

## A case-study of ‘socio-genetic understanding’

### Robbins on Bourdieu, 1970-2017

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

09-30-17.00

A BSA Bourdieu Study Group Workshop  
Supported by Institute of Inequalities (LSE)

#### Speakers Include:

Yusef Bakkali (Sussex), Ray Campbell, Stephanie Lacey (University Campus Barnsley), Lisa Mckenzie (Middlesex University), Nirmal Puwar (Goldsmiths), Diane Reay (LSE), Derek Robbins (UEL), Marco Santoro (University of Bologna), Mike Savage (LSE)

#### Timetable

09.30-10.00	<b>Registration</b>
10.00-10.45	<p><b>Session I. Methodological presentation.</b></p> <p>Derek Robbins leads a discussion of Bourdieu: “For a socio-genetic understanding of intellectual works” (Concluding remarks in Calhoun, C., E. Lipuma, and M. Postone, eds., 1993, Bourdieu: Critical Perspectives, Oxford, Polity Press, 263-275.)</p> <p>This introductory session will define the purpose of the day. It will suggest a) that Bourdieu was arguing that his, and all intellectual works, should be understood by reference to their contexts of production rather than in terms of predefined, abstracted disciplinary discourses; and b) that, consequently, Robbins’s reception of Bourdieu over half a century is to be considered as a paradigmatic example of the reflexive response to Bourdieu recommended for all participants.</p> <p>Presentation: Derek Robbins</p>
10.45-12.00	<p><b>Session II. Robbins and Bourdieu up to 1990.</b></p> <p>This session will consider the contexts of the development of Robbins’s predisposition to study the work of Bourdieu, and his early encounters with Bourdieu.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Cambridge education and PhD on Coleridge (1963-1972).</li> <li>b. North East London Polytechnic/PEL/UEL and the rise and fall of</li> </ol>

	<p>'independent study'</p> <p>c. First meeting with Bourdieu, October, 1986.</p> <p>Presentation by Derek Robbins.</p> <p>Discussants: Diane Reay and Ray Campbell</p>
<b>12.00-12.15</b>	<b>Refreshment</b>
<b>12.15-14.00</b>	<p><b>Session III. Robbins and Bourdieu, 1990-2002.</b></p> <p>This session will consider Robbins's attempts to provide an exegesis of Bourdieu's work for an English readership, beginning with <i>The Work of Pierre Bourdieu</i>, Milton Keynes, Open University Press, 1990. It will consider:</p> <p>a. The English fields of reception in the period (Education, Cultural Studies, Anthropology).</p> <p>b. Robbins's encounters with Bourdieu and his colleagues during the 1990s.</p> <p>c. The influence of polity Press in shaping the reception of Bourdieu.</p> <p>Presentation by Derek Robbins.</p> <p>Discussant: Marco Santoro, Mike Savage, Nirmal Puwar</p>
<b>14.00-15.00</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>15.00-16.30</b>	<p><b>Session IV. Robbins and Bourdieu, 2002 to the present.</b></p> <p>This session will consider Robbins's attempts after Bourdieu's death to treat the transmission of his work as a case-study of the international transfer of social science concepts, first of all in respect of Franco-British transfer and then in respect of occidental-oriental transfer. This analysis involves an application of socio-genetic understanding as outlined in the first session and, as such, runs counter to the increasing tendency to appropriate Bourdieu's work for an international sociological discourse. In short, the session will reflect on the contemporary relevance of Bourdieu's work.</p> <p>Discussant: Stephanie Lacey, Yusef Bakkali, Lisa Mckenzie</p>
<b>16.30-17.00</b>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>Derek Robbins, Jenny Thatcher</p>