover-ups', the consumers frequently used their skin to enact control over the intricate permanence/impermanence dialectic. This was negotiated in the realms of social relationships, regarding which relationships were symbolised on the body; narrative identities, with the self often being viewed as fixed and fluid; and finally existence itself, whereby the consumers sometimes endeavoured to achieve symbolic legacies for themselves and others.

## **The Insider/Outsider Status of a Heavily Tattooed Researcher Researching Tattooing**

*Rees, M.*

*(University of South Wales)*

'In order to understand the functioning of human groups one needs to know, as it were, from inside how human beings experience their own and other groups, and one cannot know without active participation and involvement' (Elias 1956: 237).

Drawing on three years of ethnographic research this paper explores the relationship between researchers and their research environments by focusing on issues of insider/outsider status, reflexivity, and involvement and detachment, as experienced by a heavily tattooed researcher researching tattooing. Merton (1972) examined the extent to which insiders – that is those who share the characteristics of the groups they are studying – and outsiders – that is those who do not – could research and effectively generate knowledge about groups to which they did, or did not, belong, but demonstrated that we 'typically confront one another simultaneously as insiders and outsiders' (1972: 22); I engage with this debate by focusing on how my tattoos acted as a 'flesh-based business card' during ethnographic research by granting me a degree of researcher credibility. I extend this consideration by engaging with Elias's theory of involvement and detachment which demonstrates how researchers can be involved with their research settings – in my case as a tattooed researcher – but as competent social researchers should be able to take a 'detour via detachment' in order to produce what Elias terms 'reality congruent' knowledge which builds upon previous research in order to attempt to construct an accurate picture of their object of study as possible.

## **'I Will Breathe in, and Fasten Anything, and Live with it for the Day, if I have to': Older Men's Experience Body Dis-Comforting in the Context of Fashion and Clothing**

*Sadkowska, A.*

*(Nottingham Trent)*

Ageing is a complicated process of biological but also psychological and social becoming, unique and individual to each human being. Fashion and clothes, as communicators and mediators between self and society (Entwistle, 2002; Entwistle and Wilson, 2001) can therefore be seen as key factors in the understanding of ageing identities.

Twigg (2013: 19) observes that 'older men are largely disengaged from fashion as a cultural field'. This paper addresses this gap by presenting selected to-date results of a phenomenological study on how the sample of British third age men negotiate their ageing bodies through the mediums of fashion and clothing. The study design involved in-depth semi-structured interviews, personal inventories and practical explorations.

The methodological synchronisation of Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis and Arts-Informed Research allowed the preliminary results including written accounts juxtaposed with created artefacts such as series of men's jackets and fashion films. These offer a rich and detailed interpretation of the participants' experiences presented in the manner that negotiates between art and science and carries implications for the alternative knowledge dissemination strategies.

The 'Dis-Comforting' theme is touching upon the development of a unique system of values by participants in the past where the physical comfort was often compromised for the sake of a fashionable look. Those participants shared sharp memories of the caused by clothes uneasiness or even physical pain. Those practices were significant for the way they developed their expectations towards fashion and is reflected in their current fashion behaviours, especially the negotiation between the physical and mental comfort.

## **Dance, Elegance and Ageing in the Port of Veracruz, Mexico**

*Malcomson, H.*

*(University of Southampton)*

Danzón, a popular Cuban music-dance form, is performed daily in the Port of Veracruz, Mexico, mostly by people aged between 50 and 80. In this paper, I draw from ethnographic material to explore how choreographic aesthetics have shifted in the last three decades. I consider the tensions between the technical demands of the newer, codified movement style and the older bodies of most of the dancers, and link this to ideas about younger and older performers' bodies. I interrogate what the notion of elegance, as an ideal engendering embodied power structures, does in relation to gender, class, race, and age in Veracruz's danzón worlds. I am particularly concerned with how ageing intersects with these shifting aesthetics.

Chair: Prof Barbara Humberstone

**Twitter, the City and the Gut: How Coeliacs find Food & Re-Write the City Landscape with Health-Related Knowledge**

*Martin, S.*  
(University of Warwick)

There is a huge body of research relating to e-health and the interaction between people's online engagement and their health practices. Main approaches look at how e-health can be used for medical intervention to promote healthy behaviour and self-management of chronic conditions, and the quality of e-health information on websites and smartphone apps. However, there is little on how patients self-managing chronic conditions use real-time social media, such as Twitter, as decision-making and risk-aversion tools to navigate the physical environment of the city. This paper will explore how individuals' online interactions on Twitter inform their health-navigation of the city, and how this process performs a re-writing of the city landscape with health knowledge. With the case study of Coeliac Disease, the paper explores different ways of analysing and visualising the ways that patients share information about the diagnosis, symptoms and daily self-management of chronic illness. It will also explore how this interaction informs Coeliacs' evolving identity with food, and different ways that data mining, social network analysis and data visualization techniques can be used to map both textual and visual interaction across cities in a comparative study of activity in London and New York.

**'Passive Labour?' – Exchanging the Body for the Financial Rewards in First In-Human Clinical Trials Among Healthy Volunteers**

*Mwale, S.*  
(University of Brighton)

This paper examines the role of the body in first in- human clinical trials involving healthy volunteers. Drawing on data from an ongoing PhD project on human involvement in clinical trials focused on ethical and regulatory issues of human involvement in first-in-human clinical trials in the UK. The paper seeks to build on existing work in sociology of the body in medical research and practice such as Waldby and Cooper (2014) on clinical labour and Rajan (2006) Bio-capital among others. Within this context, sociological and anthropological debates have focused on the ways in which the body has been used in different contexts both as a resource and site for research. Such research has looked at the donation of body parts or the relationship between involvement in clinical trials and financial situations. This paper seeks to add to this debate by extending the focus of analysis solely on ways in which bodies are delineated and utilised by both those who embody them and the corporate research companies and researchers that use them in first in-human clinical trials. Drawing on healthy volunteer accounts and experiences of taking part in first in-human clinical trials the paper aims to show how healthy volunteers' acute awareness that their involvement in clinical trials is an economic exchange and how they subsequently come to see their bodies as a resource for making a living in what I call "passive labour".

**Body and City: Public Suicide on the Boundaries of the Metropolis**

*Marquetti, F., Adorno, R., Bassiti, A. Z.*  
(Federal University of São Paulo)

First of all, this paper addresses some aspects of the cities and metropolis issues, the rise of new cultural practices, and how this process are related to the body like a support for the expression of these transformations. In this wide thematic about body and city, this paper elected a specific view to discuss public suicides in the cities. We consider the public suicide those persons who commit suicide moving from the private to the public and performing death in a city's public spaces. And thus, throughout the body and their death, we consider these a form of trespassing the practices of seclusion body in a contemporary society. Public suicides occurred in different places in São Paulo (Brazil) and they were categorised according to the scenes, scenarios and spectators of these events. We choose to analyze the suicide scenes that occurred in places which are in the city boundaries, because these scenes dragged our perspective to the last street of the city, and these situation itself produces strangeness for those who watch it. These suicides force us to look for unknown spaces, cities vacuums where these persons formulated their representations about life and death using their bodies like a support. The importance of these suicides that occurs on the cities limit, perhaps, is to take a foreign look to see abroad these regions and to make it contemplate the city limits. Limits not only from the physical point of view, but also the limits of existence that the city embraces.

## **Visible Persons and Invisible Links: City, Body and Mental Suffering of Homeless People Living in a São Paulo's Neighbourhood**

*Bassit, A.Z, Cristina, M, F.Adorno. R..*  
(University of São Paulo)

This paper objective is to raise the existence of mental suffering of homeless people who live in a São Paulo's neighbourhood, addressing issues about the city and body. In this particular São Paulo's neighborhood, we found a reduced number of homeless people, perhaps because the city's central areas offers more possibilities of survival and less opposition for the streets occupation. Our data showed that the neighborhood actually received the homeless people in a warm manner, and also they attributed them the nickname: lunatic person. Despite this nickname, the neighborhood acknowledged the madness of the homeless people more to crack use than the existence of mental suffering. In our research, two people were taken as exemplary models, which live their madness in the streets and seem to be absolutely inserted in the territory, regardless the indifference of the local mental health services. We propose these reflections for the lunatic homeless people, who transform the space of the city they live in because they interfere in the place's everyday practices, resize places, re-signify public spaces and equipment, re-create social relationships and mainly interfere in the conceptions of public-private. When they expose their private life and madness in the public space they bring out invisible sceneries to the urban stage. In this way, they obtain an insertion path into the city: through the quotidian and continuous subversion of the public space they are masters in creating new senses.

### CHAUCER ROOM

**Chair:** Dr Sweta Rajan-Rankin

#### **'I'm me with a bit Missing': Identity and Body Image in Younger Women Opting not to Reconstruct after Mastectomy**

*Holland, F., Montague, J., Archer, S.*  
(University of Derby)

Breast cancer is the most common cancer in women. Mastectomy is often indicated and breast reconstruction is considered as part of the treatment regimen. The majority of women worldwide choose not to reconstruct their breast(s) after mastectomy, although reconstruction rates are increasing, particularly in younger women. The medical and psychological literature tends to focus on the body image/esteem of women who have opted for breast reconstruction and the cosmetic outcomes they perceive. Few studies have explored experiences of younger women who do not elect to reconstruct. Although reconstruction is often positioned as being optimal for recovery, more recent evidence suggests that women adapt to their bodies over time regardless of whether they choose to reconstruct or not. This decision clearly has implications for women in terms of their identity, body image and for their close personal relationships. The current research explores the experiences of six women who had been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer in their 30s or 40s and decided not to have reconstruction after mastectomy and who had maintained this decision over time. Each of them was interviewed using a semi-structured format. The resulting data were transcribed verbatim and analysed using interpretative phenomenological analysis. A number of themes were identified; the focus in this presentation is on the women's relationship with their bodies, particularly their breasts, as they reflect back on this before, during and after their mastectomy.

#### **Risky Bodies and Uncertainty: Young Women Living with a History of Breast Cancer**

*Rees, S.*  
(University of Warwick)

Breast cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in women aged under 39 in the UK, with around one in five breast cancers diagnosed in women under 50. Breast cancer has one of the highest cancer survival rates. According to Cancer Research UK, the five-year survival rate for women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005-2009 was 83.5% for ages 15-39, and 89.1% for ages 40-49. However, no previous studies in the UK have explored the experiences of this group of women. This paper is based on findings from an ongoing PhD research project which used qualitative interviews to explore the experiences of women diagnosed under the age of 45. Risk of cancer recurrence was a major theme during the interviews. The nature of cancer brought to the fore the unknown interior of the body and the limitations of medicine to define one as 'ill' or 'healthy'. Long-term treatment and other embodied reminders added to women's experiences of their body as unruly and unpredictable. Women in this study experienced life with a history of breast cancer as a challenge to their trust of their body, and to their embodied knowledge. Uncertainty is emerging as a significant concept in understanding the experience of illnesses such as cancer, and the concept of the risky body may be useful in understanding how women experience embodied risk in their everyday lives.

## **Researching Wounded Bodies: Impacts and Limitations of Living with Chronic Wounds**

*Madden, M.*

*(University of Leeds)*

Chronic, complex wounds, such as leg ulcers, pressure ulcers and diabetic foot ulcers are common in the UK and throughout the western (post-) industrialised nations (Graham, 2003; Kaltenthaler et al., 2001; Reiber, 1996). They are associated with a rising prevalence of chronic conditions such as diabetes or venous disease and people living with various degrees of immobility, conditions which particularly affect ageing populations. Drawing on work in the sociology of chronic and disabling conditions (Scambler & Scambler, 2010), this paper explores the impacts and limitations of people living with chronic wounds reported within a data set of semi-structured patient interviews which aimed to establish the treatment outcomes that matter most to patients with these chronic complex wounds (Cullum et al forthcoming).

## **Bodily Experiences of Complementary and Alternative Medicine**

*Danell, J.*

*(Umeå University)*

This paper examines how users of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) choose, use, and assess different kind of treatments. From previous research we know that use of CAM is characterised by different kinds of risk, not at least in relation to information and decisions. There are many different forms of treatments available, some relatively established and well known others not. There are also a variety of practitioners, titles, certificates, educations, associations, and professional standards, which makes it difficult to perform informed choices. This study consists of in-depth interviews with CAM users of different backgrounds. The results indicate substantial differences between the use of conventional health care and CAM. In the first case the respondents have great trust in established authorities, such as doctors and researchers. They also highlight the importance of diagnostic tools, samples, technical equipment, and theoretical explanations. In the second case the respondents focus on bodily experiences and physical sensations. How treatments 'feels in their bodies', and how they are physical dealt with during treatments, are highlighted as important factors to form trust, assess results, and compare treatments – but also to identify more or less negative experiences. Bodies are also used as individual tools to explore new treatments. This paper also explores how bodily experiences of the respondents are related to themes such as individualism, authority, and holism.



# Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 14:55 - 16:10

## PLENARY PANEL

### AUDITORIUM

#### **Panel**

Christina Buse, University of Leeds  
Richard Ward, University of Stirling  
Carey Jewitt, Institute of Education, University of London  
Rob Meadows, University of Surrey

#### **Christina Buse, University of Leeds**

##### **The Materiality of Dress as a Method for Researching Bodies: Wardrobes, Handbags and Glad-Rags**

I will explore how the materiality of dress can be used as a visual and sensory method for examining experiences of ageing bodies, acting as a springboard for triggering broader discussions of identity, embodiment, continuity and change (Weber and Mitchell, 2004). These issues are explored drawing on examples from the ESRC funded study 'Dementia and Dress', conducted with Julia Twigg at the University of Kent. In this study, various aspects of dress were used to facilitate discussion with people living with dementia, carers, and care-workers. This included 1) Dress in storage – 'wardrobe interviews' 2) Dress as worn 3) Photographic images and changing dress styles 4) Dress in practice. These methods triggered reflection on the significance of dress to identity and continuity of self, but also changing bodies and identities, reflected in discarded or unworn clothes. The methods used also highlighted negotiations around dress, ageing and identity in everyday interactions.

#### **Richard Ward, University of Stirling**

##### **Researching Bodies at Work and Worked Upon: Managing Appearance in Dementia Care**

This paper will consider the challenges of conducting research into the management and maintenance of appearance in dementia care settings. With a focus on hair care and styling, the Hair and Care project set out to understand the process and experience of appearance-related support for people in receipt of care. Of particular interest were the embodied and multi-sensory aspects of the hairdressing experience for both worker and client and in this paper we outline the design of the study and the different types of knowledge generated through a mix of visual and interview techniques.

#### **Carey Jewitt, Institute of Education, University of London**

##### **Approaches to Researching the Body in Digital Environments.**

This presentation will draw on work from three recent projects on methods for researching the body in digital environments: MODE (Multimodal Methods for researching Digital Environments, ESRC); MIDAS (Methodological Innovations for Digital Arts and Social Sciences, ESRC); and The Digital Museum (UCL/IOE funding). Case study examples from these projects will be used to illustrate how the body is mediated and made visible via the digital across a range of environments (Fashion, Performance, Design, Museums, learning), some of the methods we have used to attend to the body and what this has contributed to understanding interaction/experiences in these sites. Throughout I will explore the ways in which different research approaches configure and fragment the body.

#### **Rob Meadows, University of Surrey**

##### **Accelerometers and the Temporal Regularity of Life: Some Case Studies**

Eviatar Zerubavel (1981) identifies three temporal patterns underpinning social life: physiotemporal patterns, biotemporal patterns and socio-temporal patterns. According To Zerubavel, physiotemporal patterns lie in the research domain of the physicist, biotemporal patterns lie in the research domain of the biologist and socio-temporal patterns lie in the domain of the sociologist. This separation is problematic; partly because of the challenges of this methodological separation, but also because it goes against the embodied desire to bring biology back into sociology. Within this brief presentation, I discuss the way in which actigraphy – a wearable technological monitor- has been used within sociological studies of sleep. Circadian rhythm analysis of actigraphy data is said to provide a window onto underlying biotemporal patterns of life. The merits of coupling this with analysis of 'institutional' effects is discussed.

# Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 16:25 – 17:45

## PAPER SESSION 3

### AUDITORIUM

**Chair:** Dr Liz Lloyd

#### **Body and Homosexuality: Older Lesbians and Gay Men Life Paths**

*Bassit, A., Rubens de Camargo Ferreira, A., Fernanda, C. M.*  
(University of São Paulo)

Aging and sexuality are themes that address us to consider the boundaries between body and culture. In a traditional life span perspective, which considers life like a roadmap from birth to death, aging and sexuality end up in opposite sides. The assumed sexual and body decline in old age among other performances of aging, like a time of looses, makes impossible the association between being an older person and being a person with an active sexual life. Researches about aging and homosexuality female and male indicated that sexual orientation by itself does not cause significant differences in the aging process. The differences found were more related to the way of how people produced their own life paths. This study presents older lesbians and gay men life path and the routes they choose for family, relationships with their partners, sexuality and spaces for sociability. Our aim was to understand how these older lesbians and gay men describe their emotional, social and sexual lives. The results showed a diversity of life paths in which similar life experience from a same generation and spaces for sociability contributes to imprint distinctive marks on the aging process.

#### **Researching Ageing Bodies and Care Management Across Contexts of Diversity and Sameness**

*Oliver, C.*  
(Centre on Migration, Policy and Society, University of Oxford)

This paper addresses the place of diversity of bodies as an influencing factor in the organisation of older person's social care and considers consequent challenges for reflexive research. Material is drawn from 3 research projects: on International Retirement Migration in Spain; on 'superdiversity' and welfare in relation to older people's social care in South London; and an exploration of flourishing among older people aged 85+ in a variety of care-settings tailored to particular interests (women's co-op, Jewish care home and retired actors' home). The range of settings demonstrates varying degrees of population diversity or sameness, different experiences of population churn, mobility or stability and varying relationships of the individuals to conventional forms of social care, in contexts of shrinking welfare provision. Through juxtaposing the approaches to care management and attitudes to ageing of different bodies across these varying contexts, the presentation will explore the significance of diversity and sameness for older age flourishing. In particular, it will consider the extent to which population diversity features as a factor in the emotional negotiation of insecurities as well as the practical management of risk and development of coping mechanisms. Finally, the paper will begin to critically interrogate the extent to which homophily - the tendency to establish relationships with those 'most like us' - is developing as a useful concept in older persons' care. It considers this as a necessary part of the personalisation agenda, but questions the wider societal implications of such developments and attendant conundrums for a reflexive researcher.

#### **Taboos, Silences and Half Utterances or what's a Qualitative Researcher like you doing in Clinical Trials Unit like this?**

*Lyle, S.*  
(University of Oxford)

As a qualitative sociologist without a background in physiotherapy, aging or dementia, it has been a huge challenge to join a clinical trials unit which specialises in randomised control trials in these areas. The aging body and the embodied role of the physiotherapist are central to two of my projects, the Dementia and Physical Activity Trial (DAPA) and BOOST, an intervention trying to improve the outcomes for older people with spinal stenosis. My role is to gather patient experience of the trial and their conditions, their preferences for treatment and to better understand how physiotherapists do what they do. I therefore have two very different types of bodies to navigate in the field and my analysis.

My lack of experience in these areas have been extremely useful, much of what I see seems strange to me - a perfect research canvas for a sociologist perhaps? However, I find myself stuck with at least two methodological problems: I seem to encounter age related and condition specific stigma at every turn and, what I find strange my Physiotherapy colleagues consider normal. . This means that I am encountering taboos, silences and half utterances in the field with participants and back in the office with my colleagues. This paper will consider the difficulties of traversing this terrain and the implications that it has for how I conduct interviews, share my analysis with my colleagues and the extent to which it informs how I 'sociologise' the bodies I encounter.

## **The Ageing Body through the Prism of Lefebvre's Rhythmanalysis**

*Lee, S.*  
(Brunel University)

This paper proposes the use of Henri Lefebvre's rhythmanalysis to theorise research on ageing bodies. Rhythmanalysis ('theory of rhythms') is founded on the 'experience and knowledge [connaissance] of the body' (Lefebvre 2004:67), beginning with the rhythm of the heart and extending to the rhythm of other organs. These 'innumerable rhythms' in a healthy body form an 'astonishing harmony, an isorhythm', a harmony like symphonic music being directed and co-ordinated by a conductor (Meyer 2008:150). Such bodily rhythms usually go unnoticed until there is a disruption – arrhythmia – such as when the heart beats differently. Built on triadic dialectics (such as 'space-time-energy') rhythmanalysis transcends the usual dualisms (nature/culture, action/structure) that have stifled many sociological debates and provides room to discuss the body in its social and historical contexts, making it an ideal concept to evaluate research on ageing bodies.

Lefebvre intended rhythmanalysis, a transdisciplinary concept, to theorise everyday life 'from the most natural (physiological, biological) to the most sophisticated' (2004:18). Architects, geographers, media scholars, marketing specialists, educationists and social gerontologists have used it to analyse public spaces, walking, internet-use patterns, pedagogy, ageing theory, etc. Neuroscientists have prescribed appropriate music to counter disrupted rhythms in Parkinson's patients to help them walk without falling.

I will extrapolate from my research on how migrants had to find new rhythms as they aged in unfamiliar cultural and linguistic environments to point to the potential usage of rhythmanalysis in research on the life-course of the human body in its diverse social contexts.

## **ELIOT ROOM**

**Chair:** Dr Dawn Lyon

### **The Body-Space Relations of Research(ed) on Bodies**

*Wainwright, E., Marandet, E., Rizvi, S.*  
(Brunel University London)

This paper heeds calls for reflections on how the research field is defined through embodied socio-spatial presence and immediacy. Through research on training for bodywork and the detailed field notes of three researchers, we explore the transition from observer-researchers to participant-researchers. That is, we explore how, by researching others' bodies, we unexpectedly became researching bodies ourselves as our own bodies became instruments in the research process and were used to elicit knowledge on embodied learning, body-mapping and corporeal trace. As a methodological intervention, the usefulness of conducting research through the body, the positioning of bodies and body-to-body interaction can tell us much about the often ignored embodied and emotional dimensions of the research field. But, in addition, we reflect on the power relations between, and fluidity of, researcher and researched positions in the jolting of secured researcher identity. Here we detail how different researchers performed different embodied and emotional subjectivities in different spaces. We explore how ontological anxieties of our own placed bodies, based around constructed notions of femininity, religion, and researcher professionalism, shape this immediate body-to-body encounter and consequently the research process.

### **Transnational Bodies: Migration and Bodily Practices in Later Life**

*Ghillani, F.*  
(Oxford Institute of Population Ageing)

In contemporary western cultures, women's bodies are constantly exposed to deep social observation and regulation. In this sense, the process of migration can be described as an embodied experience, in which a body is first displaced and then emplaced in two social locations – the community of origin and the culture of destination. During this process, norms and values acquired from the community of origin entangle with new habits and, simultaneously, are both weakened by the distance from similar bodies and remembered by the proximity with compatriots. This process can have a deep impact in later life, when women's bodies face functional, esthetical and reproductive changes that may represent a source of discontinuity in their lives.

On these grounds, this research aims to analyse how the location(s) where a woman experiences old age can have an influence on her bodily practices. Interviews were carried out with women aged between 59 and 74, who were all born in Borgo, a small village located in northern Italy. Participants were divided in three groups:

**RESIDENTS:** women who have lived all their lives in Borgo;

**MIGRANTS:** women who moved from Borgo to London and are still living in England;

**RETURNED:** migrants who permanently moved back to Borgo after living in London.

Building on the study of the cultural backgrounds that have shaped women's culture in Italy and England, this paper will explore three dynamics associated with bodily practices as described by participants - assimilation, acceptance and adjustment - and their mutual influence and interplay.

## **Older Men and Prostate Cancer: Managing Experiences of Uncertainty**

*Green, R.*

*(Royal Holloway, University of London)*

Uncertainty, compared with risk, remains an underdeveloped concept within medical sociology. Zinn (2008) has identified tools that people employ to manage uncertainties, such as risk, trust, emotions, heuristics and hope. Brown and de Graaf (2013) have drawn on these tools to demonstrate how expectations for the future were profoundly shaped by how advanced-stage cancer patients managed their illness uncertainties.

Research examining how the body is central to experiences of uncertainty is scarce. Previous studies have examined how people manage their uncertainties in the wake of newly emerging medical surveillance technologies (Sulik 2009; Perzynski et al 2013), yet there is much scope for research to examine the links between the body, illness experiences and experiences of uncertainties.

For prostate cancer little is known about men's uncertainty experiences as part of their wider illness experience. Presenting with symptoms or undergoing routine testing, receiving a diagnosis, making treatment or non-treatment decisions, and undergoing treatments and recoveries all present sufferers with a range of possible uncertainties to deal with. Yet the centrality of the body in mediating these experiences remains unexplored.

Qualitative interviews are being undertaken with thirty men recruited from support groups who have been treated for prostate cancer. Preliminary findings suggest that uncertainties are particularly prominent after diagnosis, when choosing a treatment, and during and following treatments. The uncertainties of regulating the side-effects of treatments that affect urinary continence and sexual function are also common concerns, where narratives of the body offer a more nuanced understanding for how these uncertainties are managed.

## **The Significance of the Aesthetic for the Support of Older People**

*Cross, J.*

*(University of Bristol)*

If, as Eagleton (1990) claims, 'Aesthetics is born as a discourse of the body', this exploratory research aims to offset its shortfall in discourses of embodiment in later life. Acknowledging that the marginalisation of the body is a direct legacy of Enlightenment aesthetics, this study draws on the transformational, pragmatist aesthetics of Dewey (1934) and his successors and the contributions of contemporary aestheticians such as Shusterman (2000; 2008), Berleant (1991; 2005), Haapala (2005; 2012) and Naukkarinen (2013). This applied aesthetics approach is operationalised in terms of its formative potential in addressing challenge, loss and rupture in later life, and sustains the pragmatist respect for everyday life experience by considering creativity in care and support in action theoretical terms (Joas, 1996).

Fieldwork has engaged a multicultural sample of 31, urban dwelling, older people, recruited from social hubs and support groups for the visually impaired. Research methods have integrated auto-driven photo-elicitation or recorded reflections with in-depth interviews, organised around nine themes exploring the cultural attachments and social networks of participants' lives. Data has been analysed through a synthesis of performative/dialogic and discourse analyses (Reissman, 2008; Rose, 2007). Findings argue a case for:

- The 'Aesthetic Bond' a trust-based contract with an aesthetic object, establishing ontological security and validating autonomy.
- An aesthetically grounded case against the reification of either art form or environment, as apparent in art or nature-as-therapy discourses directed at older people.

The act of care or support as orientated towards the craft domain and true to the materiality of later life.

## **DICKENS ROOM**

**Chair:** Dr Bethany Morgan-Brett

## **What Do You Think of My Ink: Assessing the Effects of Body Art on Employment Chances**

*Timming, A., Nickson, D., Re, D., Perrett, D.*

*(University of St Andrews)*

Using repeated measures one-way analysis of variance, this paper examines the effect of body art on job applicant employability ratings. It employs the literatures on the social psychologies of stigma and prejudice, as well as aesthetic labor, to frame the argument. The results indicate that photos of tattooed and pierced faces result in lower employability ratings in comparison to the control faces. The overall negative effect of body art on employment chances is, however, reduced for job applicants seeking non-customer-facing roles. In customer-facing roles, the tattoo is associated with lower employability ratings than the piercing. The findings suggest that visible body art is a real impediment to employment chances, and that visibly tattooed and pierced job applicants should apply for non-customer-facing roles to maximise their chances of success.

## **The Social Construction of the Ageing Worker: Conceptual Issues in the Development of an Embodied Perspective**

*Shukla, G., Wainwright, D.*  
(University of Bath)

Life expectancy is increasing across the developed world, creating social, financial and cultural pressure to increase the age of retirement. The assumption is that longer healthier lives will facilitate the extension of working lives, but ageing is about much more than longevity or the presence or absence of disease. Many other determinants of retirement have been identified, including pension provision, the availability of part-time/flexible work patterns; caring commitments etc., but rather less attention has been paid to how a person's expectations regarding participation in paid employment are shaped by social and cultural narratives about the ageing body. How are the embodied characteristics of ageing, such as changes in physical appearance, cognitive and perceptual changes, and changing experiences of corporeality invested with meaning with regard to the capacity for, and willingness to, remain in paid employment? How are these narratives likely to be differentiated in terms of gender, class ethnicity and by generational change?

In this paper we tentatively explore the conceptual issues that arise in relation to the adoption of an embodied perspective on the social construction of the ageing worker and make tentative suggestions regarding key research questions and methodological issues relating to empirical enquiry in this domain.

## **Immaterial Bodies and Disembodied Voices: Racializing the (in)visible Labour of Indian Call Centre Workers**

*Rajan-Rankin, S.*  
(Brunel University)

Global outsourcing of service work to emerging markets has become a resilient and dominant business model despite the recent economic recession. Front-line call centre workers are frequently required to 'sell themselves' down the phone line, by using western pseudonyms and deceptive mimicry (Mirchandani 2012), conforming to gendered norms of passivity, compassion and helpfulness (McDowell 1997) and invoking sexualised banter in order to deal with difficult clients (Riach 2014). The performance of such labour has been associated with emotional labour, aesthetic labour and authenticity work (Mirchandani 2012; Nath 2011); but the bodyspace it occupies has received less critical analysis (Blackman 2008). By viewing the liminal body as operating at the intersection of discourse, institution and corporeality (Williams and Bendelow 1998), the call centre worker is made invisible in three ways: through the disembodiment of the person through audio technology, the disruption of cultural identity through the adoption of westernised work identities; and the masking of the racialised subject and rendering the worker's body as immaterial (Blackman 2012). As Weheliye (2014:2) observes, the fleshy body is subsumed within existing institutional power matrices and the denial of the racialised body is a rejection of humanity. This study aims to render visible the embodied and lived experiences of Indian call centre workers based on a 50 qualitative interviews in Hyderabad, South India. Using narrative discourse analysis, the data throws up evidence of disruptions between the culturally engineered disembodied worker and the resistant body negotiating through a digitalised landscape for spaces to enact moral agency.

## **Imprisoned Bodies: Methodological Reflections from a Study into Women Prisoners' Embodied Punishment in England**

*Chamberlen, A.*  
(Birkbeck, University of London)

This paper is based on a theoretical and empirical examination into women's embodied experience of imprisonment in England. It investigates the punishment-body relation and adopts a theoretical perspective from the sociology of embodiment and emotions and feminist phenomenology to suggest that existing research in the area of prison studies has articulated the harmful effects of the prison from a largely Cartesian perspective, partly neglecting the embodied 'pains of imprisonment'. The findings of this study illustrate how the 'lived body', as a theoretical category, can offer a more situationally-specific and experientially-grounded understanding of subjectivity and identity in the prison context. In its empirical component the study comprised mainly of interviews with women ex-prisoners and it illustrates that key coping strategies as well as various social performances in prison rely on the body as a medium of self-representation and as the source of emotional expression. This paper will focus its discussion on the methods employed to conduct this study and it will advocate for a form of bodily self-reflexivity in the research process. It will advance three stages in the interview process where the researcher can attend to the body-as-a-source-of-knowledge to derive more affective meaning when researching lived experiences and embodiment.

## CHAUCER ROOM

**Chair:** Dr Janet Fink

### **Researching Chronic Pain Communication through Arts Workshops**

*Tarr, J., Gonzalez-Polledo, E., Cornish, F.*  
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

This paper addresses the challenges and particularities of running art workshops as a form of social research practice, drawing on data from the Communicating Chronic Pain project, which explored non-verbal methods of expressing pain through workshops exploring digital photography, drawing and sculpting, sound and music, and participatory theatre. Arguing for these workshops as a form of 'imprography', a 'live method' (Back & Puwar, 2012) which contains set elements whilst being fundamentally improvisational, we examine the questions that emerge from trying to account for such practices as a way of researching bodies.

What constitutes data, and what is the status of knowledge produced through these workshops? We look at the key analytic theme, that of transformation, and discuss how the products of the workshop: video recordings, art outputs, field notes and participant evaluations, partially capture but also fail in relation to this theme. While a version of the workshops can be reconstructed from these materials, we argue, there are elements of embodied experience which exceed them and cannot be reproduced. We explore the implications of this in light of directives both to explore ways to work rigorously with new methods and materials, and to archive qualitative data for later reuse.

### **Reconstructing Ourselves: A Collaborative Study Involving Arts, Digital Storytelling and Qualitative Research Focussed on the Experience of Complex Breast Reconstruction**

*Wright, S., Thimbleby, P., Solomon, R.*  
(Swansea University)

The patient's experience of complex breast reconstruction is the focus of a multi-disciplinary collaboration which is funded by the Arts Council of Wales. Members from three different disciplinary approaches: research/anthropology, fine art and digital storytelling will collaborate to explore patients' experiences of complex breast reconstruction through different mediums.

The purpose of the collaborative approach to studying the patient's journey through complex breast reconstruction is to:

- a. Challenge traditional consultation practices and increase understanding of patient experience,
- b. Document novel collaborative practice,
- c. Disseminate results through exhibition.

A pilot qualitative research study will explore new ways of enhancing patient experience of patient-doctor consultations within the context of complex breast reconstruction outpatient clinics. The objectives of this study are to assess the value and feasibility of using patients' own audio recordings as part of the consultation process in outpatient clinics alongside an exploration of the patients' experience of consultation. Data collection methods include ethnographic observation; semi-structured interviews; and textual feedback collected from patients in outpatient clinics. The Arts-based component of the collaborative study involves meeting with staff and patients and the development of new Artwork through participation in Art workshops.

Women who are part of this study will also be offered a chance to record their story. The product will be a series of videos 1-2 minutes in length which can be used as part of an exhibition alongside the research results and the fine art. They will contribute to new insights into patients' experiences and may result in service improvements.

### **The Lived Experience of Filming: Exploring Reflexivity in Video-Based Data Collection and Analysis**

*Silverman, M*  
(University of Ottawa)

This paper explores the author's lived experiences during video data collection in the context of a microethnographic study. Although video-based methods are becoming increasingly popular in the social sciences (Knoblauch & Schnettler, 2012), including gerontology, there is a lack of literature discussing the lived experience of conducting videographic research (Luff & Heath, 2012). While there is consensus regarding the importance of the researcher's embodied subjectivity throughout the filming and analysis (Mondada, 2006; Pink, 2007; 2012; Knoblauch & Tuma, 2011), to date there is a lack of literature explicating how the researcher can use that subjectivity as a research tool. This paper builds on current literature by exploring how the researcher's self-reflexivity can be used to enrich video-based methods. In describing the operationalization of a microethnographic study of home-based caregivers of older adults, the author describes her experience of shifting roles and social locations throughout the filming. The author illustrates, through the use of journal and video clips, how the dynamic relationship between the researcher, the participants and the camera created overlapping layers of data - the actual scene as it was occurring, what the camera captured of the scene, and the author's memories and reactions to the scene. Finally, the article discusses the contribution of reflexivity to both the creation and resolution of ethical tensions in the research space. In sum, the article provides a portrait of how our own everyday lives as researchers can be used as enriching tools when filming the everyday, embodied actions of older adults.

## **Figures of Authority**

*Dawney, L.*

*(School of Environment and Technology)*

In this paper I begin to think about the relationship of authority and embodiment. Drawing on my previous work on figures of authority such as veterans and mothers (Dawney, 2013), I present some early ideas based on a “figurative analysis” (Castaneda, 2002; Tyler, 2008) to think about how authority works through figures that are at once bodies, images and ideas. Through a discussion of the broadcasts of World War One veteran Harry Patch, I begin to think about how experience makes itself known through the body as both archive and medium. I suggest that some older bodies, and particularly the frailty of the very old, can enable affective or ethical responses that can produce relations of authority, and that the inscriptions of life on scarred, tattooed, aged bodies communicate a life lived that can be harnessed as a means of augmenting “experiential authority”. In this way, I make some tentative suggestions about the relationships between embodiment and why certain figures are listened to, and others are not. I conclude by opening up the question of how experience can be authorised in rearticulating relations of authority that embraces living memory.

## Index by First Named Author

Author(s)	Page No.
Back, L.	7
Bassit, A.Z.	21 & 24
Buse, C.	8 & 23
Chamberlen, A.	27
Cross, J.	26
Danell, J.	22
Davison, J.	9
Dawney, L.	29
de Salis, I., Owen-Smith, A., Donovan, J., Lawlor, D.	10
Fileborn, B., Thorpe, R., Hawkes, G., Minichiello, V., Pitts, M.	10
Fox, R.	15
Gabb, J., Fink, J.	17
Ghillani, F.	25
Green, R.	26
Greener, J.	12
Hayashi Furukawa, T.	15
Holland, F., Peterson, K.	15
Holland, F., Montague, J., Archer, S.	21
Humberstone, B.	9
Jacobs, J.	17
Jewitt, C.	8 & 23
King, E.	13
Lee, S.	25
Lloyd, L.	9
Lyle, S.	24
Madden, M.	22
Mahon-Daly, P.	13
Malcomson, H.	19
Marquetti, F., Adorno, R., Bassit, A.Z.	20
Martin, S.	20
Mayoh, J., Jones, I.	10
Meadows, R.	8 & 23
Menezes, D.	12
Milne, R.	14
Morgan Brett, B., Lyon, D., Crow, G.	17-18
Mwale, S.	16 & 20
Nartova, N.	18
Oliver, C.	24
Palfreyman, H.	13
Phellas, C., Constantinou, C. S., Loizou, C., Beck, S., Karekla, M., Talias, M.	11
Purewal, T., Jasani, R.	12
Rajan-Rankin, S.	27
Rees, M.	19



Rees, S.	21
Sadkowska, A.	19
Shukla, G., Wainwright, D.	27
Silverman, M.	28
Steadman, C.	18
Tarr, J., Gonzalez-Polledo, E., Cornish, F.	28
Tazzyman, A.	11
Timming, A., Nickson, D., Re, D., Perrett, D.	26
Waight, E., Yin, Y.	16
Wainwright, E., Marandet, E., Rizvi, S.	25
Ward, R.	8 & 23
Wray, S., Yeadon-Lee, T.	11
Wright, S., Thimbleby, P., Solomon, R.	28
Yeadon-Lee, T., Wray, S.	11

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