

SOCIAL — TRANSFORMATIONS

Plenary Speakers: Vron Ware Aaron Winter Climate Change Panel



BSA Annual Conference 2025

Abstract Book Thursday 24 April 2025

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Abstracts are listed by Paper Session then alphabetically by Stream name

WELCOME

Welcome to the British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 at University of Manchester. The theme of the 2025 conference is 'Social Transformations'. It is a pleasure to announce that Vron Ware, Aaron Winter, and our panellists, Benjamin Bowman, Rebecca Elliott, Charles Ogunbode, Lisa Vanhala, Catherine Walker, will address the conference in three thought-provoking plenaries this year.

In addition to these plenaries, delegates have the opportunity to attend presentations on a wide range of topics. The conference is organised in streams designed to represent the major areas of research with which sociologists are engaged. These streams are open to any topic on which colleagues are currently working, enabling delegates to meet with colleagues in their areas of interest and explore a variety of topics.

The programme also includes a variety of special events, stream plenaries, publishing events and events for Postgraduate Students and Early Career Researchers.

This conference offers a rich and challenging programme and it is hoped that every delegate will find sessions of interest.

A conference of this magnitude and breadth depends on the efforts of many committed individuals. Significant thanks are due to all those who have helped with the organisation of the conference, particularly the coordinators of the conference streams:

onference Stream	Stream Coordinators
Cities, Mobilities, Place & Space	Rashida Bibi
Culture, Media, Sport & Food	Katie Appleford Alexandra Kviat
Environment & Society	Samyia Ambreen Pancho Lewis Audrey Verma
Families & Relationships	Julia Carter Leah Gilman Shuang Qiu
Frontiers	Paul Campbell Mark Doidge Jen Remnant
Lifecourse	James Fletcher Sarah Milton Harriet Rowley Yan Zhu
Medicine, Health & Illness	Katie Coveney Sarah Hoare
Methodological Innovations	Terence Heng Wendy Olsen Vlad Rizov

Race, Ethnicity & Migration	Patricia Irizar Farjana Islam Aerin Lai
Rights, Violence & Crime	Louise Livesey
Science, Technology & Digital Studies	Alina Geampana Sheena MacRae
Social Divisions / Social Identities	Finn Mackay Gráinne McMahon
Sociology of Education	Tamsin Bowers-Brown Rachel Stenhouse Juliette Wilson-Thomas
Theory	Pam Alldred Fay Dennis Nick Fox Debbie Watson
Work, Employment & Economic Life	Caroline Barrett Viviane Galata Karen Tatham

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The BSA would like to thank SAGE Publishing for funding a portion of the free places for this year's conference. Sage is the sponsor for the Climate Change Panel.

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Located in the heart of one of the most vibrant cities in the UK, Manchester University Press (MUP) has been publishing exceptional research from leading names and emerging scholars since 1904. Our thriving Social Sciences list consistently engages with the most pressing issues of our times, boasting key series on globalisation, racism and resistance, and creative ethnography, and producing award-winning academic and trade titles on everything from migration and medicine to environmentalism and urban development.

Mass Observation Archive



Mass Observation (MO) is an archive of everyday life, thought and feeling. A not-for-profit charity (CIO). It contains papers by the original social research organisation MO (1937 – 1960s) and current MO Project (1981 – ongoing). It generates qualitative narrative material based on the original methods of early MO. A national panel of self-selecting volunteers respond to open ended questionnaires on social, political, and personal subjects. It is publicly available for research, teaching, and learning. It represents perhaps the largest collection of qualitative secondary data in the UK

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Polity is an international publisher in the social sciences and humanities, featuring some of the world's leading thinkers. Combining the publication of original, cutting-edge work with a systematic programme of textbooks and course books for students and scholars in further and higher education, as well as a general readership, about key issues in social, political and cultural life. Established in 1984, Polity has grown rapidly into one of the world's

most distinguished independent publishing houses.

Princeton University Press



Princeton's sociology list publishes bold and original scholarship that betters our understanding of compelling social matters. It encompasses qualitative and quantitative research in such areas as cultural sociology, economic sociology, urban sociology, and computational sociology. Featuring work that is

empirically rich, theoretically significant, and methodologically innovative, the list represents some of the most important contributions to contemporary sociological thought.

Routledge Books



For over two centuries Routledge has been committed to the publication of scholarly information of the highest quality. With more than 2,600 journals and over 8,000 new books each year, we offer unparalleled access to innovative, peer-reviewed research. We are proud to copublish the BSA's ground breaking Sociological Futures Series and delighted to attend this year's Annual Conference. Please call by the Routledge exhibit to discuss

your writing plans with our dedicated Sociology editors.

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wide range of open access scholarly monographs and edited collections that cover sociology, anthropology and related social sciences that are available to read and download free of charge.

IMPORTANT DELEGATE INFORMATION

Arrival and Registration

We're expecting a high volume of delegates arriving on Day 1, so the registration area is likely to be very busy. To help everything run smoothly, please collect your badge promptly on arrival and then step away from the desk to allow others to register. Feel free to grab some refreshments, explore the venue or take a moment to familiarise yourself with the programme.

Your badge must be worn at all times for security and meal access. It also indicates whether you've booked for the Conference Dinner.

Registration will take place in The Drum, University Place:

Wednesday 23 April from 08:00

Thursday 24 April from 08:30

Friday 25 April from 08:30

Venue Details

Venue address: University Place, 176 Oxford Road, Manchester M13 9PL

Directions:

- Interactive map
- Travel by train
- Travel by bus, tram or coach
- Travel by car
- Travel by air
- Travel by bicycle

Virtual Tour of University Place: <u>https://www.conference.manchester.ac.uk/virtual-tours/universityplace/</u>

Sessions will take place in various rooms at University Place.

Chairing

We are extremely grateful to all those who have agreed to chair one or more sessions. If you find yourself in a session without a chair we would be grateful if someone in the audience could volunteer to take this role. Chairing guidelines will be available in each room and a copy is also available <u>here</u>.

Meals and Refreshments

Tea and coffee	Throughout the conference	The Drum
Lunch	12:30-13:30 each day	The Marketplace Restaurant

Vegetarian and vegan options will be available as part of the standard catering provision. If you have notified us of any other specific dietary requirements, please make these known to the catering staff when collecting your meals and refreshments.

Your badge must be worn to access refreshments.

No breakfast or evening meals are included in your registration. Manchester offers a wide range of local dining options nearby.

Conference Dinner

The Conference Dinner will be held at Manchester Museum on Thursday 24 April at 19:00. Dress code is smart casual. This event must be pre-booked. If you are registered, your badge will display a knife and fork symbol. For any questions, please visit the registration desk.

Publicity and Photography

Share your experience using #britsoc25 on social media!

Please note that professional photographers will be capturing images during the conference. These may be used by the BSA for marketing and promotional purposes, including in print and digital platforms.

By attending, you consent to being photographed. If you prefer not to be included, please speak to a member of the BSA Events team or an official photographer, or contact us after the event at <u>events@britsoc.org.uk</u>

PAPER SESSION 4 09:00-10:30

BSA Special Activity - Room 2.217 Early Career Forum Special Event

The Problems and Potentials of Teaching and Researching the Far-Right and Extremism: A Masterclass with Dr Aaron Winter

Aaron Winter

(University of Lancaster)

This interactive and collaborative workshop, led by Dr Aaron Winter (University of Lancaster), provides space for us to collectively explore and discuss how we research and teach topics around the far-right and extremism - including terrorism, populism, securitization, migration, and racialisation. We'll look at the challenges of this, especially in the context of insecure early career jobs, and what approaches we can take for best practice, ethically and strategically. This is a forum for sharing ideas and taking advice from Aaron Winter's long career in the area; we ask that attendees are actively engaged in either teaching or researching one or more of the listed topics (or a cognate topic) so you can participate fully.

Cities, Mobilities, Place & Space - Room 2.218

Urban Footprint, Mobility and Rural Transformation in the Global South: Tales from a Bangladesh village

Md Rasel Patuary, S Aminul Islam

(Independent University, Bangladesh)

The Global South is moving through a complex process of societal transformation driven by urbanization, social mobility and globalization. The literature search reveals that we know very little of it sociologically. The objective of this paper is to contribute to filling this gap through an exploration of restructuring of the rural space and everyday life from the study of a Bangladesh village. It was done through survey of a sample of 230 villagers, KIIs and visual techniques. The village Dakatia is located near a town called Chandpur. It is surrounded by rivers and canals and, in the past, a single dirt track linked it to the outside. From the middle of 1990s, a metalled road through the village has connected it to wider areas. The study shows how the village has now become a regional transport hub fuelling internal and international mobility. Urbanization and globality have touched almost every aspect of rural life. With expanding Green Revolution, growth of non-farm sector, total electrification, glare of 68 shops, diffusion of TVs, smart phones and computers, the village manifests a complex process of reshaping of the rural space and everyday life. It has become a fascinating landscape for the interplay of structure and agency and where globality and tradition interpenetrate, combine and clash with the increasing sway of Islamic revivalism that can contribute to richer theoretical understanding of the convulsions punctuating our time.

Conceptualising the 'Outside': Parental Migration and Social Mobility among Left-Behind Children in China

Melody Zhang

(University of Manchester)

In China, domestic migration has resulted in over a quarter of children being separated from their parents, with 68.77 million left-behind children (LBC) (UNICEF, 2018)—a figure exceeding the population of the UK (World Bank, 2019). This study examines the factors shaping the life trajectories of 'successful' LBC, focusing on those who achieved the rare feat of attending university, despite a higher education participation rate of only 17.8% in 2020 (OECD, 2020). Contrary to research that often attributes LBC's academic struggles to personal or familial failures, my study presents an alternative narrative, viewing LBC and their migrant parents as strategic actors responding to structural constraints, contributing to upward mobility.

Using the concept of 'outside' to describe both the physical and imagined spaces of parental migration and future aspirations, I applied a dual framework of Life History Theory and Life Course Approach. Through in-depth interviews with 32 LBC from rural and urban areas, along with 10 service providers, I explore how these individuals perceive, experience, and navigate the impacts of parental migration. I argue that 'outside' can be understood as a resource-based perception and aspiration. While all participants achieved upward mobility by attending higher education, their visions of an urban future (the 'outside') are shaped by the resource settings of their hukou (household registration status) and social class. Rural working-class LBC normally build a sense of unfamiliarity towards the 'outside', while urban middle- and elite- class LBC show a sense of entitlement of urban future.

What is Urban in India's Agrarian Coalfields? Decoding Dimensions of Rural-Urban Relationality for Progressive Politics

Srishti Mishra

(Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad)

Debates on a research agenda for emancipatory rural politics emphasise attentiveness to the reality of rural-urban migration (Borras Jr., 2023; Pattenden, 2023). In parallel, the urban has been reconceptualized as a theoretical processual category to understand the profound sociospatial transformations underway in territories far beyond cities, considered the preeminent site of the urban (Brenner & Schmid, 2015). This paper, based on six months of qualitative fieldwork in the North Karanpura coalfield in eastern India, examines contested processes of ongoing sociospatial transformations through this lens of the urban.

Significantly delaying the mining project, the movement against land dispossession did not translate into demanding better terms of employment and social reproduction in the now active coal extraction economy. Analysing the intertwined materiality and subjectivities in changing socioeconomic relations reveals insights into its failed potential. Relations of employment are complicated by internal differences, primarily skewed land holding and thus compensation sum received, translating into two broad classes of waged workers and petty capitalists. As owners of earth moving machinery and proprietors of businesses including schools and clinics, their positioning in the economy precludes such mobilisations. Worker solidarity is also undermined by differences between local and migrant workers. Finally, despite evolving material relations, the peasant persists as a dominant sociopolitical imaginary, deflecting political articulations of emergent realities (Li, 2019).

More broadly, this paper argues that taking a processual view of the urban to examine sociospatial transformations in remote regions can yield insights towards understanding obstacles and developing comprehensive agendas for a more progressive politics.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food 1 - Room 4.206

Transformations in Impact Evaluation in Museums: Understandings and Practices by Museum Professionals, Funders, and Policy Makers.

Alejandra Alonso Tak

(King's College London)

Focusing on examples in England, this research explores current understandings of impact evaluation in museums by the three main stakeholders within the sector: museum professionals, funders, and policy makers.

Borrowed from the economic field, early approaches to impact evaluation in museums were mainly quantitative. Throughout the past two decades, the sector has been claiming that more qualitative understandings of impact should be implemented. However, present methodologies seem to still respond to an econometric logic. Thus, this begs the question of the extent to which impact evaluation practices in museums have been transformed.

Using Bourdieu's Field theory and New Institutionalism, the analysis carried out in this research shows that stakeholders enact and perform these transformations differently. Additionally, drawing on Critical Discourse Analysis, the power structures between stakeholders are discussed, specifically looking at how their different approaches influence and shape the field of impact evaluation in museums. In doing so, potential explanations to the problematics around this uneven transformation are presented.

Lastly, this work engages with the role of social and political agendas, as data reveals that they also contribute to define stakeholders' scope of impact evaluation in museums. Focusing on the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, it is argued that it pushes further the ongoing transformation of an object-centered museology to a planet-centered museology.

The Production of Aesthetic Judgments: Intersubjectivity, Reciprocity and the Configuration of 'Shared States'

Lucy Meechan

(King's College London)

The relationship between aesthetic judgments and social interactions remains curiously overlooked within sociology, a dominant concern with how 'cultural perspectives' are produced and disseminated tending to preclude focused examination of how aesthetic judgments are negotiated within interaction. Whilst efforts to unpack the public negotiation of taste have exposed the 'relational' dimension of these personal judgments, illustrating how individuals modify expressed judgments to align to group beliefs or 'community standards' (Wohl, 2015) this work tends to perpetuate a conceptualization of intersubjectivity as the configuration of agreement.

By adopting a micro-sociological lens, drawing upon Ethnomethodology and Conversation Analysis, this paper addresses the situated practices through which visitors design, produce and negotiate aesthetic judgments through their interactions within museum and gallery settings. Drawing upon a corpus of naturally-occuring video-recordings, it exposes these personal judgments as dynamic co-productions, which orient to a 'moral order' distinctive to these cultural spaces. As such, it challenges conceptualisations of intersubjectivity as a 'reciprocity of perspectives' (Schutz, 1932) instead drawing an analytic distinction between momentarily orienting to, and sharing in a subjective standpoint, and claiming to 'see' things in the same way.

Museumising a Plurivocal Scotland: One Nation, Five Million Voices

Andi Haxhiu

(University of Edinburgh)

This paper, based on data from my PhD thesis, explores the evolving notions of national identity and sovereignty in Scotland. By focusing on the Scotland: A Changing Nation exhibition in the National

Museum of Scotland, this research examines how the museum, as a crucial institution of power, reflects and shapes ongoing debates around Scottishness and Britishness. Drawing on visitor evaluations, census data, and personal stories featured in the museum's exhibits and text panels, this paper highlights the plurality of voices that contribute to Scotland's complex process of national identification - a characteristic that is particularly hardly museumisable in the context of Scotland's intensified demands for more decision-making powers.

To understand these wider societal developments, this paper delves into key historical events, such as the successful 1997 Devolution Referendum and the failed 2014 Independence Referendum, to explore how competing visions of Scottishness and Britishness are portrayed and negotiated in the museum. This research reveals how national identities evolve in response to political milestones and how public institutions like museums play a critical role in mediating national identification as a response to the requirements of the present. However, it also highlights how they fail to keep up with "history in the making."

By engaging with these contemporary debates on independence and demographic change, this study accentuates the ever-evolving nature of identities and provides insights into the sociological processes that inform and negotiate Scottishness and Britishness within the museum walls.

Covenanting Heritage and Tourism in Scotland

Kalyan Bhandari, Hanneke Boij

(University of the West of Scotland)

It has been suggested by academics that Scotland's tourism resources are mostly historical. But Covenanting Memorials, being one of the most significant historical sites in Scotland's southwest, are not featured in the country's tourism imagery. This is intriguing as, over the past 20 years, there has been a rise in interest in using disaster, murder, and tragedy scenes as tourist destinations. This research endeavours to investigate the lack of visibility of Covenanting memorials in the southwest region of Scotland. Utilizing a qualitative approach, the study presents information gathered via openended questions, interviews, field observations, and a workshop with covenanting stakeholders in Scotland. According to the research, although Scotland's Covenanting tradition is deeply ingrained in the country's collective memory, it is not widely appreciated in the region. According to the study, the reason why the Covenanting legacy is not present in Scottish tourism is that it does not correspond to the dominant tourism image of Scotland. This research will contribute to a deeper conceptual understanding of the relationship between tourism, religion, atrocities, and death.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food 2 - Room 4.209

Performing Expertise: Locating 'The Postfeminist Hustle' within Instagram's 'Intuitive Eating Community'

Mia Westrap

(University of York)

'Intuitive Eating' is a growing phenomenon originally developed by Tribole and Resch (1995), and markets itself as a 'non-diet' approach to eating. Although not a new concept, the ever-increasing popularity of visual digital medias has facilitated a transformation of the ways in which users navigate their own approaches to intuitive eating and 'wellness' more broadly. This paper will present data from my PhD thesis, wherein the motif of the 'postfeminist hustler' emerged following a feminist critical discourse analysis of 150 Instagram #IntuitiveEating posts, and interviews with 15 members of Instagram's 'intuitive eating community'. By 'postfeminist hustle', I am referring to the adoption and performance of expertise by influencers and community members, in which they recuperate socially progressive notions of women's empowerment and agency, whilst simultaneously deflecting contemporary feminist criticisms of healthism and individualism. This paper explores the ways in which 'postfeminist hustlers' blur the boundaries between professional and social life and, by presenting themselves as experts, enhance their lifestyle through operating successfully within a wider capitalist framework, strive for maximal success, and avoid burnout through postfeminist self-management. The

analysis demonstrates the ways in which the 'postfeminist hustlers' identify where their peer group fail to 'do' intuitive eating correctly and maximise their profitability and social capital by teaching others how to 'get it right' through content creation and paid services. I conclude by reflecting on the wider implications of the commodification of healthism online, and how postfeminism is negotiated and resisted in digital spaces.

Cleanfluencing, Inequality and the Re-glamourisation of Housework

Emma Casey

(University of York)

Popular depictions of housework as 'sparking joy'; as the preserve of 'happy housewives'; as key to happy families; as an expression of 'care'; and as 'women's work', have a long, stubborn history. Today, digital media is flooded with images of gleaming, immaculately tidy homes with accounts dedicated to reproducing images of women cleaning, tidying and ordering domestic spaces omnipresent across social media. The influencer boon, alongside a renewed post-pandemic focus on keeping homes clean, germ-free and 'safe', has culminated in the burgeoning popularity of 'cleanfluencing'; an online reconfiguration of the white woman housewife, responsible for curating digital images of perfect homes with overwhelmingly women followers.

Yet housework remains one of the most unequal institutions globally. Women, especially poorer women, and women of colour continue to do most of the low-paid and unpaid domestic labour. In this paper, I ask why these inequalities matter and why they persist. In doing so, I offer a call to challenge the prevailing myths around housework and the 'naturally competent' woman homemaker. The paper explores what happens when the false promise of 'domestic bliss' and neoliberal striving towards self-realisation via housework, is combined with the meteoric and unbridled success of social media. It examines the onslaught of heavily commercialised social media content, saturated with images of women as competent, content and happy homemakers, and considers how housework, with the promise of a life of love and contentment to those who commit to it, has become central to the recent digital self-care and positive thinking movement.

A Crisis without 'Cause': Socialising Struggle and Potential Transformations – Mediations of the Cost-of-Living Crisis in UK Institutional Media

Isaac Hoff, Catherine Happer

(University of Glasgow)

In this paper, we draw on Raymond Williams' (1976) notion of Keywords to explore how the cost-ofliving crisis (COLC) operates as a 'keyphrase' within the UK's institutional media reproducing key tropes of what Neil Davidson (2017) calls 'crisis neoliberalism' whilst also offering up space for alternative explanations and solutions to the COLC in ways distinctive to more recent periods of crisis in the UK. This distinctiveness is rooted in its contextualisation in a period of intensifying interlocking crises which are commonly experienced, a divided political class, and a sped up, conflicted digital media landscape. We draw on illustrative examples from across the UK media – including the ideological construction and naming of crises, Martin Lewis as the leading COLC celebrity, discourses around 'fiscal responsibility' and the promotion of a socialisation of struggle - to show how mediations of the COLC relate to the current political moment, and its priorities. Finally, we argue that because the COLC draws in those newly struggling who are used to having a public voice, the COLC opens up a potentiality in respect of challenge to the hegemonic project of neoliberalism (Gilbert and Williams, 2022), rather than producing a rerun of the 2007-08 post-crash landscape in which a coherent financialised media class consolidated to close down all possible alternatives.

Environment & Society - Room 3.209

Lifting the Smoke Screen: Energy Consumption, Environmental Sensemaking and Domestic Heating Practices

Dana Kaplan, Miri Lavi-Neeman, Victor Chervov

(Open University of Israel)

In the context of climate change, studies on consumption and energy procurement reveal how unequal access to energy affects climate resilience. Research shows that marginalized communities often rely on polluting energy sources, while middle-class populations enjoy more choices. Despite its significant public health risks, wood-smoke pollution remains a common form of domestic heating globally. In Israel/Palestine, lower and middle-class households depend on wood-burning for heating due to limited resources and uneven energy distribution.

This paper conceptualizes energy consumption as a contested social terrain shaped by political and economic pressures, national environmental imaginaries, and interpretations of climate solidarity. Focusing on middle-class sub/rural residents, we examine how users operate wood-burning stoves, revealing the gendered, familial, and class aspects of this practice. We investigate how users rationalize this unsustainable and polluting behavior.

Based on interviews with residents, we suggest that the use of specialty wood and well-crafted fireplaces in aesthetically designed homes reflects not only environmental consumer rights but also middle-class domesticity and gender norms. Our findings indicate that some users, despite their environmental commitments, downplay emissions from their stoves. This occurs due to the elusive nature of smoke, their privileged class position, and their pro-environmental knowledge, leading to justifications that overlook broader concerns.

Ultimately, this paper highlights the contradictions between environmental values and behaviors, exposing challenges to collective sustainability efforts. Specifically, the unintended consequences of middle-class waste, manifested in smoke and pollution, can create mistrust and division within communities.

Legitimation of Africa-Centred Approach to Just Energy Transitions

Tiina Kontinen, Felix Dade

(University of Jyväskylä)

The paper contributes to global sociological institutionalism that investigates how worldwide policy models and discourses circulate, are translated and domesticated in local contexts. Institutionalism argues that such policy models seem to be assumed as universal and applicable everywhere. It also suggests that, to gain legitimacy in global community, nation states adhere to these models, notwithstanding contextual differences. Less attention is paid to the ways in which global policy models are contested and resisted, amid global epistemic and material power asymmetries. Against this backdrop, we scrutinize the widespread model of energy transition, so far discussed predominantly in global North portraying Africa - in the worst scenario - as a source of battery minerals required to accelerate energy transition elsewhere. Therefore, when African societies design energy transition policies, they are faced not only with homegrown challenges but also global inequalities effecting how their roles, problems, and solutions are shaped. In various international fora such as COP27, an Africacentred approach to just energy transition has been advocated. Based on the analysis of the policy documents produced, we examine how this perspective is legitimated, and through which strategies it contests and resists the current Eurocentric views on energy transition. The findings provide both an empirical and a theoretical contribution by sharpening our understanding of the construction of 'African view' in the context of global power asymmetries, and by theorizing contestations of the global policy models parallel with their domestication. The paper contributes to overall discussion on societal transformations characterized by global justice.

Opportunities and Challenges for City-to-City Learning for Accelerated City-Level Decarbonisation

Harry Barton

(University of Manchester)

Climate Change is an increasingly pervasive aspect of society, and the actions of cities will be pivotal on our path to curbing the climate crisis and creating a liveable low-carbon future. Decarbonisation experiments and interventions are continually being designed and implemented to help realise cityscale decarbonisation across the globe. Of course, an inherent level of risk is associated with these projects and innovations, some will succeed and some will fail, but who is capturing this learning? How can this knowledge be exchanged to speed up city-level decarbonisation actions? What is the optimal way to convey these successes and failures for replication or avoidance? This research uses semistructured interviews to ask questions about the implementation of three different decarbonisation projects at three societal levels. This results in a comparison between each level revealing the similarities and differences and the opportunity for learning for accelerated decarbonisation. Here an international lens is used to investigate bus electrification in cities around the world, a national lens to look at social housing retrofit schemes in England, and a local lens to look at the switch to LED street lighting and smart technology for safer low-carbon city lighting across Greater Manchester. These interviews are analysed using Template Analysis to draw out key themes across the dataset, then compare themes between the different levels of organisation. This research concludes by highlighting the opportunities and challenges for city-to-city learning to enhance and accelerate city-level decarbonisation, and also between the three levels: International, National, and Local level projects.

Have I a Future? Young People, Education and Climate Change

Harriet Bradley

(Retired, formerly of the Universities of Bristol and West of England)

The year 2024 has seen an intensity of climate change: devastating floods, raging fires and crop failures. Scientists continue to warn we are at tipping points. However, most populations and governments appear happy to carry on 'business as usual', embracing continued fossil fuel extraction and deforestation. This presentation reports on a pilot study for a larger project on the role of education in confronting climate change. Three focus groups were carried out with students from a UK university. Both home and overseas students participated. The students' attitudes to and knowledge about climate change were explored, and questions asked about whether issues about climate and environment were discussed in the three stages of their education, primary, secondary and tertiary. These young people showed awareness of the climate emergency, but many lacked confidence as to how to respond to it. However, all emphasised the importance of its inclusion in all levels of education.

Families & Relationships 1 - Room 4.213

A Dyadic Perspective on Flexible Working Arrangements and Domestic Labour Division: The Role of Occupation and Relative Resources among UK Dual-Earner Couples

Shiyu Yuan, Seohyun Jung

(University of Kent)

This study examines the relationship between flexible working arrangements (FWAs) and the division of housework and childcare among dual-earner couples in the UK. The extent of research on the gendered division of labour has found that the outcomes of FWAs vary not only by which partner uses them but also by the types of FWAs used. We expand the debates by looking at how occupational status and relative income moderate this dynamic at the couple level. Using a weighted fixed-effect model with Understanding Society's (2010-2020) data, we differentiate between types of FWAs for parents and childless couples. Our findings support previous findings that while FWAs can enhance work-life balance, they may also reinforce traditional gender roles, particularly when mothers utilize these arrangements alone. Significant changes in childcare division towards more traditional roles occur

only when both parents use flextime, with occupational status playing a crucial role. While previous research suggests that flextime benefits low-status women more, this may not be true if we consider both partners' FWAs and occupational status at the same time. Our results indicate that both partners' flextime uses may lead to a more traditional division of childcare, especially when they are in lower occupations. Relative income and parental status further nuance these dynamics. This research highlights how FWAs may perpetuate traditional domestic labour divisions under current traditional gender norms. It also underscores the importance of policies that consider occupational context and relative resources within couples to promote equitable sharing of responsibilities in modern families.

Parental Leave Practices and Their Gendering Effects

Katherine Twamley

(University College London)

In this paper, I discuss how the kind of parental leave taken by first-time parents shapes their understandings and practices of motherhood and fatherhood. I draw on qualitative longitudinal diary and interview data from 21 mixed-sex couples in England, collected during their parental leave. Half of the sample were sharing leave and the other half were not. In the analysis, I draw on the sociology of everyday life to examine both what participants did and the meanings they attributed to these practices. The accounts demonstrate how women on maternity leave alone become primary carer, through a process of learned expertise and moralised pressures around mothering. Their partners' lives did not radically change and they did not develop similar care expertise. For sharing couples, normative practices could be counteracted by fathers' extended leave alone, but couples taking leave at the same time tended to reinforce gendered normative parenting. I detail why these differences occur, showing how fathers on leave alone were able to foster a sense of themselves as primary carers, even if just for a short time. The study fills a lacuna in research on parental leave practices and the ways in which they contribute to gendered parenting outcomes.

The Green 'Third Shift' at Home: Gendered Labour of Eco-Conscious Parenting in Contemporary Iceland

Utsa Mukherjee, Auður Magndís Auðardóttir

(Brunel University of London, University of Iceland)

This paper focuses on households that actively seek to minimise their environmental footprint and lead eco-conscious lifestyles, which are made possible inter alia by invisible mental labour we call the 'green third shift'. The green third shift in eco-conscious households encompasses researching for and sourcing environmentally friendly alternatives, coordinating household waste-management, planning everyday consumption practices through an eco-conscious prism and educating children about the environment. Drawing on a qualitative study with parents across 20 families living in the Reykjavík capital region of Iceland, we demonstrate the gendered inequalities of the 'green third shift' in a country described as "the most gender-equal country in the world", holding the first rank in global gender gap reports for 14 consecutive years (World Economic Forum, 2023, np). Our data demonstrates that in eco-conscious families led by different-sex parents, mothers disproportionately undertake the 'green third shift'. The mothers in our study reconcile these gender inequities within their household with their own commitment to gender parity and Iceland's image of being a gender-equal society by framing the green third shift as 'non-work', by invoking the role of their 'supportive' male partner, or by seeing it as proportionate to their and their partner's working hours and employment status. Our findings therefore draw attention to the behind-the-scenes gendered labour of eco-conscious living, which has hitherto received little scholarly attention, and challenge narrow conceptions of work and gender-parity that portray Iceland as a feminist utopia. We conclude by reflecting on the policy implications of our findings.

The Division of Labour and Couple Pay Gap across the Phases of Parenthood: A Couple-level Longitudinal Study in the UK

Wei Zhuang, Mark Elliot, Colette Fagan, Kathrin Morosow

(University of Manchester)

Previous empirical studies have shown that transitioning to parenthood leads to more gendered divisions of labour among heterosexual couples, with the pay gap between spouses also widening. However, does such a gendered division of labour and pay disparity intensify or diminish throughout parenthood? What are the underlying mechanisms in the relationship over time between parenthood, the couple's division of labour, and their pay gap? This longitudinal study examines these questions, focusing on dual-earner couples. Using data from 13 waves (1995-2021) of the British Household Panel Survey and UK Household Longitudinal Study (N = 8,097 couples), we track changes in partners' work hours and spousal pay gap across four parenthood phases: no children, new parents, established parents without additional children, and established parents with additional children. Fixed-effect models and bootstrapped mediation analyses are employed. Findings show that women experience reduced paid work hours and increased housework across all parenthood phases, leading to a more polarized labour division, especially with additional children. This polarization lessens only when couples have no additional children but resurges with subsequent births. A persistent "motherhood penalty" and "fatherhood premium" pattern emerges within couples' pay gap. Crucially, the division of paid and unpaid labour significantly mediates the impact of parenthood phases on the spousal pay gap. Increased unpaid work hours for women exacerbate the pay gap, while increased paid work hours help mitigate it. This study contributes to the discourse on gender, labour, and economic inequality, emphasising the complex interplay between parenthood, societal norms, and financial outcomes.

Families & Relationships 2 - Room 4.214

Relational Dynamite: DNA Testing Kinship Encounters in Donor Conception Communities

Petra Nordqvist, Leah Gilman, Caroline Redhead, Marie Fox, Nicky Hudson, Fiona Maccallum, Lucy Frith

(University of Manchester)

This paper explores how the emergence of new technologies in the form of Direct-To-Consumer Genetic Testing and Information and Communication Technologies, transforms family lives touched by donor conception. In particular, it looks at how families touched by donation respond to contact after a genetic match has been established. Drawing on original data from the ConnecteDNA study (PI Frith), exploring the impact of new and emerging technologies on gamete donation communities, we analyse a fascinating theme emerging within the data set, namely that responses to a DNA match varies dramatically, and do so along a continuum from embrace>reject. It might be assumed that a social pattern is missing here, however, we argue that, seen from the point of view of kinship, something rather complex, but explicable, is going on. Offering an analysis that bring together and develops a multilayered perspective on kinship, accounting for its ontological, affective, relational and temporal properties, we explain how it is that DNA testing hold immense power in families touched by donor conception.

Unveiling Insemination Fraud: A Call for Regulatory Reform in Assisted Reproductive Technology

Sabrina Zeghiche

(Université du Québec en Outaouais)

Originally developed in the late 19th century, artificial insemination has become the most widely used form of assisted reproductive technology (ART) (Golombok, 2016). In Canada, it is estimated that around 8,000 individuals from various family structures undergo this procedure annually (O'Reilly et al., 2017). Despite the implementation of regulatory measures in many countries, artificial insemination remains the least regulated ART practice, leading to significant issues, including insemination fraud. This fraud occurs when a physician knowingly uses a different sperm sample—either from another

donor, a different patient, or even his own—without the consent or knowledge of the parents. For over 40 years, numerous physicians have engaged in such practices with total impunity, exploiting a legal vacuum in this field. In response, and fueled by advocacy for the rights of donor-conceived individuals and their families, there is a growing demand, particularly in North America, to address the psychological and social ramifications of insemination fraud and to establish preventive and punitive measures. This exploratory qualitative study involved 19 individuals from Canada, the United States, and the Netherlands who discovered they were conceived through insemination fraud. The aim was to examine how insemination fraud is framed as a social problem necessitating regulatory intervention (Spector and Kitsuse, 2017). Preliminary results reveal three interconnected dimensions of claimmaking activities: 1. going public, 2. pressing charges, and 3. advocating for legislative changes. For each of these activities, I will detail its nature, rationale, outcomes, and the challenges encountered throughout the process.

'Going about things in the right way': Reproductive Story Telling in Informal Donor Conception

Leah Gilman, Alexus Davis

(University of Sheffield)

'Informal' donor conception (also known as DIY or home insemination) refers to arrangements whereby sperm donation and donor insemination are arranged outside of medical institutions. In the UK, informal donor conception currently sits outside of the laws and policies which govern fertility treatment and the UK's fertility regulator strongly discourages conceiving with a sperm donor outside of licensed fertility clinics. Despite this delegitimised status, informal donor conception, often facilitated via digital media, may well now be the most common form of sperm donor conception in the UK (Harper et al. 2017).

In this presentation, we share data collected from an ongoing study of informal donor conception in the UK. We focus on the experiences of 30 parents and intended parents who have either conceived or tried to conceive via this reproductive practice and who took part in in-depth interviews. Drawing on Petra Nordqvist's (2021) concept of 'reproductive storytelling', as well as theories of moral self-presentation, we explore how these (intended) parents tell, or imagine telling, their conception stories and analyse both the resources they draw in and the challenges they face in doing so. We explore how parents' accounts often resist or rework the dominant framing of their conception journeys as risky. Frequently this involves centring themes of trust, personal connection and chance in their reproductive storytelling.

How Should We Say? Egg and Sperm Donors Making Sense of Their Connection with People Born from Their Donations

Anaïs Martin, Isabel Côté, Simon Desjardins

(Université du Québec en Outaouais)

Third-party reproduction has reshaped how we perceive family connections. The use of donor gametes has supported the emergence of new family forms and created new roles for those who help others conceive without becoming parents themselves. Donor conception has also evolved, most notably with the gradual dismantling of donor anonymity. While anonymity has been removed in an increasing number of jurisdictions (such as the United Kingdom and Quebec), DNA testing and social media allow donor-conceived people to find their donors even where anonymity is still in place.

Although research is emerging on these situations, especially from the perspective of donor-conceived people, little is still known about the experiences of egg and sperm donors. How do they experience being contacted by someone born from one of their donations? How do donors perceive their connection to them?

This paper presents findings from a qualitative study involving 15 men and 12 women who donated sperm or eggs in the United States, Australia, and Canada between the 1970s and 2010s. Most donated anonymously, yet all have been contacted by donor offspring. Drawing on kinship studies, this presentation explores how donors perceive their connections with donor offspring, focusing on the terms of reference they use. These connections are difficult to define, as they are based on a physical connection through procreation, but are not supported by time or care during childhood, and donor-conceived people already have parents.

Lifecourse - Room 3.212

Transforming Digital Culture through the Challenge of Race and Racism: Young Black and Racially Minoritised People's Experiences on Social Media in the UK

David Woodger, Naomi Thompson

(University of London)

In an independent study funded by Meta, we have researched young black and racially minoritised (BRM) people's experiences of racialised content on social media. The research emphasises the challenges of responding and engaging with race and racism in young people's social media practice and cultures.

There is a lack of UK-specific research about race and social media. International research highlights, the trauma of repeated exposure to racial violence online and the impact of this on mental health (Tynes et al, 2019), the use of social media for activism (Ince et al, 2017), and that graphic video content has become a voyeuristic spectacle rather than a prompt to action (Mowatt, 2018). Research highlights that social media can be a site of both oppression and expression (Miller et al, 2021).

This work examines the transformations young BRM communities are making in establishing their own agency and interventions in engaging with race and racism.

Our research involved interviews and focus groups with over 100 BRM young people around the UK and a survey of over 800 BRM young people. Key findings relate to young people's experiences/observations of: performative activism and voyeurism; polarisation of online debate; overwhelm, disengagement and subversion; hyper-scrutiny of black women; activism on/offline; impact on their offline lives including mental health, feeling (un)safe, and relationships with authority. Young people framed implications for social media platforms, their desire for autonomy through user-controlled content and shared their own actions and behaviour in response to racism they experienced.

Technology-Enabled Identities and Self-Narrative Pursuits: Anticipation in Later Life

Chihling Liu, Ben Kerrane

(Lancaster University)

Given growing social pressures to keep pace with technologies to stay active and connected, sociological scholarship has begun to investigate the factors that can both facilitate and impede how adults learn to use new technologies in later life. Old(er) age has been increasingly framed as a time of new possibilities and experiences, where identity emerges from an ongoing negotiation between continuity and change. However, less is known about how technology use (or non-use) may play out in the negotiation to enable identity construction and the related self-narrative pursuits in later life. To this end, we conducted individual interviews (ranging from 1 to 3 hours) with 15 older individuals (aged 66-82 years) who had varying technological capabilities. We probed how their experiences of technology (non-)use contributed to, or restricted, their quality of life, capturing how they envisaged their future may unfold. Using the concept of anticipation, we identify 5 technology-enabled identities as our informants tacked back and forth between futures, pasts and presents to manifest an anticipated future: (1) the philanthropist, (2) the surrounded, (3) the informed, (4) the hedonist, and (5) the (wo)man of action. These technology-enabled identities give rise to 5 corresponding self-narratives that are inherently socio-relational: (1) leaving a legacy, (2) combatting loneliness, (3) being on the same wavelength, (4) enhancing personal pleasure, and (5) having no choice but to. These findings highlight the sociological role of anticipation in motivating older people's technology adoption for it fulfils identity needs and desires in later life.

Young People's Participation and the Mental Health 'Crisis'

Katherine Smith

(University of York)

This paper takes an exploratory theoretical approach to understanding young people's activism and participation in light of what is recognised to be a context of growing mental health needs among younger generations, and what is sometimes termed as the 'youth mental health crisis'. Currently young people are reported to have the poorest mental health of any age group in the UK, contrasting sharply to two decades ago where young people had the lowest incidence of mental health conditions across the age spectrum (Health Foundation, 2024) and this has likely wide-ranging effects upon multifaceted areas of young people's lives. Also recognising a wider context of multiple 'crises', this paper brings together approaches from social movement theory, youth studies, the sociology of mental health, and more, in order to explore various theoretical links between wellbeing and youth participation in this present context. In doing so, it poses important questions for future research in this under-explored area of study.

Beyond Schooling: Non-formal and Informal Political Participation as Educational Experiences

Shuang Yin Cheryl Ng

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Young people's political participation and knowledge has, in the recent years, been a concern for political elites and elected officials. This concern has led to education policies and further research into ways formal spaces such as schools and national elections could encourage young people's engagement (Uberoi and Johnston, 2022). Thus, leading to formal schooling policies implementing curricula targeted at developing young people's knowledge surrounding formal political processes. However, Wood (2017) argues young people are in constant learning about politics that impact their everyday lives through their life transitions. Wood (2017) states young people are constantly learning through experiences, interactions with one another about the sociopolitical climate surrounding their lives. While there are many contested meanings of "young", "participation", and "political education", this research aims to tie in these conceptualisations to explore beyond formal spaces of political education and participation. In doing so, this research aims to look at how non-formal and informal spaces of political participation are also sites of young people's everyday political engagement and the learning opportunities such experiences bring to the lives of young people. Thus, centrally asking the question, "What do young people learn through their informal and non-formal participation in politics?". To conduct this research, we partner with Youth Focus Northwest, a youth work group in North England aimed at supporting young people in championing sociopolitical issues. In doing so, we explore how the young people craft their own political participation both in and outside of the organisation and what they learn from such interactions.

Medicine, Health & Illness - Room 4.211

"I think you get, not brainwashed ... but I think something changes in you ... God knows why to be honest, some magic hormonal thing": Mothers' Perceptions of the Relationships between Post -Partum Hormonal Shifts Their Parenting Behaviours, Beliefs, and Wellbeing.

Hillary Collins, Daniel Wight, Shona Hilton

(University of Glasgow)

Medical literature details the dynamic levels of various hormones perinatally and makes associations between these endocrine shifts and maternal behaviour and affect (Mileva-Seitz and Flemming, 2011; Thul et al, 2020). Recently, sociological analyses of understandings of hormones (Roberts and McWade, 2020 and Ford et al, 2024), have referenced key STS concepts of Actor Network Theory and Harraway's Cyborg Theory. This paper aligns with these sociological analyses but takes an emic approach with the aim of gathering personal and cultural insights into perceptions of how hormones influence perinatal experiences.

The presentation is based on semi-structured interviews with 23 mothers of young children about their parenting beliefs and practices and how they perceived these impacted on their wellbeing. Transcripts were analysed using thematic (Braun and Clarke, 2006) and framework (Gale et al, 2013) analysis. The mothers were not asked directly about hormones, but the subject was raised by several of them and developed inductively as a theme during analysis.

In the comments of some mothers, hormones are cited as an explanation for deviations from their expected rational thinking or behaviours, for not feeling like 'themselves'. However, if these hormones are not of the self, how should they be understood? One possibility is to view the body as distinct from the self, that hormones act as non-human agents on their interpersonal and intrapersonal relationships. Alternatively, hormones could be seen as chemical remnants of experiences such as pregnancy and childbirth, or even as something belonging more to their child than to themselves.

Why Do We Care? Using Qualitative Data to Re-Imagine Sociological Conceptualisations of Care

Kate Reed, Laura Towers

(University of Manchester)

Sociologists have consistently shown how care is an essential response to vulnerability and a base for the patterns of social solidarity that underscore human societies. Care is, however, a slippery concept which can refer to both feelings (caring about someone) or actions (caring for someone). While feminists, sociologists and social policy scholars have paid significant attention to care over the past 40 years, it has often remained neglected within the work of major contemporary social theorists. This paper seeks to place the concept of care under further scrutiny, drawing on qualitative data from UK based research which explores how individuals manage their own 'life' whilst 'caring' for a relative who is terminally ill. Our analysis shows how people rarely identify with, or use, the concept of care to describe their actions in this context, framing them instead as acts of altruism, love and obligation. We conclude by rethinking care as a form of social love, capturing both its practical manifestations as well as the possibility it provides for experiencing the vulnerability of others. In doing so we seek to transcend dichotomous ways of thinking about care, offering an original contribution to socio-theoretical debates in the process.

Neo Institutional Approach to Understanding Health Governance: Narratives of Menstruating TB Patients in Slums of Mumbai

Shilpika Ghosh

(Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur)

The growth of slums and rapid overcrowding is hazardous for vulnerable groups like adolescent girls who face several challenges, especially in managing their menstrual health. Overcrowding in urban slums also results in the growth of communicable diseases like Tuberculosis (TB). In India, women and girls are highly vulnerable to TB. Though both menstruation and TB are a major public health challenge, what remains common as a challenge is the inaccessibility of policies and the fear and stigma associated with these health challenges. To understand the intersection of both menstruation and TB, this research focuses on the lives of adolescent girls affected with TB in slums of Mumbai, M-East Ward, Govandi using a neo-institutional approach; delving into understanding the interactions between institutions and the target groups involved in health governance in the post-COVID times. The key findings can be divided into three broad themes: 1. Lived experiences of menstruating TB adolescents which include strong TB medications, added burden of gynaecological problems, sanitation, hygiene and infrastructure problems 2. Health-seeking behaviour and factors highlighting the impact of stigma and biases faced by parents and adolescent girls in the healthcare system 3. Gaps and challenges in the implementation of schemes by institutions especially after the pandemic, catering to the healthcare needs of menstruating TB adolescents. These narratives reveal the gaps between actors and institutions that have been accentuated in the post-COVID times to combat TB among adolescent girls in this specific community.

A Queer (Re)Imagining of Menopause: A New Way of Knowing

Rebecca Simmons

(University of Leeds)

This paper will explore how the body maps and interviews of 16 self-identified LGBTQ+ participants presented a consistent criticism of current conceptualisations of menopause. I present these critiques as challenging the lack of imagination and creativity that often characterises dominant discourses around menopause, and which exist alongside a limited catalogue of knowledge oriented around the medical model that assumes that menopause is a disorder caused by an oestrogen deficiency. Participants struggled to relate to the existing theorisations of menopause which work to create restrictive definitions, and which sometimes resulted in the pathologisation of participants whose menopause transgressed these inflexible - and yet all-encompassing - demarcations. Thus, participants found existing knowledge around menopause to be alternately inaccessible, biassed and inapplicable. Instead, participants routinely chose to embrace lay knowledge which honoured communal, experiential and embodied knowledge over that of scientific papers and recommendations. The role of the "expert" was often interrogated and then superseded by peer-to-peer knowledge, and experiences shared within queer and feminist communities. This lay knowledge therefore exists in such a way that it resists normative and hegemonic discourses around what menopause is and is not, and what "treatments" are appropriate and implicitly compulsory. Instead, lay-knowledge provokes a (re)imagining of who "knows" menopause, and who has the power to say what it is, how it is experienced, and how, or if, it should be treated. This paper will therefore consider both what kinds of discourses were encountered and resisted by participants, and the counter-discourses they sought out and created themselves.

Methodological Innovations - Room 3.213

Passing Roots to Branches: Unravelling the Role of Intergenerational Knowledge Transfer in mediating South Asian Migrant-Background families' Connections with/to the Natural Environment

Nobila Bano

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Dynamic approaches to environmental knowledge that represent a variety of identities and experiences are needed to counteract white-and adult-centric positions as "knowledge holders" (Rishbeth & Birch, 2021). To date, little attention has been paid to migrant-background people's cross-cultural environmental knowledge, and what exists rarely reflects their age and generational diversity (Rishbeth & Birch, 2020). Understanding environmental knowledge through a generational lens is vital due to the intricate relationship derived between geographic and cultural framings of nature, place, and environmental knowledge (Kazikhanovna, et al., 2021). Different generations and nationalities may interpret the local environment and negotiate environmental knowledge differently depending to their country of residence (Walker 2021). Kinship and social links moderate the subtleties between knowledge, perceptions, attitudes, and experiences (Kawashima, 2021); mundane outdoor settings are crucial for examining the development and transmission of environmental understanding between generations. This PhD research intends to analyse how South Asian groups' perspectives of the natural environment are impacted by generational experiences and are shared (or not) through dialogue and outdoor interactions. Using participatory methods, working with South Asian families located in Northwest England, this research intends to promote interdisciplinary learning and collaborative knowledge. Participatory methods such as walking interviews, community outdoor activities, and biographical narratives are explored to enable broader insights into intergenerational social research and human culture's link to nature. Although preliminary, the findings of this study seek to demonstrate the value of the natural environment to these communities, and their contributions towards sustainable well-being and collaborative knowledge.

Methodological New Directions in Researching Women's Poverty through Personal Narratives

Suzanne Butler

(Newcastle University)

Poverty research is typically conducted indirectly. The word 'poverty' is rarely used for fear of alienation, and subjects are usually sourced from low-income neighbourhoods or targeted community groups to reach those that are 'probably in poverty'. This is validated though income or work history, but participants are rarely asked themselves if they identify with the term. Where women's poverty has been explored it is to understand the factors and consequences of their current poverty; the labour market, the family and the state, and rarely is this research conducted by women with experience themselves.

This research departs from this landscape on a number of fronts; as a woman with a history of poverty I have an intimate understanding of it, and add my voice to a very small group of women authors who declare themselves as poverty experienced. I have also approached women's poverty directly by using the term with potential participants and asking if this is meaningful to them. This did not prove to be the barrier it is often understood to be. I have also taken a life course approach and my participants did not necessarily need to be currently experiencing poverty, nor focus upon it when recounting their personal narratives. Instead they were asked to share their life stories in the way that was most meaningful to them.

In this paper I will share the opportunities and challenges of this approach, and the ways that this can add to our knowledge of women's poverty through their own narratives.

(Body) Mapping the Layered Body: A Plan for Exploring the Self in between Experiences of Everyday Violence against Women and Physical Activity

Nicoleta Ciubotariu

(University of the West of Scotland)

Body mapping can be both a research method and a therapeutic tool. By tracing one's outline on paper and decorating the outlined body with colours, textures, symbols, and images, participants can map their bodily knowledge and express the meaning behind their embodied experiences. It gives participants an opportunity to communicate bodily feelings and it could be a way to capture the interplay of body, mind, and social context. As a method, it is participant-driven, which can address power imbalances between researchers and participants.

This presentation will reflect on the ethical considerations and adaptions for using body mapping to explore women's experiences of everyday violence against women (VAW) and participation in physical activity. These adaptations have to do with the duration (one focus group) of the workshop, size (A4), and canvas (three acrylic sheets rather than one sheet of paper), and reflect considerations to minimising re-traumatisation and empowering participants in the research process. I suggest that a layered approach particularly enables an investigation of the complex interplay of selves, impacts of VAW, and any effects of PA, and what is allowed to be seen and what is kept private. Thus, this model offers a novel way to seek information from the body about the body and to explore meaning, identity, feelings, norms, and connections.

Walking with Afghan Women: Using Mobile Methods to Understand Embedding in Different Places across England

Louise Ryan, Maria Lopez, Mursal Rasa

(London Metropolitan University)

Over the last 20 years or so, mobile methods, especially walking interviews (Anderson, 2004), have become firmly established in the social science toolbox (O'Neill, 2024).

For migration scholars, in particular, walking interviews enable insights into migrants' everyday experiences and encounters 'within new social landscapes and power configurations' (Sun & Zhu, 2024). Thus, through this mobile method, dynamic and multi-layered processes of spatial and temporal embedding can be explored in rich detail (Ryan et al, 2021). Nonetheless, walking interviews also pose

practical challenges (Lorinc et al, 2022), especially in relation to weather, background noise, privacy issues, language interpretation and place-based logistics.

In this paper we draw upon data from our current, Nuffield Foundation-funded, research project on the Afghan Resettlement Scheme across varied sites in England. Focusing on Afghan women, we explore the challenges but also the opportunities of undertaking walking interviews in different geographical locations. Hence the paper has two key aims. Firstly, we aim to contribute towards advancing the methodology of mobile methods within migration research. Secondly, we aim to enhance understanding of how recently resettled women are navigating embedding in particular places – including large, multi-ethnic cities and smaller, less diverse towns in England. As we walk around their neighbourhoods, the women narrate their everyday experiences within these places. We discuss the extent to which they feel welcome and supported in their new locations or if they face hostility. In so doing, we focus attention on relationality, socio-cultural structures and power dynamics within these locations.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 -Lecture Theatre A

Beyond Reductionism: The Rehumanising and Dehumanising of Racialised Migrants in Al-Generated Images

Anita Howarth

(Brunel University)

Research on the social significance of Al-generated content has focused on its predictive or analytical capabilities with limited attention to creative outputs apart from large language models. However, attention is turning towards AI images with the popularisation of the form and the paper seeks to build on this. The starting point is a challenge to two commonly held premises about Al-generated content i.e., that the images are technologically rather than humanly generated and are deceptive. The problem is that if images are not human outputs, then there can be no accountability for depictions that demonise vulnerable groups or credit for those that challenge such representations. However, if the starting premise is of AI as a tool, then how humans use it to create what kind of content and to what end becomes key sociological issues. Whether the outputs deceive is not intrinsic to the form but arises from how they are presented. Such a starting point supports a comparative case study of how racialised migrants are rehumanised in AI visualisations of their experiences in Australia's offshore detention centres and dehumanised Britain First's visualisation of a dystopian future if "mass migration" is not reversed. The empirical contribution of the paper to sociology lies in its focus; the novelty of the theoretical approach for sociology is a synthesis of Charles Taylor's philosophical account of Social Imaginaries with Hannah Arendt's reconceptualization of human dignity not so much in terms of status and stature but in how people stand in relationship to each other.

Half Alien, Half Citizen: Exploring Voting Rights for Permanent Residents

Monica Mi Hee Hwang

(University of Saskatchewan)

There has been increasing public interest in non-citizenship voting rights in major cities across the world. With about half of the global population in 2024 living in countries with elections, there are significant populations of immigrants who reside and live as permanent residents globally, who lack voting rights in almost all western democracies. In the nadian context, whilst the right to vote has been granted to historically disenfranchised populations in Canada, such as Indigenous Peoples, women, and inmates, as it stands, Canadian immigrants and refugees do not have the right to vote at any level of government in Canada. It is important to understand how permanent residents, themselves, feel about the issue of voting and to reevaluate the bases for democratic participation. This presentation will share results from focus group discussions with permanent residents and individual interviews with community leaders in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan Canada. The study focuses on understanding the topic of non-citizenship voting rights directly from the diverse community of permanent residents who

share their experiences of settlement in the city, and the ways in which their political exclusion affects their sense of belonging, interest in politics, and sense of agency.

Contrapuntal Storytelling: Rethinking Plaques and Places in Postcolonial London

Seetha Tan

(University of Cambridge)

In the wake of Black Lives Matter, English Heritage's blue plaques have been criticised by community activists for failing to adequately represent Black, Asian, and minority ethnic contributions to London. These criticisms reflect wider debates surrounding the politics of representation that shape which narratives are public and visible in the city. This paper draws on ethnographic fieldwork on cultural activism in London, focusing on three postcolonial heritage groups: Black History Walks, A Little History of the Sikhs, and Transatlantic Trafficked Enslaved African Corrective Historical plaques (TTEACH). These organisations use various narrative strategies to disrupt authoritative readings of the city that often exclude postcolonial histories and subjectivities. These strategies include walking tours and corrective plaques which, this paper will argue, foreground forgotten histories of migration, slavery, and racialisation, transforming and re-'reading' familiar locations in central London. Drawing on Edward Said's concept of the 'contrapuntal', this paper argues that narrative strategies of informal cultural heritage groups produce a 'contrapuntal reading' of the city. In extending Said's literary approach to these acts of storytelling, this paper argues that walking tours and corrective plagues work to reveal the polyphonic, dissonant, 'intertwined and overlapping '(Said, 1993) tensions of empire that are invisibilised in the city. In doing so, I argue that these narrative strategies destabilise notions of authority in public memory-making, producing alternate social narratives that transform heritage practices in the UK. This paper will contribute and extend literature in postcolonial studies on evolving repertoires of cultural activism by examining these strategies of contrapuntal storytelling.

Leisure in the Shadow of a Floating Prison: Border(ing) Islands, Vanishing Points, and Vernaculars of Solidarity in Portland, Dorset

Nicola De Martini Ugolotti

(Bournemouth University)

This paper discusses how men seeking asylum, and local grassroot groups in Portland, Dorset, mobilise leisure spaces and domains in the attempt to negotiate the slow-and-fast violence of bordering spaces and processes in contemporary Britain, paradigmatically materialised by the "Bibby Stockholm" barge docked (until January 2025) in Portland Port. Building on the co-creation of mundane leisure activities (e.g. running, fishing/walking, music, boxing) by men seeking asylum and local grassroots groups in the Portland area, the paper articulates and juxtaposes the use of islands-within-islands as "vanishing points" (Gregory, 2007) for people seeking asylum —and for the right-to-asylum itself— with mundane geographies and vernaculars of solidarity. From this perspective, the paper asks what is and can(not) be re-claimed through leisure spaces and domains in the shadow of a floating prison on England's South-West coast? Based on ongoing ethnographic research in Portland, the paper discusses three domains of contention connected to the "political production of sociality" (Rozakou, 2016, 187) enacted by local groups and men seeking asylum as relating to and juxtaposing: 1) vanishing points and strategic (in)visibilities, 2) affective politics of bordering and solidarity, 3) geographies of enforcement and encounter. By exploring the connections between these three domains of contention, the paper addresses what can be "learnt" from practices and negotiations emerging from apparently marginal and isolated sites, such as Portland Island, that are nevertheless reflective of and connected to national and international "enforcement archipelagos" (Mountz, 2020).

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 1.218

Black European Mobilities: Racialisation and Culture of Migration in Context

Michela Franceschelli

(University College London)

Based on research with black Italian migrants in London, this article aims to contribute to contemporary debates about unequal European mobilities by foregrounding questions of race and coloniality, while focusing on the Southern European context, Italy in particular.

In Italy, anti-racism movements are acquiring prominent positions in public debates informed by the work of black Italian activists and new scholarly developments embedded in de-colonial perspectives. Even if these changes have put into question cultural and historical representations of normative Italian identity and citizenship, they have not yet dismantled the enduring racialization of Italians as white 'good people' ('brava gente'). This culturally revisionist narrative about the Italians' race and character originated during the fascist era and solidified during the post-war time.

The analysis suggests that participants' discursive practices were affected by wider discourses about racialization and racism in Italy placed between two poles: the culturally embedded mythology of Italian 'brava gente', and the contemporary anti-racism struggle challenging Italian normative whiteness. These discourses construct and construct the wider 'Italian culture of migration' – namely the longstanding narratives and imaginaries that - rooted in socio-economic conditions - prompt migration decisions.

Displacement and Dual Existence in Shaping Belonging and Identity

Feride Kumbasar, Mayra Ruiz Castro

(University of Roehampton)

This paper explores the complexities of migration, belonging, and identity through the narratives of migrant women, addressing a critical gap in the literature that has historically emphasized macro-level factors - such as labour markets, economic disparities, and geopolitical influences - over the nuanced experiences of migrants. This focus has overlooked the role of gender in the social, cultural, and political dimensions of migration, often obscuring migrant women's economic contributions and struggles.

Addressing this gap, the study adopts a gender-centred, transnational perspective to examine how migrant women navigate multiple forms of displacement and oppression, focusing on the intertwined impacts of local and global forces, including war, colonial projects, and gentrification.

Based on qualitative data collected through oral history, go-along interviews and focus groups with 21 Turkish and Kurdish migrant women in Hackney, London, our analysis highlights the gendered and racialized dynamics that shape migrant women's ability to build lives in a new country. Through their life stories, we reveal how migrant women maintain dual identities to meet institutional expectations while preserving personal autonomy, adopting creative and precarious strategies to legitimize their presence in host countries.

The paper contributes to scholarship in cultural studies, feminist theory, and migration studies by providing insights into the relationship between migration processes, belonging, and identity formation. It unveils the power hierarchies affecting marginalized communities and how migrants' dual existence enables and hinders their sense of belonging. This research aligns with the BSA conference theme, offering insights into the lived experiences of migrant women amid social upheaval.

Enacting Citizenship through Radical (Self-)Care: How Migrant Campaigners in London Assert their Rightful Presence

Franca Roeschert

(University of Greenwich)

When migrants are denied legal citizenship, scholarship sees participation in political life as an alternative way to claim citizenship. This paper argues that migrant campaigners' practices of radical self-care could be interpreted as a form of claiming citizenship as self-care asserts their rightful presence.

Based on 14 in-depth interviews with migrant campaigners in London and participant observation in the two migrants' rights groups they organise with, this paper looks at how campaigners with experience of precarious immigration status assert their political subjectivity within and beyond professional campaigns.

For some participants of this study, professional organising offers a space to use their own story to address structural issues whilst simultaneously drawing on professional organisers' knowledge of the 'system'. In line with existing scholarship, this shows that professional organising spaces can offer an opportunity for migrant campaigners to claim citizenship.

However, this study also demonstrates that particularly for those continuing to experience precarious immigration status, self-care as a politics of survival is a more accessible form of political participation. In a context where their presence is put into question through denial of legal status and their existence is being precaritised through exclusion from state support, I interpret migrants' self-care practices as an act of claiming citizenship. This citizenship act, however, tends to go unrecognised in professionalised campaigning spaces. In order to involve migrant campaigners more equitably in professionalised campaigning spaces, self-care should be recognised as a citizenship claim.

Tiered, Placed and Gendered? The Impact of Nationality on Academic Careers in the UK HE

Zana Vathi, Daniel Sage, Alexander Hay

(Edge Hill University)

This paper takes an intersectional approach to provide a sector-wide analysis on the extent to which and ways how nationality consists of a category of difference in the UK HE. The study of foreign-born academics in the UK HE is limited, despite the substantial proportion and continuous increase of their numbers in the sector. At the same time, diversity work in UK HEIs remains insufficient and has not responded to the fast internationalisation of the sector. A key focus will be the intersection of nationality and race/ethnicity, in order to provide a more continuous analysis of diversity and its pertinence to the UK HE. This intersection will be scrutinized with reference to the type of HEIs, the geographical location in the UK, as well as gender, to inform a nuanced understanding of where, when and for whom nationality at birth matters in terms of career outcomes. Drawing primarily on HESA data and a number of key stakeholder interviews, the paper aims to contribute to theoretical developments on diversity and inclusion, as well as inform policy making, at a time that the HE sector and the UK immigration system are undergoing profound changes.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 3 - Room 1.219

Hard Northern Men and Sissy Southerners: Stigma Power and Self in the Oral Histories of Older White Working-Class Northern Men

Saskia Papadakis

(Royal Holloway, University of London)

The North-South divide has come to frame multiple English political crises in recent years, with the North understood as having been 'left behind' by London's 'metropolitan elite'. This paper considers the power of place-based stigma, and the relationship between self-formation and entangled narratives of

racialisation, place, class and gender. The archetypal 'left behind' figure is the older white working-class Northern man, wounded by deindustrialisation and multiculturalism. His 'hard' masculinity is celebrated for its supposed authenticity and strength, whilst also being associated with stasis, violence, and a contaminated whiteness. The archetypal Southerner is imagined to be intellectual and refined; also effeminate, and potentially homosexual. I draw on oral history and walking interviews with John and Tony, two white working-class Northern men in their 50s and 60s, who migrated to London in the 1980s. Through Imogen Tyler's theorisation of 'stigma power', I analyse the hegemonic North-South discourses that shape Tony and John's stories. The stigmatisation of an animalistic working-class masculinity associated with the North, and of the effeminacy and homosexuality ascribed to the South, pierced Tony and John's self-worth, resulting in the vulnerable masculinities that ran through both of their stories. In their attempts to negate the stigma power of the North-South divide, Tony and John reinscribed the abjection of the imagined white working-class Northern man. Their stories show us the potential of oral history methods for understanding the interplay between racialisation, class and gender in the formation of place and subjectivity.

Meritocracy across European Racisms: Why Black and Muslim Italians Move to (and Sometimes Leave) the UK

Simone Varriale, Michela Franceschelli

(Loughborough University)

This paper contributes to debates about meritocracy and inequality by focusing on how intersections of race, class and migration shape the adoption of meritocratic ideology and its transformation through biographies of social mobility. Drawing on 50 interviews with Black, Muslim and minority ethnic Italians living in post-Brexit Britain, the article shows that meritocracy is rarely invoked as a coherent ideology, but works as a practical common sense about the world order, with Britain and the Anglo-American North peaking a hierarchy of liberal societies. The article explores three dimensions of this practical knowledge. First, 'meritocratic Britain' is not simply a neoliberal narrative, but draws from postcolonial, intergenerational histories of family migration that include social-democratic understandings of security and equality. Second, learning about 'British' racism does not necessarily challenge beliefs in British meritocracy, as the experience of being racialised as 'foreigners' in Italy leaves deeper scars to participants' sense of recognition. Third, British meritocracy can lose emotional resonance when participants feel desires for social and cultural connectedness that exceed meritocratic recognition, namely, recognition through occupational and educational mobility. Overall, the article highlights the limitations of 'false consciousness' theories of meritocracy by unpacking how racialised minorities' double consciousness (Du Bois) shapes their search for recognition, and how meritocratic common sense transforms across individual biographies, especially when it clashes with other sources of recognition.

Between Promises and Leadership: The Wasted Talent of Refugee Children in Undersupported Schools

Liliana Belkin

(University of Roehampton)

This research examines the leadership approaches of headteachers in welcoming Afghan refugees/evacuees who arrived in the UK in August 2021 following political upheaval in Afghanistan. This qualitative study utilised semi-structured interviews with headteachers in primary and secondary schools in London to explore the effects of government support—or the lack thereof—on the leadership approaches enacted to educate refugee children. Informed by social justice leadership theory (SJL) and research that underscores the importance of SJL for refugee education, we investigate how leaders address the educational needs of refugees with diverse educational backgrounds, particularly when schools are on their own to figure it out. Through a SJL lens, the study explores ways headteachers apply characteristics and approaches of SJ leaders. The findings reveal that social justice-oriented headteachers—although not exclusively—are better able to respond to the educational needs of refugee children in an intersectional manner. These leadership orientations foster culturally relevant and inclusive environments that embrace the multi-faceted identities of refugee children. In contrast, the absence of such leadership orientations result in inadequate supports, placing the burden of hostile school environments and government shortcomings on refugee children. Consequently, the talent of

these children is wasted as they are caught between institutional failures. The study concludes that a social justice leadership approach/orientation is essential for developing intersectional approaches, challenging deficit-oriented views about refugee students and their communities and supporting the creation of culturally relevant and inclusive practices.

Intersections of Migration and Autism: A Qualitative Sociological Study with Autistic Migrants in the UK

Anya Ovcharenko

(University of Exeter)

With 280 million international migrants worldwide, human mobility is a defining feature of contemporary society, driven by globalisation, climate crises, and conflict. Concurrently, the past decade has seen a notable increase in adult autism diagnoses across the Western world, with the National Health Service in the UK reporting a significant rise in referrals for autism assessments. Despite extensive literature on migration and autism separately, little attention has been given to their intersection, leaving autistic migrants overlooked in sociological research.

This study addresses this gap by examining how the categories of "migrant" and "autistic" are constructed and how they impact the life experiences of autistic migrants across migration and community settings. Rooted in empirical ethics and social sciences, the research draws on decolonial feminist scholars Lugones and Ortega to challenge dominant discourses and singular truths about identity. By embracing multilayered subjectivities, the study aims to uncover ethical, social, and political implications of categorisation, offering practical recommendations for more inclusive support systems in both migration and healthcare contexts, where autistic migrants find themselves at the intersection. This focus is particularly crucial for providing effective community support, as it considers both how others perceive autistic migrants and how they perceive themselves within these constructed categories. Ultimately, the research aims to offer a nuanced understanding of marginalised populations, particularly in the context of globalisation and rising social intolerance, while taking inspiration from philosophies from the Global South.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 2.219

The Impact of Relationships and Domestic Abuse and Violence in Women's Trajectories out of Homelessness

Carolin Hess

(King's College London)

Women's homelessness is rising and there is increasing evidence that domestic abuse and violence is a dominant cause for women's entry into homelessness. For many, the experience of (sexual/domestic) violence and abuse continue to present in their homelessness trajectories. Despite the introduction of some empowerment-based policies in the UK, such as the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, giving those who are homeless because of domestic abuse priority need for accommodation, a clear right of action and resources are missing. This has led to a very different reality of service delivery and practice and the actual lived experience of these women.

The research, based on my doctoral project, draws on 43 in-depth interviews and participant observations with a diverse range of women who have experienced both homelessness and domestic abuse, as well as practitioners within the system. It investigates how women's relationships, experiences of abuse and violence, shape their engagement with homelessness services, practitioners and the housing system in general. It investigates how institutional and everyday violence often perpetuate a cycle of control and surveillance the women are hoping to escape, placing them in precarious situations and sometimes leading to further abuse and exchanges of sexual services for shelter or resources.

This research underscores the gendered nature of homelessness, where women often conceal their homelessness identities and occupy precarious spaces and relationships to manage risk. The

presentation will consider some implication of the findings and how services and safe spaces can become a critical location for addressing the needs of these women.

Animal Abuse as a Strategy of Coercive Control

Mary Wakeham

(Refuge4Pets)

This research is one of the first studies in the UK to explore the coexistence of animal abuse and domestic abuse. This study builds on the growing body of research in this area largely situated in the US, Canada and Australia to provide new knowledge. There were three phases of data collection in this research which included a national online survey, semi-structured interviews with victim-survivors of domestic abuse and interviews with professionals.

The study provides compelling evidence that animal abuse is a strategy of coercive control and an act of animal cruelty. Perpetrators exploit the bond that victim-survivors have with animals to coerce, control and trap them in the abusive relationship. This research highlights the many parallels between the abuse of people and animals in the context of domestic abuse and the implications of the abuse for all victim-survivors, both people and animals.

The oppression of women, children and animals are intertwined in patriarchal systems, and nowhere is this interconnection more apparent than in the co-occurrence of animal abuse and domestic abuse. A humancentric approach dominates definitions and the prevailing public story about domestic abuse across society. This conceptualisation focuses on the human victim-survivor in isolation but undermines the status of the animal and the importance of the animal in the dynamics of abuse. In order to tackle domestic abuse and safeguard victim-survivors we need to extend our construction of domestic abuse to include animals.

In London, South Asian Muslim Women are Constant Victims of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Domestic Violence (DV). From a Sociological Lens, Why is there a Continuum and Severity of IPV and DV?

Sidra Naveed

(Nanyang Technological University Singapore)

There is a complex interplay between cultural norms, religious beliefs, race and gender identity constructs that contribute to intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV) against South Asian Muslim women, where there are a number of intersectional factors that contribute to the violence such as class, identity, race, social status and gender. The persistence of such violence, despite increased global awareness and efforts to combat it, represents deeper societal challenges that deserve serious scrutiny. Identifying and understanding the reasons why IPV and DV against South Asian Muslim women still occur in London is an important aspect of my research and understanding. Despite this, it is critical to note that IPV is the result of gender-based violence that affects women of all ages. Complex, interdependent power relations produce social inequalities against women based on race, class and social status. This encompass poverty, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, religion, and age. Due to the fundamental impact and influence of patriarchy on South Asian women as a whole, they are at increased risk of becoming IPV victims. The occurrence of IPV and DV must be considered. An ideology such as patriarchy together with the intersecting approach of other factors including societal factors such as immigration, poverty, education and familial structures creates the continuum for South Asian Muslim women in London. Therefore due to the lack of research on the importance of this issue, I would like to investigate and discuss why, and what are the actual causes that are silenced in South Asian society.

Extending Our Understanding of Coercive Control: The Significance of Animals in Families Impacted by Domestic Abuse

Mary Wakeham, Amy Hyde

(Links Group)

The link between domestic abuse and animal abuse is uncontested across research, but it is a link that is often missed in practice in the UK (Arkow, 2014; Fitzgerald, 2005; Taylor and Fraser, 2019).

Perpetrators exploit the bond that victim-survivors have with animals to coerce, control and entrap them in the abusive relationship. There are many parallels between how people and animals are abused. Animals experience physical, sexual and emotional abuse, are neglected and murdered. However, a humancentric approach dominates definitions and the public story about domestic abuse. This undermines the status and importance of the animal in the context of the abuse. Domestic abuse is one of the most significant public health concerns that we experience in the UK and globally (Hester, 2013). Each year over 2.1 million adults will experience domestic abuse in England and Wales alone, this will be significantly higher as domestic abuse remains a hidden crime (ONS, 2024). In the UK 138 women will be murdered by a perpetrator each year. Once again, this number is under reported and does not reflect the countless women who will also lose their lives due to the impact trauma has including domestic abuse related suicide.

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on the lives of children and animals too, who will also be victimised and murdered by perpetrators. The oppression of women, children and animals are intertwined in patriarchal systems, and nowhere is this interconnection more apparent than in the co-occurrence of domestic abuse and animal abuse.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies -Room 2.220

In Search of a Sociodigital Futures Methodology for Understanding Predictive Systems

Debbie Watson, Travis Van Isacker, Lisa May Thomas

(University of Bristol)

The paper identifies and proposes new methods of sociodigital futures inquiry that can engage with both the technical understandings of black box systems and the diverse socio-political contexts within which such systems are developed. We report the entangled approaches taken to understand a predictive analytic system used to identify vulnerable children in one English Local Authority. Since November 2023 we have been investigating this system which comprises data linkage with in-built risk modelling. Our research has employed freedom of information (FOI) requests and we reflect on how FOI can be usefully deployed to generate insights into sociodigital futures in the making through applying theoretical principles for FOI of Interactionism, Symmetry, Technologies and Regimes of closure (Van Isacker & Walters, 2024).

We have also been piecing together information and insights through discussions with investigative journalists, and other academics, alongside community and council stakeholders who have brought different perspectives and challenges to bear. We have drawn on assemblage theory (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987) to map these often conflicting perspectives and to consider the intra-actions (Barad, 2007) between societal drivers and contexts and digital solutions. Deleuze and Guattari (1987, 88) describe the assemblage as an arrangement of a form of 'content' (e.g. bodies, actions and objects) and a form of 'expression' (e.g. gestures, words, ideas) and that through the relationality of content and expression, the assemblage has territorializing (i.e. stable/controlled) effects and deterritorialising (i.e. fluid/disruptive) effects- we chart how these effects have materialised in this research and reflect on the interdisciplinary understandings generated.

The Calculative Performance of Climate Alignment as Displacement of the Climate Crisis in Finance

Matthias Taeger, Julius Kob, Katharina Dittrich

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

With "green finance" on the rise, financial institutions are increasingly interested in whether investee companies are in line with aspirations of climate mitigation. To answer this question, finance has developed calculative tools to generate corporate climate futures and compare them to desired future climate scenarios. Based on ethnographic and interview data, this paper investigates the development of such a tool - the Implied Temperature Rise (ITR) tool - which produces temperature scores describing whether a company is aligned with, e.g., a 1.5°C or a 3.2°C future. The development of such an ITR tool proves logistically complex since the calculative practice of generating temperature scores relies on the assembly of heterogenous parts falling into two categories: different company-related data repositories sourced in a market context as well as devices and datasets underpinning climate scenarios developed in academic institutions. This paper argues that in the case of ITR, conflicts on the content level over versions of corporate climate futures are neither dominated nor denied as in many other empirical cases. Instead, they are displaced by contestations at the compositional level of the ITR tool over how to best assemble the various components involved. This displacement and shift in attention from the content of corporate climate futures to the composition of the tool allows for financial norms of credibility and usability of the tool – rather than alternative norms on appropriate actions in the face of climate change - to configure decision-making in the development of ITR tools and thus corporate climate futures.

Digital Censorship as a Tool for Building Rapport

Yi Wang

(University of Bristol)

It has been extensively noted how digital censorship plays an obstructing role in research processes. The challenges of researching in a censored cyberspace include validity, data transparency and more. However, whether and how censorship facilitates social research remains an overlooked area in the literature.

In this paper, I share my experiences in constructing a reciprocal relationship with Chinese online feminists. During my doctoral research, considering the ubiquitous online censorship, I took multiple strategies to improve confidentiality. These efforts gave the participants a higher sense of anonymity and exhibited my research as a reliable project. Moreover, China's rigid online surveillance caused a general distrust of strangers in cyberspace. When recruiting participants, I had to go through different 'assessments' to verify my researcher's status and intention of reaching out. Upon the accomplishment of the assessments, however, the participants' trust and understanding of my research increased, leading to a smooth completion of data collection. Lastly, for feminist activists, censorship is a topic closely tied to their daily activities. The mentioning and addressing of the topic served as an influential prompt to spark their interest in participating and disclosing information in our conversations. By exchanging insights into the censorship mechanism, I resonated with the participants and established myself as a trustworthy researcher.

Based on my experiences, I argue that despite the constraints and ethical dilemmas imposed by censorship apparatuses, they also present opportunities for researchers to build rapport with participants. I underscore the necessity of further discussions of digitally mediated research in repressive regimes.

Exploring Circular Approaches: Reuse/Donation of IT Resources for Social Good within the UK Public Sector

Jeanette D'Arcy, Rebecca Harris, Simeon Yates

(University of Liverpool)

As essential services and opportunities move online, digital inequalities are still a key issue in the UK. Digital inclusion encompasses not just access to devices/data, but also the skills, motivation, and

understanding to use the internet safely and confidently. However, the first step – access to devices/data – can still be a barrier. Digital exclusion is intertwined with socio-economic inequalities, and affordability of devices/data is essential, especially in the current cost-of-living crisis. Parallel concern is also growing, amid the climate crisis, about e-waste (e.g., discarded devices), and environmental costs of linear consumption of devices and connectivity. Device donation/reuse programmes can address the goal of reducing e-waste and tackling digital inequalities, and the public sector can achieve these goals via both policy and leading by example through taking part in such programmes.

This paper presents key findings from a project conducted at University of Liverpool with Good Things Foundation. Based on interviews with UK public sector organisations/stakeholders, this project explored motivations and enablers/barriers to adopting reuse/donation schemes for IT assets, and how these can improve the lives of digitally excluded people. Data was thematically analysed to produce findings and recommendations for policymakers/organisations.

Key findings suggest that motivators include commitment to sustainability targets and giving back to communities, along with awareness of digital exclusion. Concerns regarding data security can be a barrier, but organisational culture around risk management was found to be an enabler. Collaboration within/across organisations is important, as are committed 'champions' motivating others, and support from 'chiefs' in senior positions.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 3.210

The Reproduction of Inequality in Discourses of Higher Education Participation

Kate Howley

(Newcastle University)

Widening participation, the increased participation of underrepresented and disadvantaged students in Higher Education (HE), has long being central to how government seeks to address inequality in the UK. Participation, it is claimed, enables social mobility across entrenched class hierarchies on the virtue of merit. Even as inequality in the UK increases, government policy demonstrates this continued commitment; with the purported twin goals of social justice and national economic prosperity at the forefront of drives to not just increase participate becomes infused with a neoliberal rationality, it is more important than ever to critically interrogate this unquestioned assumption that inequality can or should be addressed through HE participation.

I present ongoing research into how discourses of participation in HE policy play a constitutive role in the inequalities they seek to address in their centring of individualising and thus responsibilising rhetoric, cementing rather than alleviating class hierarchies. I draw on Foucauldian influenced notions of neoliberal governmentality to interrogate how HE policy constructs classed subjectivities that direct and guide subjects in accordance with the economic rationality of neoliberalism. My discursive analysis of HE policy examines how discourses of participation and non-participation draw on stigmatising assumptions underpinning poverty and social class to construct an idealised neoliberal middle-class subject against a constitutive 'failing' subject who is cast as unable or unwilling to invest in themselves and become the flexible worker that meets the needs of an increasingly precarious market.

Parental Strategies and Educational Inequalities During Severe Economic, Political and Refugee Crises in Conflict-Affected Lebanon

Tamara Al Khalili

(University of Exeter)

This study explores how parents in Lebanon select schools and how their choices contribute to educational inequality, especially during the ongoing severe economic, political, and refugee crises.

Using an exploratory methodology within a qualitative research design, the study included 30 semistructured interviews with parents of school-aged children, chosen through purposive convenience and snowball sampling technique. Thematic analysis reveals a widespread parental preference for private, fee-paying schools instead of public schools that are free at the point of entry. However, the ability of parents to choose private institutions, unsurprisingly linked to socioeconomic status, has been exacerbated by the recent crises. This study offers insights into a new socio-economic group of parents, previously part of the middle class, who are facing difficulties in selecting schools that align with their aspirations for their children. It found them strategically moving their children between private and public schools and making compromises based on factors such as the perceived importance of the educational stage and the child's perceived academic abilities. Moreover, it shows parents exhibiting harsh practices, favoring private schools for high-achieving children while sending children with lower levels of academic performance and children with disabilities and/or specific educational needs, to public schools. The study underscores the challenges stemming from diminished trust in public education, detailing the difficult decisions some parents are forced to make due to unprecedented crises. It also highlights the growing educational inequality in this conflict-affected context and emphasizes the urgent need for systemic interventions to address widening disparities in Lebanon's education system.

A Designed 'Lack of Design': How Autonomy Enables the Mobilisation of Capital at Two Elite Boys' Schools in England

Emma Taylor, Rachel Stenhouse

(King's College London)

There has been a recent burgeoning of interest in the power of elite private schools in the UK. However, little attention has been paid to the propulsive power of the mechanisms in place within such schools that enable and support the mobilisation of valued forms of cultural capital such as 'ease'. In this paper, we draw upon unprecedented access (as insider researchers) to two elite boys' secondary schools in England to show how what we conceptualise as a designed 'lack of design' within the elite school curriculum contributes to the formation of an elite habitus which is valued in the context of recruitment to elite higher educational and professional institutions. By designed 'lack of design' we refer to an approach whereby schools use the autonomy and independence afforded to them by their status to make curriculum decisions characterised by a sense of academic freedom or autonomy. We draw upon Bourdieu's theory of habitus and field to consider these practices as mechanisms distinctive of elite private education, demonstrating that the illusion of autonomy is crucial in relation to the reproduction of privilege in private schools, where certain advantages are afforded to students who are able to benefit from the designed 'lack of design' process in place. Ultimately, we argue that the practices described are misrecognised by stakeholders as taking place within an autonomous system, when this so-called autonomy or independence is very much informed by the signifiers of distinction upon which these schools sell themselves.

Troubled and Troubling Conversations: Tackling Social Injustices through the Sociology of the Everyday

Rebecca Westrup, Helen Mccartney, Rebecca Westrup, Kath Hennell

(Liverpool Hope University, University of East Anglia)

This paper provides an opportunity for a reflection on the role of Sociologists teaching within Childhood Studies, exploring their potential to support wider social justice work through pedagogy. Our exploration makes use of the Sociology of the everyday to uncover the value of the 'ordinary' as a response to the extraordinary questions of contemporary life. We focus on classroom conversation; reimagining it as a site of personal and social development. The benefits and challenges of using conversational dialogue as a tool for teaching and supporting 'action for change' are discussed as we use multiple ethnographies to recall our own, sometimes troubled and troubling conversations.

The result of our inquiry is the operationalisation of a conversational pedagogy. We demonstrate its significance in teaching and in the 'mass knowledge society' showcasing how conversation can develop understandings of contemporary issues as viewed by children. Bringing issues to life through children's 'voice' and enabling and supporting students to reflect through talk on their own values, beliefs and

knowledge. We argue that discussing seemingly straightforward concepts like 'childhood' in relation to inequality is crucial because of its complexity, and because it is a personal endeavour to critique everyday understandings.

Finally, we discuss how supporting and fostering a conversational pedagogy for our students, potentially enables them to engage more deeply with understanding their own positionality, naturalised knowledge and injustice. Encouraging students to converse and routinising conversation in a world marked by cancellation and division is, we argue, an important part of the work of a Sociologist.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 3.211

The Transformation of Feminist Ideologies in China: Representation of Women in Realistic TV Shows

Xiaoyu Zhang

(University of York)

Under the influence of social norms and personal perspectives, feminism in China has undergone a significant transformation. The rise of feminist consciousness and post-feminism has profoundly altered how female audiences engage with and interpret television dramas. A key example of this transformation is the television series Ode to Joy, a drama centered on the professional lives of urban women, which has aired for five seasons and has been the subject of much popular discussion. The series' depiction of female characters and the female audience's responses to them have been particularly influential. This paper builds upon a theoretical framework combining Adorno's theorization of the culture industry, Baudrillard's notion of hyper-reality, Foucault's concept of biopower, Rofel's work on gendered subjectivity in post-socialist China, and Hall's encoding-decoding theories. Through thematic analysis of semi-structured interviews, this study focuses on women aged 18-35 to explore their subjectivity and interpretation of Ode to Joy. It examines how audiences incorporate the content and format presented in the show to foster discussions on gender issues and guide their own behavior. The paper investigates how Chinese women interpret television portrayals in relation to their perceptions of career, family background, gender roles, and female autonomy. The contribution of this study lies in the insight it offers into the transformation of Chinese feminist thought in the context of globalization and how the topic of gender structure is articulated in relation to popular media representations.

Mean Girl/Sad Girl/Confident Girl: Managing Emotional Respectability through Selfie Production Labour

Jocelyn Murtell

(Leeds Beckett University)

This paper is a qualitative, feminist, ethnographic research study on young women's relationship to selfie practices and selfie culture. The study considers how young women interpret, manage and use the current discourses of popular feminism (Banet-Weiser, 2018), perfection (McRobbie, 2015, 2020) and confidence culture (Gill & Orgad, 2022, Gill, 2023) in conjunction with selfie practices. Data consists of a set of individual and small group interviews with 46 participants aged 13-21 years from a small city in West Yorkshire. The paper explores how respectable femininity (Skeggs, 1997) has evolved to align with the neoliberal values of hyper individuality and personal responsibility which is particularly restrictive to classed girls. Research findings shed light on the demonization of emotional dependence and how girls have come to distance themselves from pathology through selfies and the use of 'sad girl' and 'mean girl' tropes. Girls used the characterizations of the 'mean', 'sad' and 'confident' girl to help demarcate which types of girls and selfie practices are demonised (Grindstaff & Torres-Valencia, 2021, Willem et al, 2019) and which are considered respectable. Each trope connects to an emotional state, a set of selfie practices which include different kinds of aesthetic and selfie production labour, and an assumed relationship with other people, including the potential audience of a selfie. This research helps

37 British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 University of Manchester to expose and explore the tensions between old and new forms of respectable femininity that plague women and girls' experience of self-expression.

Women Faculty of Colour, Critical Mentoring and Feminist Leadership in the Academy

Radhika Govinda

(University of Edinburgh)

Constituting only 2% of the professoriate, women faculty of colour are under-represented and undersupported in UK Universities (Bhopal 2020). The barriers to their career advancement are welldocumented as is the importance of access to mentoring to their 'success' in the academy (Lloyd-Jones and Jean-Marie 2020). Climbing up the leadership echelons is a conventional marker of 'success'. However, the mentorship and leadership experiences of women faculty of colour are rarely known or examined past feminist leadership cyphers and personal support networks (Lewis and Miller 2018). This paper is an attempt at 'naming' my own mentorship and leadership experiences as a cis-gendered woman faculty of colour, as an Asian Indian immigrant, working primarily in Sociology and Gender and Sexualities Studies in predominantly white spaces of British higher education for over a decade. Mobilising and interweaving perspectives from postcolonial, decolonial and black feminist theories with autoethnographic narratives and self-reflexive analyses, this paper is also an invitation to rethink mentoring practices and the notions of leadership and 'success' within the higher education sector in ways that can contribute to decolonising the academy (Asher 2010). Drawing on vignettes, I examine what forms of mentorship (cross-cultural/peer/...) and leadership activities I have encountered and engaged in. I discuss how I have navigated, in the process, complex and contradictory issues, feelings and (un)resolved dilemmas on hyper-/in-visibility, complicity, isolation, allyship, and transformation, and offer insights gleaned from my experiences.

Sociology of Education 1 - Room 4.204

Exploring Disadvantage and Sense of Belonging in Higher Education

Mi Young Ahn

(Goldsmiths, University of London)

What is a disadvantage and how can it be measured in the context of higher education? Many studies argue that students with certain characteristics tend to be less engaged and more marginalised in higher education. Despite a consensus that age, gender, race, and social class are key factors related to disadvantage, there has been limited empirical effort to quantitatively measure disadvantage and investigate its impact on students' engagement, sense of belonging, and success.

At this pivotal moment in British higher education, this study aims to explore educational inequality by generating a comprehensive database encompassing objective measures such as the demographic and socio-economic backgrounds of the entire student body in a university in London, a typical mid-ranked UK university with a diverse student population. Measuring disadvantage involves individual-level indicators, area-based measures and composite measures. Secondary data analysis will be performed to investigate key factors such as students' demographic, socio-economic, and academic backgrounds, and examine how these factors impact their transition, engagement, and success. Furthermore, it will address how disadvantage influences students' engagement, sense of belonging, and academic outcomes. In doing so, it will provide an evidence-based understanding of disadvantage and establish a more concrete empirical and methodological foundation for future studies on intersectional inequalities in education.

'I chose [post-92 university] because of its car park': Using Bourdieu's Concept Of Habitus to Explore Higher Education Decision-Making for Working Class Women on an Access to Higher Education Course

Sarah Mclaughlin

(University of Bristol)

This paper contributes a class perspective to the decision-making of 13 mature working class women on an Access to Higher Education (HE) course. It sits within various literatures examining the broader social and political context of widening participation and social mobility.

Despite the increasing number of non-traditional students entering HE in England, HE choices remain stratified by social class. Mature working class students are a target group of the widening participation policy, yet little attention has been given to their HE choices and decision-making. This paper draws upon a narrative enquiry study which used creative methods alongside focus groups and semi-structured interviews. It links sociological theory to adult education, through a Bourdieusian framework. It evidences structural constraints and perceptions of belonging that impeded choices. A sense of place and feelings of fit (habitus) were significant for destination decisions. However, Access to HE course tutors were positively influential in helping students challenge embedded habitual ways of thinking and practice and in raising self-efficacy. This paper offers explanations as to why participation rates may be increasing but not widening enough. It illuminates how social class differences (intersected by age and gender) are crucial to understanding HE decision-making and places a much-needed focus on mature students to the widening participation and social mobility agenda.

"I'm a student, not a customer": The Clandestine University through the Eyes of Students

Leo McCann

(University of York)

The new interdisciplinary field of 'Critical University Studies' portrays higher education in prolonged crisis, with traditional notions of professionalism and scholarship all but destroyed by neoliberalism and managerialism. This literature is powerful but it privileges academics' perspectives, and the viewpoints and experiences of students are largely missing. This paper, based on a survey (n.280) and interviews (n.25) with UK university students, explores how students experience and interpret the neoliberal, managerialist university. It finds that students' views are supportive of a quite traditional 'idea of a university'. Students largely rejected the logic of consumerism, were sympathetic to industrial action taken by staff, and were critical of a university run increasingly on marketized and managerialist logics. Building on Thomas Docherty's notion of the 'unseen academy' or 'clandestine university', this paper argues that the core culture, activities and worldview of the university as a field (such as teaching, research, personal development and political debate) have become increasingly decoupled from the culture, behaviour, and worldview of the university as an organization (manifested in such things as managerialism, metrics, and cash generation). While Critical University Studies is right to be pessimistic, this study suggests that, under certain conditions, the idea of the university can transcend the university's organizational and managerial limits.

Sociology of Education 2 - Room 4.205

Capturing and Interpreting Student Agency in Access to International Higher Education: A Study of Chinese Agent-user Students' University Application Experiences

Ying Yang, Christof Van Mol

(Education University of Hong Kong, University of Manchester)

In the marketised international higher education sector, both international student recruitment campaign and application competitions are becoming fierce, where education agents are widely used by both overseas universities and prospective international students. Meanwhile, deficit narratives about international students prevail (Jones, 2017). International students tend to be perceived as disadvantaged and deficient. Against this backdrop, it is essential to develop our critical understanding

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of international students, especially in terms of their human agency and how their agency plays a role in their choice-making process regarding studying abroad.. To respond to this gap, our paper draws on a longitudinal project exploring the role of education agents in Chinese students' choice-making regarding studying abroad from both perspectives of education agents and students, and sheds light on the particular cohort of prospective international students who use an education agent to apply for overseas programmes (agent-user students), aiming to capture and interpret student agency in access to international higher education and understand how agent-user students navigate the uncertainties emerging along with the choice-making process. This paper deployed the chordal triad agency model (Emirbayer and Mische 1998) to develop discussions. This model distinguishes between three elements of agency, namely an iterational, practical-evaluative and projective element, and are oriented towards different temporal dimensions, precisely the past, present and future respectively. Our paper advances the understanding of how the navigation strategies of international students throughout the decisionmaking process can be better understood if we consider their agency as being simultaneously rooted in the past, present and future.

Narratives of Exclusion and Belonging: Place, Space and the Mobility Aspirations of British Youth in Rotherham and Singapore

Sam Whewall

(University College London)

This paper examines how place and space shape the mobility aspirations of British youth on the cusp of entering higher education (HE). Youth mobility has become a taken-for-granted part of the transition to HE in the Global North, particularly as institutions have become increasingly internationally focused. However, the various ways in which it is possible to 'be mobile' for university study – whether moving inter-regionally or targeting high-ranking institutions – are not imaginable for everyone. Mobility aspirations are shaped by individuals' class resources and dispositions, as well as by socio-spatial structures governing the HE field. Drawing comparatively on visual mapping and interview data with British youth in two starkly different settings (a state school in northern England and an international school in Singapore), this paper illuminates young people's perceptions of these structures boundaries that exclude, and networks that connect - and the ways they shape individuals' mobility plans. In particular, I draw attention to the sense of belonging young people in each school feel in relation to 'regions' of the HE social field, as well as to geographical places and regions, emphasising the 'lateral' mobility aspirations of both groups: whether to elite institutions in global cities in the Global North (Singapore); or to mid- or low-ranking institutions in places that are socially and culturally similar to home (Rotherham). In doing so, I consider how the processes involved in HE internationalisation exacerbate inequities between British youth from diverse backgrounds, privileging (in this case) the global middle-class, while marginalising already-marginalised youth.

Navigating Social Class Inequalities: First-Generation University Students' Access to Cosmopolitan Cultural Capital in Hong Kong

Kwan Ho Kwok, Ewan Thomas Mansell Wright, Adam Poole

(Education University of Hong Kong)

Research has demonstrated how students from more privileged social class backgrounds tend to be more familiar with the "rules of the game" in higher education, whereas those from less privileged backgrounds may encounter difficulties adapting to university life (Reay, 2016; Lehmann, 2024). Further scholarship has drawn attention to how these social class dynamics can extend to unequal access to "cosmopolitan cultural capital" as a form of cultural distinction aligned with globalisation, including internationally valued credentials, intercultural dispositions, and global competencies to "get ahead" in a globalised world (e.g., Delval, 2024; Friedman, 2018; Igarashi & Saito, 2014; Wright & Lee, 2019). This research reports on 40 interviews with first-generation undergraduate students at a university in Hong Kong. It focuses on whether and how the university as an institution may provide less privileged students with opportunities to accumulate cosmopolitan cultural capital less available within their family and prior education, including through overseas initiatives (e.g., study abroad programmes) and on campus (e.g., interacting with non-local students). Findings suggest that opportunities can be constrained at both individual and institutional levels. First, the students typically were academically oriented, focusing mostly on their studies, which made them refrain from institutional activities and

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programmes associated with cosmopolitan capital. Second, many of the more affordable and accessible institutional initiatives are oriented towards Mainland China, thus being more regionally focused than international. The implications focus on the potential for universities to widen access to cosmopolitan cultural capital and the challenges in ensuring that these opportunities are realised by students.

Work, Employment & Economic Life - Room 3.204

Caste in Gig Work: Understanding Platformisation in South Asia

Damni Kain

(University of Cambridge)

In South Asia, gig and platform work cannot be dissected from the pervasive structures of social, political, and economic hierarchy in the region — caste — which provides the basis for exclusionary social categories that rank people at birth. This paper explores caste in the gig economy of India by placing the gig economy in the caste society. It does not solely look inwards — 'inside' the gig sector to note the number of 'cases' of active discrimination but situates gig work in the structurally hierarchical logic of caste that spans spatially, temporally and corporeally. Methodologically, I conducted fieldwork in New Delhi for this ethnographically informed research. I undertook life-history interviews of gig workers from two food delivery platforms while travelling with them throughout the city — waiting for orders, picking them up from the restaurants, navigating the routes, and delivering to the customers.

This study argues that while caste does not remain absent, digital labour platforms mediate caste in an attempt to invisiblise it. Platform capitalism conducts this mediation not to eliminate caste-based discrimination but to mitigate its own loss in profit due to the existence of unequal caste-based norms of work. This research will contribute to the sociology of work while making sense of the performative, cognitive, and affective dispositions associated with gig work and its relation to the social ethos of caste. Theoretically and conceptually, this research introduces the lens of the oft-neglected domain of caste in contemporary sociological debates on platform work in South Asia.

An Ethnography of a Medical Practice Based in a 'Deep End' Coastal Community

Sam Hillyard

(University of Lincoln)

The paper reports the findings of an ethnography conducted inside a medical practice located in a 'deep end' coastal community. The practice is based in a rural community experiencing high levels of deprivation, multi-morbidity health issues within its population and also a decline in service infrastructure. Such practices have been labelled 'deep end' for the acute issues they face. The location and its recent social history are briefly summarised in order to offer a context for the present day - the community remains a leisure-facing tourist economy. An overview of the organisational structure of the medical practice is offered. The discussion then focuses upon how the practice has adapted and sought to meet increasing levels of demands from its catchment. Some unintended consequences are identified and evaluated. The paper concludes with focus upon the importance of the coastal location for the organisation - and how this has both advantages and disadvantages. The conclusion sits the practice and coastal community within debates on green and blue wellbeing and what potential these may offer.

Hyper-rationality & the Datafication of Despair: The Sociological Intention to Honour Psychic Realities and Build Mental Health

Elizabeth Cotton

(University of Leicester)

As the Labour Government deepens the conditionality of wellbeing on work, reignites debates about 'deservability' of welfare and healthcare, combined with the medicalisation and digitalisation of mental healthcare and its 'therapeutical' logical conclusions the potential for a social model of mental health becomes even more remote. This presentation looks at the authors' experience of writing UberTherapy, a non-academic book (BUP, 2025) based on a body of socially engaged research and sociologically informed writings and media engagement, to explore the importance of sociological ideas in making the links required to understand the mental health crisis and set intentions towards an alternative social model of mental health. Using data on the experiences of therapists and NHS Talking Therapy workers both in face to face and digitalised services this presentation looks at the emergence of 'hyperrationality' (Dalal, 2018) in mental health systems where the recovery metrics and performance data becomes our experience. It argues that only by operationalising the everyday sociology of work and health and by prioritising lived experience can we understand the interlock of free association and freedom of association that is required for a fair mental health system. It argues that it is through a sociological lens that we can set our intentional sights on a future trajectory for mental health interventions which addresses the personal and political mental health crisis in the UK.

Work-Life Conflict and Employer-Led Flexible Working Time Arrangements as Mechanisms Explaining the Gendered Mental Health Impact of Underemployment and Overemployment among Dual-Earner Couples in Europe

Maria Marimpi

(University of Sheffield)

Background: Underemployment and overemployment – also referred to as working hours mismatches (WHMs) – have been linked to poorer mental health. However, little is known about the mechanisms and gendered implications of WHMs. This paper investigates the mental health impact of WHMs among dual-earner couples in Europe, while also exploring the consequences of employer-led ('negative') flexible working time arrangements and work-life conflict for mental health.

Methods: Data on 8,628 employees with employed partners across 34 European countries was derived from the 2015 European Working Conditions Survey. A categorical variable on individual and perceived partner WHMs was constructed using information on actual and preferred working hours. Mental health was operationalised with the World Health Organisation's Wellbeing Index. Indices on negative flexibility and work-life conflict were constructed by combining various binary indicators. Multilevel linear models were estimated by gender, adjusting for working-time arrangements, work-life conflict, and control variables.

Results: Overemployment while working long hours were found to be particularly harmful to mental health. Perceived partner mismatches may also exert a negative impact with a distinct gendered pattern. These effects may be partly attributed to negative flexibility and, particularly, work-life conflict among partners that work long hours.

Discussion: Employees who are constrained in their working hours face significant mental health harms, especially when they are exposed to uncertain work schedules and find it difficult to reconcile employment with out-of-work responsibilities. Lifting the obstacles employees face in setting working time may be warranted to mitigate the adverse and gendered mental health impacts of WHMs.

PAPER SESSION 5 11:00-12:30

BSA Special Activity - Room 4.204 Journal Special Event

Work, Employment and Society: An Introduction, an Invitation and Some Insights into what Makes a Great Paper

Laurie Cohen, Marek Korczynski

(University of Nottingham)

This session is a celebration of the sociology of work and employment. Our plan is to tell you bit about Work, Employment & Society: the kinds of things we publish, what we see as important and how we work together. We will also talk about how you can get involved in the WES community. Drawing on our experiences as Editors-in-Chief for the last three years, we will offer some insights into what makes a great WES paper. The session will be interactive, with opportunities for questions and discussion.

Cities, Mobilities, Place & Space - Room 2.218

Resettled Afghan Young People's Accounts of Place and Belonging across England Using Visual Methods

Caroline Oliver, Mustafa Raheal

(University College London)

Research on youth, place and belonging draws attention to how belonging operates as sets of relational practices (Antonsich 2010), and situated in settings including neighbourhoods, schools, places of work and leisure. Geographical contexts matter, since physical 'places' assume both significant meanings (Thrift 1997) and have affective dimensions, providing resources that enable (or inhibit) youth transitions (Wyn, Cuervo & Cook 2020). In this presentation, we draw on our Nuffield Foundation funded research with Afghans resettled across varied sites in England through government-supported resettlement schemes, focusing particularly on young people. Housed initially in bridging hotels for extended periods of time following emergency evacuation from Afghanistan in Summer, 2021, these young people have since been relocated into settled accommodation with their families and taken up school or college placements.

The presentation draws on two periods of Photovoice research carried out with Afghan young men and women, aged 16-19 in sites in London and the Northwest, exploring their experiences of, and emotions around, the neighbourhoods and institutions they inhabit. We present photographs taken over a series of weeks and discuss their reflections on the meanings of place, with reference to feelings of security and or unsafety. We explore how place may provide a resource in contributing to newly forged educational or employment trajectories, and how place experiences relate to their own positionality within shifting gendered and familial dynamics following resettlement. Finally, we consider the opportunities that visual and participatory methodologies offer to address issues of language, power and ethics in research.

The Social Production of Small Urban Rivers: The (Re)Making of Two Riverside Spaces in Lewisham

Emma Jackson, Louise Rondel

(Independent Researcher)

This paper analyses how small urban rivers are implicated in different registers of place-making in Lewisham, a borough of South-East London with three highly engineered rivers. We examine the tensions, pleasures and possibilities that come with 'opening up' urban river spaces and the complex range of imaginaries and practices that feed into their production. Using a combination of archival and policy research alongside creative qualitative methods (including collaging and on-site walking interviews), we examine how river spaces are produced by informal and formal practices including their rendering in official documents, their maintenance by local river groups and the daily routines of local people. We argue that planning interventions that stem from distinct periods of local governance are closely intertwined with the possibilities for two different registers of place-making, that we refer to as 'authorship' and 'stewardship'. In defining authorship and stewardship as two different forms of place-making in relationship to governance and planning, we further develop sociological engagements with water that have provided a rich account of how people live with water and form deep attachments to it.

Migration, Class, and Sexuality: A Multi-relational Analysis of Sexual Integration among Mainland-to-Hong Kong Migrant Gay Men

Zhensheng Lin

(Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Social integration of migrants into the host society represents one of the most challenging and critical issues in the sociology of migration and urbanization. This is especially true for the mainland-to-Hong Kong influx. According to the 2016 census, 92 percent of its residents are of Chinese ethnicity. About 30.3 percent of Hong Kong Chinese were born in mainland China, Macau, or Taiwan, with the majority being from mainland China. In recent decades, research has established that the process of migrants' integration into the receiving society must be multidimensional and segmented. While economic, social, and identity integration processes have been well-researched, little is known about migrants' sexual integration, defined as the process of becoming sexual citizens in the receiving society. Drawing on Bourdieu's field trilogy, as well as theories of sexual fields and transnational sexual capital, this research develops a "sexual integration field" framework. The sexual integration field is conceptualized as configurations of socially embedded, stratified sexual relations conditioned by sexual identity cultures, immigration controls, and family ideologies. It maps sexual life in Hong Kong as a transnational field where various capitals accumulate and hierarchies along sexuality and class lines are (re)constituted. Based on life history interviews with working-class and middle-class Chinese gay migrants, the study investigates how they navigate Hong Kong's distinct sexual landscapes as gay men and narrate these experiences. It examines their constructions of sexual citizenship, identification as "Hong Kongers" sexually, and the roles played by class and sexuality in shaping integration processes.

Navigating Diverse Modes of Belonging and Cosmopolitan Myths in Istanbul through Falafel Restaurants

Busra Eser

(Kadir Has University)

The city of Istanbul has undergone significant demographic and material changes since the 2010s, primarily driven by migration and refugee flows. Notably, there has been a substantial increase in the establishment of restaurants specializing in Southwest Asian and North African cuisine. This study focuses on Levantine Arab restaurants opened by migrants, transmigrants, expatriates, and non-migrant entrepreneurs. For the purposes of this study, the term "falafel restaurant" will be utilized as a comprehensive term encompassing a diverse range of establishments that specialize in Levantine Arab cuisine, as falafel represents one of the iconic dishes of the Levant (Bilad al-Sham).

Falafel restaurants in Istanbul have emerged as critical spaces where cultural exchange and social cohesion occur, transcending boundaries of nationality and migration status. This study examines how these culinary spaces serve as "cosmopolitan canopies," facilitating encounters between diverse

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Culture, Media, Sport & Food 1 - Room 4.206

"Food what makes me happy": The Meaning and Purposes of 'Good Food' for Children in Hospital

Rebecca O'Connell, Claire Thompson, Elena Neri, Jess Brock, Emily Barnes

(University of Hertfordshire)

Campaigns to promote good food in UK hospitals have a long history (Morgan, 2025). However there has been less empirical research on what good food means to patients, particularly children. Hospitalisation entails a major disruption to children's everyday lives, particularly schooling, and to family life, since it is usual for a parent to stay with a child whilst they have treatment. Among the child and family practices impacted are children's and families' routine food practices. Drawing on findings from a collaborative research project with the new Cambridge Children's Hospital, the talk describes what children and their parents said about what good food means to them when children are in hospital. According to children and parents, food in hospital ought to be fresh, tasty, nutritious and affordable, with opportunities to eat with others. But it should also be convenient, familiar and comforting, characteristics that, in the UK's marketised food environment, are often associated with ultra-processed 'fast' food. Food in hospital and other institutions can and should address health, social and environmental priorities through better catering and procurement. However, in our fast-food culture, it is hard to reconcile these objectives with other 'ends' such as those practices that encourage children's emotional wellbeing and sense of 'normalcy' within a hospital setting. The talk concludes with reflections on how this contradiction, and other issues, are being discussed and addressed in our co-produced Manifesto for 'Food, with Care' in the new regional children's hospital that integrates care for children's physical and mental health.

Social Transformations in Shopping Practice: Class Distinctions in Mothers' Shopping Online

Katherine Appleford

(University for the Creative Arts)

This paper considers findings from an ongoing research project which seeks to analyse social transformations in mothers' household shopping post-COVID, and further considers how these transformations are shaped by class. The paper draws on data from 16 qualitative interviews with British mothers, conducted since January 2023. The paper reflects on commonalities in mothers' attitudes and practices towards shopping post-pandemic, which include the increased focus on shopping for utility, the move away from understanding shopping as a form of recreation or escapism and the high levels of emotional labour involved in shopping for the family. Certainly, the data demonstrates the complex nature of shopping and its interrelationship with 'foodwork'. The paper also examines significant class differences, particularly concerning shopping online, arguing that some form of 'digital divide' may be at play. Although both middle-and-working class mothers have incorporated online shopping into their routine household consumption, interviews suggest that middle-class mothers tend to use online shopping in a bid for efficiency. In contrast, working-class mothers, motivated chiefly by affordability tend to use online shopping in highly strategic ways, joining social media networks, setting up shortterm subscriptions and using online marketplaces in order to buy goods cheaply. As a result, it seems that working-class mothers engage in additional levels of emotional labour as they strive to fulfil the demands of 'good mothering' and the wants and needs of their families, in ways that they can afford.

Food Inequalities and Food Consumption Experiences in Women's Prisons

Vicki Harman, Maria Adams, Jon Garland, Daniel McCarthy, Erin Power

(University of Reading)

This paper explores food experiences and food inequalities in women's prisons by drawing upon data collected at four women's prisons, using focus groups, qualitative interviews with 80 women and 20 prison staff, observations, diary-keeping and art workshops. The findings illustrate how one point of focus - prison food- becomes dispersed and lands differently depending on past experiences and access to resources within the institution. From this we argue that food-related pains of imprisonment are not experienced in a monolithic way. For example, some women talked about food poverty and/ or experiences of domestic abuse where food was tampered with or heavily restricted. This significantly impacted on the way women viewed the food in the prison settings. Substantial data was generated about purchasing items from canteen in order to supplement or even replace the institutional food provision. The ability to access this was linked to amount of money transferred to the women from families or friends, and purchases were sometimes found to be limited due to low wages and high prices on the canteen sheet. Friendships with those on the servery and employment in the kitchens were also perceived as areas of advantage in relation to access to food. While food constitutes a pain of imprisonment through restricted choices, this paper contends that it is experienced differently depending on past experiences, social location and access to resources within the current institution. The notion of inequalities in the setting of women's prisons emerges as multi-faceted and varied.

Using a Feminist Way to Think through Food: How Sensory Experience of Food Can Re-Conceptualise Food Activism and Justice

Junyi Wang

(University of Sheffield)

This paper examines the daily experience of cooking and eating activities of Chinese households living in the UK and China to provide an alternative understanding of food activism and justice based on the bodily experience of food. In this study, the bodily experience of food includes sensory engagement with food (e.g. taste, flavour, textures, aroma), feeling, memory, and cognitive thinking. This research used a qualitative method to collect personal stories about daily eating and cooking activities from households living in Sheffield and Nanjing. Based on the practice theory and theory of feminism visceral politic, this study explores how the industrialisation and commercialisation of agriculture shape the sensory experience of food and knowledge about food. In the finding part, this study will discuss the bodily judgement of freshness, past experience and memory of reliable food sources, and the influence of neoliberalism and supermarketisation in the urban food system. The current understanding of food activism and justice focuses on production while neglecting daily food consumption in ordinary households, especially the bodily experience related to food. This research could contribute to the understanding and practice of food activism with the daily experience of ordinary consumers to discuss how the practice of food consumption can bring in alternative knowledge of the transformation of the urban food system.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food 2 - Room 4.209

Building Cultural and Social Capital at a food aid project in South-West London

Marie Swettenham

(Canterbury Christchurch University)

Food aid projects aimed at reducing food waste play a key role in meeting the needs of those vulnerable and impacted by social and economic upheaval. However, in practice, there is an assumption that those facing food insecurity exhibit certain traits including access to benefits, social housing, and unemployment prevalence. Yet, realistically, contemporary research demonstrates an emergence of diverse sociodemographic food deprivation, whereby food destitution no longer impacts only those living in statistically deprived areas of the United Kingdom. A pragmatic patchwork ethnography study was undertaken investigating the lived experiences of visitors and volunteers to a food surplus project in South-West London, an area additionally characterised by, and perceived as affluent.

Results, via thematic analysis and a-priori theming highlighted the dynamics, ethnicity, and cultures of volunteers and visitors which enabled improved environments conducive to improved health, additionally reflecting the diversity of the community. Consequently, improved opportunities for healthy eating and dignified access to food were discovered, drawing on Bourdieu's' social and cultural capital to create inclusive communities counterbalancing the stigmatism often directed to those in food poverty.

The value of these findings demonstrates an ability to influence the dynamics of food aid projects, to deliver dignity-centric, inclusive services with reduced stigma attachment.

The corresponding presentation will demonstrate how these results and supporting evidence can integrate into contemporary health theory, thus grounding the pertinence of sociological methodological approaches to food deprivation and community engagement.

'Click and collect' versus 'wait and hope': Transformations in Community Food Support, and Implications for Inequalities. Case Studies from an Ethnography Conducted in Two UK Cities.

Giorgia Previdoli, Rachel Benchekroun, Wendy Burton, Ariadne Beatrice Kapetanaki, Laura Sheard, Maria Bryant, Maddy Power, Claire Cameron, Bob Doherty, Philip Hadley, Shahid Islam, Kate Pickett

(University of York, University College London)

In response to growing food insecurity, austerity policies, Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis, diverse community organisations have started or increased food support in the UK. Research so far has focused on food banks (e.g. Garthwaite 2016); less is known about the evolution of community food support models. Our NIHR-funded mixed methods study examines which community food organisation models are most beneficial in reducing the need for emergency food for families. Focusing on the ethnographic part of the research, which investigates organisations' aims, values and everyday practices in two multicultural cities in England, this paper shares our perspectives on our ongoing observations. We argue that community food organisational practices can be understood through two continuums: 'rationalised - chaotic organisation', and 'transactional - relational interactions'. Through four case studies we illustrate how organisations' positioning on these continuums may shape families' experiences, with implications for inequalities. We suggest that organisations prioritising efficiency in food provision are more likely to take a highly rationalised, or 'McDonaldized' (Ritzer and Miles 2019), organisational approach, which may have benefits for busy families, but risks interactions feeling transactional and even dehumanising (Ritzer 1993). Organisations seeking to provide support in addition to food are likely to value a relational approach (Surman et al. 2021), which can give families opportunities to disclose underlying needs; however, these spaces may feel disorganised, chaotic or unpredictable. We argue that organisations need sufficient time, space and resources to reflect on their role in relation to addressing inequalities and the structural issues driving food insecurity.

Food, Identity, and Citizenship: A Case of North-East Ethnic Food Spaces in Indian Cities

Thanggoulen Kipgen

(Indian Institute of Technology Madras)

Since British colonial times, tribal communities of Northeast India have been stereotyped as 'primitive,' 'uncivilised,' 'exotic,' and 'backward,' positioned as being outside of what was considered "modern" or "civilised. James Scott describes them as communities evading 'state-making' and 'civilisation.' In recent decades, migration from the Northeast region to Indian cities has surged, with many Northeastern migrants being drawn into 'civilisation' through liberalisation and globalisation, and primarily working in service sectors like retail, call centres, and hospitality.

With migration of people there is also migration of culture and most importantly food. Based on ethnographic fieldwork in Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai, this study highlights the growing visibility of Northeast ethnic food stores and restaurants in the urban landscape. Despite facing challenges such as food policing by landlords and law enforcement, along with conflicts arising from perceptions of North-East ethnic food as 'unpleasant' or 'stinky,' these establishments serve as vital spaces for the

47 British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 University of Manchester community to access traditional home food, maintain cultural traditions, and foster social bonds in the city. The paper further argues that when these individuals are labelled as 'foreigners' or derogatorily referred to as 'chinky'—suggesting they are of Chinese origin—the establishment of distinct North-East food stores and restaurants becomes a way of claiming their citizenship and asserting their Indianness. These spaces not only counteract the stereotypes and prejudices they face but also act as cultural landmarks, reinforcing their place within the fabric of the city while allowing them to maintain a connection to their heritage.

How Can Participatory Research Processes Contribute to Food System Transformation? Exploring Community Participation and Food Citizenship

Hannah Gardiner, Clare Pettinger, Amanda Haslam-Lucas, Barbara Diouri, Joanna Ruminska, Laura Dunn, Yve Ashton, Louise Hunt, Mary Hickson

(University of Plymouth)

Food system transformation has received recent attention (e.g. UKRI, 2020; UN, 2021), due to its intersection with multiple crises. This includes contributions to climate and environmental degradation (Mbow et al., 2019), and the double burden of obesity and malnutrition (Popkin et al., 2020). Many propose bottom-up or participatory approaches as both an essential pathway for the realisation of transformative action (Duncan et al., 2022), and a desirable outcome in the form of a more democratic food system (Kropp et al., 2020). This PhD studentship research explores the experiences of people engaged as community food researchers in the transdisciplinary research project FoodSEqual (Transforming UK Food Systems, 2021). FoodSEqual is a 5-year UKRI funded project engaging people to become community food researchers (Pettinger et al., 2023) and co-deliver research in their own communities. Creative methods have been used to inquire about community food researcher experiences, including mapping, poetry and creation of sociological fiction. We will share our explorations, considering how the engagement model can contribute to food system transformation. Our emerging results suggest the model supports development of conditions for food democracy, alongside food citizenship capacities and enhanced food literacy of those engaged. Personal transformation is a key area in relation to societal transformation, and one which gets the least focus (O'Brien, 2018). The outcomes from our research suggest the process of engagement and collaboration in itself has potential to contribute to food system transformation. We will also share learning about how participation can be shaped to promote positive personal outcomes.

Families & Relationships 1 - Room 4.213

Does Shared Parental Leave Lead to Shared Night Time Care? Accounts from Finnish, British and Spanish Parents

Katherine Twamley, Inka Kuusiaho, Pedro Romero-Balsas, Petteri Eerola

(University College London)

Sufficient and uninterrupted night sleep is an essential requirement for human well-being, yet it remains a luxury for many parents of young children. This is especially true for mothers, who tend to undertake the bulk of care during the 'night shift'. In this paper, we explore parents' accounts of sharing parental leave and night-time care, to examine the potential of parental leave to shift broader gendered patterns night care. We analyse qualitative data generated with parents of young children in Finland, the UK, and Spain – which differ in terms of parental leave policies as well as other policy (e.g., welfare state model, work-family balance policies, parental support) and cultural (e.g., gender regime, parenting culture, and understanding of fathers' role in care) factors. Theoretically, the study builds on earlier research from the fields of parental leave research, research of gendered parenting practices and the sociology of sleep. The data are analysed using discursive methods, specifically by reading parents' accounts through the concept of 'interpretative repertoire' by Potter and Wetherell (1987) to understand how parents' narrate the role of parental leave in their night-time care practices in these different contexts. We find that fathers' uptake of parental leave does have the potential to shift traditional gendered divisions, but that leave practices are diversely practiced and considered across the country contexts. We consider how the sociocultural and policy contexts of the three countries shape the

similarities and differences across the three countries and make some recommendations for future directions in research.

Impact of Childcare Subsidies on Intergenerational Time and Financial Transfers: Evidence from the UK

Zerui Tian

(University of Oxford)

Over the past decades, UK families have benefited from expanded access to free childcare, allowing them to delegate childcare labour to external providers. Such policies likely shifted care arrangements within families, in terms of both childcare and elderly care. This paper aims to study the empirical puzzle of how childcare subsidies impact intergenerational financial and time transfers between parents and grandparents in UK families. Results based on a regression discontinuity design show a decrease in time transfer offered by parents to grandparents as a result of the entitlement to free childcare, illustrating weakened normative and affectionate bonds between generations. The effect is stronger for mothers than for fathers. Analysis on the mechanism of paid work supports confirms that participation in paid work is an important mediator for the effect. The paper makes a contribution by providing evidence on a negative unintended consequence of free childcare entitlement on elderly care provision.

Developing a Typology of Parental Responsibility: Mothers' Voices and Sociological Considerations

Hilllary Collins, Daniel Wight, Shona Hilton

(University of Glasgow)

Strydom (1999) identified risk and responsibility as a conceptual pair. He contrasted the considered sociological examination of risk with the relative lack of attention to responsibility. However, he was able to summarise previous scholarship into a threefold typology. The first category, referencing Durkheim and Parsons, was 'individual responsibility', the second, referencing Habermas, 'post-traditional individual responsibility', and the third Apel's 'co-responsibility'. These three categories are largely distinguished by their consideration of scale from an individual to groups or collectives. A similar trajectory of consideration can arguably be seen in Furedi's notion of 'parental determinism', where everyday parenting actions are critically causally associated with the outcomes of their children, and therefore the future of society. Discussions of blame are key in previous literature on parental determinism. This presentation, based on thematic analysis of interviews with 23 mothers in Scotland and qualitative content analysis of a subset of threads on an online parenting forum, identifies a fourfold typology of ways in which the notion of responsibility was conceptualised by mothers. These four conceptualisations are 'culpability' (that the mother/ parent is to blame for any harms to their children's outcomes) 'capability' (having the skills and knowledge required to perform the parenting role), 'conscientiousness' (being sufficiently vigilant and efficient at troubleshooting) and 'labour' (to put in time, effort and concentration). Mothers' reflections demonstrate discursive distinctions in, at times overlapping, conceptualisations of responsibility and can be mapped across considerations of the individual and society.

Parents' Communication with Their Children about Relationships and Sex in England

Naomi Rudoe, Ruth Ponsford

(University of Westminster, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

Parent-child communication about relationships and sex is receiving increased attention in the light of rising levels of violence against women and influencers promoting 'toxic masculinity'. More emphasis is also being placed on school-based relationships and sex education, although government positions parents and carers as 'the prime educators for children on many of these matters' (DfE 2019: 4). While the majority of parents have welcomed statutory RSE in schools, a small minority have raised objections to perceived 'age-inappropriate' sex education and an LGBTQ 'agenda' in schools (Rudoe and Ponsford, 2023).

We draw on semi-structured interviews with 27 parents of children aged 19 and under attending state schools in London. We found that most parents want to have an open and honest relationship with their children, and want their children to feel they are approachable, in talking to them about relationships and sex, but while many parents reported a detailed engagement with children in this area, others were concerned not to impose or discuss issues before their children were ready. We discuss this in relation to sociological conceptions of 'good parenting'. We also draw on our ongoing BA/Leverhulme-funded project with the Sex Education Forum, examining English primary schools' challenges with parental engagement around RSE. We suggest that schools need to be well resourced and supported to dispel myths and misinformation around, and explain the rationale for, what is being delivered, and to enable and encourage parents to feel confident in talking to their children about relationships and sex at home.

Families & Relationships 2 - Room 4.214

(Re)Configuring Caring Practices Through Smart Technology: The Sociodigital Mundane in Everyday Family Life

Nicola Horsley, Natasha Carver, Esther Dermott, Aisling O'kane

(University of Bristol)

Are we seeing a 'revival of the living room' (Wang et al. 2023)? How are family dynamics shifting as parents and children compete for control of smart home devices (Porcheron et al. 2018)? Families' motivations for, frustrations with and concerns about everyday technology have been documented in recent studies, but the complexity of ways in which technologies become embedded in, and reconfigure, family life, is yet to be examined in depth. Drawing on empirical findings from mixed-methods research, we explore how the inclusions, exclusions and affordances of technology are redefining how family is done (Morgan 2011) in the sociodigital era, how new norms of care and social reproduction come to be established and how they might embed new kinds of empowerment and inequality.

This paper reports on a qualitative study informed by sociomaterial approaches to identifying aspects of the 'digital mundane' (Pink et al. 2017) that bring humans and non-human actors together with affective dimensions of space and temporality. Using a mix of child-led tours of the home, interviews and data donation, the Smart Living project explores the doing of family in the smart home as an assemblage of skeuomorphs (Hayles 1999) looking to the past and future simultaneously. Aspects of family life are both reinforced and undermined in nuanced ways, creating a patchwork of caring practices that challenges both conventional analyses of social reproduction and visions of the future governed by big tech. Through exploration of domestic narratives of the sociodigital, we offer critical insight into emerging social transformations.

Intimate Surveillance in Child-Parent Relationships: Understanding the Platformisation of Families across Generations

Kristinn Hegna, Maja Nordtug, Victoria De Leon Born

(University of Oslo, Department of Education)

Intimate surveillance (Leaver 2015, Sukk & Siibak 2021; 2022), defined as "purposeful and routinely well-intentioned surveillance" e.g. of young people by parents, is increasingly afforded by digital platforms that include elements that restrict, track or collect knowledge of children and youths' whereabouts and activities. In families surveillance can also take the form of co-veillance (Mann 2016; Mols et al 2023) or peer-to-peer monitoring, where family members in relations that are discursively understood as "democratic" and "equal" can monitor one another in horizontal and mutual processes. Defined as family practices, such practices of intimate surveillance reveal how children/youth and parents co-construct their relationships, and how these practices are linked to aspects of care, trust, intensive parenting, relational bonds, control and power in new ways.

In the PlatFAMs project we focus on the everyday lives of families and how families – all three generations – make use of digital technology. Our overarching aim is to describe how family members use digital platforms IN the family, WITH the family and FOR the family to increase our understanding

of the process of platformisation in the everyday doings of modern families in different contexts. The analysis is based on interviews with 17 grandparents, 19 parents and 19 children from Norwegian families. The project is a collaboration between LSE (UK), and the universities of Oslo (Norway), Tartu (Estonia), Girona and Barcelona (Spain) and the Babeş-Bolyai University (Romania).

From Transformation to Platformisation: Exploring Relationality in the Digital Age

Mariya Stoilova, Sonia Livingstone

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

In today's so-called "platform society", technological affordances are often discussed as key facilitators of family relationships enabling connected presence (Licoppe 2004) and intimacy across time and space (Baldassar et al., 2016). Digital platforms are embedded in all aspects of everyday life – from learning and play, to shopping and travelling, and work and leisure – transforming the ways families are being together and providing care for each other. Everyday interactions, increasingly mediated by platforms, reshape family dynamics by facilitating intergenerational solidarities at a distance and enabling children to play a more active role in family networks (Prout, 2011). But is the platformisation of everyday life transforming family intimacy and relationality?

This paper draws on qualitative longitudinal research with 20 three-generation families (children, parents, grandparents) in the UK, analysed on the background of a cross-country comparative study involving primary research with 100 multi-generation families in five European countries (UK, Norway, Spain, Romania and Estonia). We explore how platformisation has transformed everyday family life in "low-tech" and "high-tech" families, paying attention to the agency of family members in resisting, embracing, or negotiating the role of platforms in their lives. In seeking to understand how platforms are becoming infrastructural across so many everyday activities and domains of family life, we critically examine the implications of their corporate tendency to concentrate and exercise their power in ways that shape and transform family relationships and intimacies.

The Impact of Digital Transformation on Traditional Family Values in Arab Families

Wijdan Abbas

(Naif Arab University for Security Sciences)

This study explores the social changes brought about by digital transformation, focusing on its impact on traditional family values in Arab families, including those in diasporal. It examines how digitalization affects family roles, functions, and relationships, identifying the key values influenced and whether the effects are positive or negative, depending on family characteristics.

By reviewing literature and consulting experts, the study identified 16 affected family values, grouped into six major categories: family communication, obedience and respect for elders, hospitality and generosity, responsibility and cooperation, role models and ideals, altruism and sacrifice, and modesty and chastity. Data was collected using a descriptive-analytical approach, through an online survey of 974 respondents and interviews with 15 experts.

The study found that digital transformation positively impacted values like responsibility and cooperation, fostering global responsibility and collaboration beyond physical boundaries. Hospitality and generosity also evolved, adopting new forms. However, traditional values like obedience and respect for elders faced challenges from growing individualism. Modesty and chastity were less adhered to by younger generations in virtual spaces, while direct family communication decreased in favor of virtual interaction.

The findings suggest that younger family members are more influenced by digital transformation than older ones, with the effects varying based on geographical and cultural contexts. The study recommends age-specific programs to address the values negatively impacted by digitalization and leveraging the positive ones to reinforce family cohesion.

Thursday 24 April 2025 Paper Session 5 11:00-12:30

Lifecourse - Room 3.212

One Person's Edge, Another's Plateau? Edgework and Lifecourse Diversity

Irina Obeada, James Cronin, Maria Piacentini

(Lancaster University)

Risk remains an abiding and critical concern for sociological inquiry. Nevertheless, several voices have emerged to challenge an overreliance on 'youthful white spaces' as the most appropriate domain for locating and understanding voluntary risk-taking activities. In this theoretical paper we draw upon the life course perspective to reimagine and revaluate Lyng's (1990) concept of edgework by situating it within changing and diverse life circumstances. Instead of positioning edgework as an elective response by sensation-seeking individualists to the alienation and ennui of late modernity, we provide a more granular account of its embeddedness in developmental pathways. We challenge ontological assumptions that risk-taking functions universally as a purposeful identity investment or act of escapism, demonstrating instead how edgework and its voluntaristic character vary according to shifting aggregations of biographical, structural, social and temporal conditions, including the realities of ageing. We outline how the boundaries between 'edges' and life stages are porous, meaning edgework must be understood as sensitive to changing roles, statuses, and imperatives that are often unplanned or unmanageable. Higher background levels of risk in a person's life soften their experience of edges, making the volitional character of risk-taking more ambiguous and its sensations plateau out. We also consider life transitions and turning points where individuals find themselves interjecting in the risktaking of others, producing 'surrogate' forms of edgework. Overall, we complicate earlier generations of edgework theory, untethering the concept from elective identity-making and sensation-seeking, encouraging instead greater sensitivity to situational and structural exigencies, opportunities, and social embeddedness.

The Socio-Spatial Inequalities of Older Lifestyle Migration in Peripheral Villages of China's Major Cities

Yadi Zhang

(University of Sheffield)

Population ageing is poised to become one of the most significant social transformations of the twentyfirst century. Around the world, a pattern of migration and a new approach of 'positive ageing' for older people, later-life urban-to-rural lifestyle migration is emerging. However, during their migration, they meet with many difficulties and inequalities due to their age, identity and concepts. Especially in the Chinese context, with the strong rural social network, big gaps between rural and urban areas, strict Hukou systems and rural land policy, older lifestyle migrants meet with different challenges in rural life from those in the global north context.

This research aims to explore the decision-making process, everyday life and difficulties of later lifestyle migration in peripheral villages in China from the life-course perspective. To achieve this, based on a case study approach, the researcher lived in the case village around Beijing China for 2 months, participated in and observed the lifestyle migrants' lives, and conducted 13 semi-structured interviews. The findings not just highlight the relaxing and comfortable rural life of older lifestyle migrants, but also the difficulties older lifestyle migrants meet due to the Chinese traditional rural culture and modern life needs, inequalities and insecurity caused by Chinese rural land policies, and how they negotiate the difficulties and make balance between the advantages and challenges.

This paper contributes to enriching life courses and migration theory employed in developing countries and guiding older care, rural land and migration policymaking to alleviate the ageing problem and rural development problems.

"A lot happened in the past, but I still have a lot of time in my future": Picturing Grief, Loss, and Survival with Yazidi Refugees in Canada

Lisa McLean, Carrie Traher

(King's University College)

On August 3, 2014, ISIS invaded the Sinjar region of Northern Iraq, a territory home to the majority of the world's Yazidi population. In the ensuing genocide, it is estimated that nearly 200,000 Yazidis were displaced, 5,000 were killed and 6,800 women and children were forced into captivity and sexual enslavement (Oliphant, 2018; Navrouzov, Ismael, & Ibrahim, 2024). In 2017, the Canadian government approved the resettlement of 1,200 Yazidi refugees, who were then met by numerous barriers to wellbeing due to the trauma they endured in Iraq as well as structural deficiencies in support for refugees in Canada.

This presentation provides the results of an arts-based participatory research study with Yazidi refugee women in London, Canada, utilizing the methodology of photovoice to explore themes of grief, loss, and survival. The project is informed by a 'grief literate' lens (Breen et al., 2022), acknowledging that refugee experiences are frequently shaped by many death and non-death losses that continue to accumulate in their new communities of refuge (Jisrawi & Arnold, 2019). Grief, particularly that which arises from non-death loss and transition, often lacks social recognition, thus complicating coping and contributing to disenfranchised grief (Doka, 1989; 2002). Through photography, Yazidi women reflected on the losses they endured, including grief surrounding missing and deceased family members, as well as the sources of individual and collective strength that they draw upon as they seek to rebuild their lives in the aftermath of genocide.

Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 1.219

Knowledge of Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida, as well as the Significance of Folic Acid for Prevention, are very limited among Mothers of Affected Babies in Pakistan

Shazia Yasmin, Jaleel Miyan

(University of Manchester)

Objectives: The first goal of this research was to investigate mothers' understanding of hydrocephalus and spina bifida in children affected before and after pregnancy. The second objective was to assess mothers' knowledge of the role of folic acid in preventing these conditions.

Research Methodology: This study used a cross-sectional research design and was carried out in the paediatric neurosurgery outpatient department (OPD) in The Children's Hospital, Lahore, Pakistan. The target population was 500 mothers with children suffering from hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida. The study sample was selected using a non-probability purposive sampling technique. Data was analysed using SPSS v19.

Results: Of the 500 babies studied, 42.2% were diagnosed with hydrocephalus, 25.8% with spina bifida, and 32.2 % with both conditions. However, what's most concerning is that 88.1% of the women were unaware of these conditions before the birth of their child.

70.8% did not know what vitamins to take to prevent these conditions. Only 14.8% of the mothers knew of folic acid as a preventive, and only 4.6% knew how to use folic acid before and during pregnancy.

Cultural traditions led 70.2% of mothers to seek spiritual treatment for their affected baby from a clergyman before seeking any medical intervention. Maternal health decision-making was found inadequate, with only 14.6 percent of women reporting that they make their own health decisions. Husbands, mother-in-law and other family members were the main decision makers.

Conclusion: It is crucial to raise awareness about hydrocephalus and spina bifida, maternal health, and preventative strategies.

Suffer or Control: Pregnant Women's Negotiations and Practices of Drug Use in China

Mingxuan Li

(University of Oxford)

Medication during pregnancy has been a contentious issue in China, stemming from the deeply rooted belief in 'every medicine has its side effects'. Predominantly, existing studies have adopted a medical perspective and quantitative approach, thereby neglecting the personal experiences and narratives of pregnant women. This study bridges this gap by exploring pregnant women's negotiations surrounding drug use and their medication practices during pregnancy, drawing on the concept of 'caring labor'.

From August 2023 to July 2024, I conducted interviews with 40 pregnant women and new mothers aged 20 to 40, and observed in clinical and ultrasound rooms at 3 public hospitals in Baoding, Hebei province. Findings reveal that, when confronted with medications such as metformin, which doctors usually recommend to ensure normal fetal development, pregnant women may prefer to negotiate lifestyle changes and prolonged monitoring to avoid drug interventions. Meanwhile, when dealing with medications for which doctors have not provided clear guidance, such as antivirals, women typically seek additional consultations or endure discomfort to mitigate perceived risks.

This paper argues that in the context of medication use during pregnancy, pregnant women may 'rebel' against doctors' recommendations to reclaim control over their bodies in a highly medicalized society dominated by authoritative knowledge. Nevertheless, this rebellion imposes additional 'caring labor' on pregnant women. This is primarily manifested in the time and energy spent re-negotiating with doctors, consulting diverse information sources to make informed decisions, and self-sacrifice by enduring physical discomfort due to fears of potential harm to the fetus.

Exploring Women's Accounts of 'Shared' Decision-Making in Maternity Care: Communication, Trust and Experiential Knowledge: The Perspectives of Pregnant Women and New Mothers

Hannah Miles, Una Macleod, Clare Whitfield, Julie Jomeen

(University of Hull)

Aim: pregnancy and childbirth are a time of immense transition for women, which is increasingly marked by a set of social and cultural expectations. Interactions with healthcare professionals (HCPs) can lead to a complex web of expert and lay discourses that require mindful navigation. Trust and communication form an integral part of this, particularly when ensuring women feel fully supported when making important decisions.

Method: the data for this paper is drawn from a broader study that used a feminist approach, with indepth interviewing and participant observation. This paper draws on in-depth interview data from that study with (n=33) mothers, who were either pregnant, or had their child in the previous two years prior to taking part in the research.

Results: findings indicated that women often sought out and drew upon both biomedical and experiential knowledge to inform their decision-making. However, within their interactions with HCPs medical knowledge often (but not always) displaces women's knowledge of their own bodies, and their experiential knowledge is marginalised in favour of dominant biomedical discourses. Data demonstrates that these experiences can be not only disempowering, eroding trust between women and healthcare professionals, but can also impact how they feel about accessing health and maternity care in the future. Some women also found these interactions to be traumatic, impacting how mothers felt about the impending parenting task. These feelings can be amplified for those women who have already experienced trauma.

Discourses of Care, Wellbeing and Human Rights: A Case Study of Saving Mothers' Comadronas' Understanding of Reproductive Health in Guatemala in the Misinformation Age

Carolina Matos, Victoria Orrego Dunleavy, Jessica Oliveira

(City St. George's, University of London)

The pushbacks on women's health rights has necessitated new approaches to the communications of health NGOs on sexuality and reproductive health rights (SRHR). In order to assess indigenous women's communities understanding of health communications messages on SRHR in an age of rising misinformation, this study conducted focus groups with Comadronas (traditional Mayan birth attendants) who work for the NGO Saving Mothers in Guatemala to explore their reception of communication material on the topic. Findings underscored the need to improve communications. It recommends fostering partnerships between NGOs, indigenous rural women's communication materials that address specific needs of local communities.

These findings are part of the expansion of larger four year study, funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF), which examined the advocacy communication activities of NGOs working on women's health in the US, Europe, Latin America, Brazil and India. Findings showed an emphasis on the use by the organizations, particularly online, of discourses which contained 'hard facts' and reports around public health arguments on reproductive health, including the use of NGO journalism devices such as 'fact checking'. However, there was a growth in use of more human interest stories, such as storytelling, to reach out to larger audiences and to make difficult medical arguments on reproductive health more directed to women's lived experiences. Findings further revealed that there is insufficient engagement with communities, with communications about reproductive health being largely directed to publics 'in the know', such as health professionals.

Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 4.211

Transformations in Diabetes Care Lessons from Commons-based, Peer-Produced Citizen Science

Shane O'Donnell, Muireann Quigley

(Birmingham Law School)

The production of modern medical technologies has historically been the domain of private entities and public institutions. However, this market-state model has begun to be challenged by patients who cocreate their own medical technologies through commons-based, peer-produced citizen science. A primary example is the so called #WeAreNotWaiting movement, a community of people living with diabetes who have developed life-critical medical devices through open-source innovation. In this paper, we present the #WeAreNotWaiting movement as a case study in the possibilities and constraints associated with bringing about a more commons-centric form of healthcare.

In order to demonstrate this, we draw on insights from an existing body of social scientific research, as well as the first author's personal experience and observations as a member of this movement. We discuss the movement in the context of broader commons theory in which commoning is viewed as a transformative social paradigm. We use Bollier and Helfridge's (2019) patterns of commoning as a framework to help explicate the dynamics that enabled the movement to establish itself as an alternative innovation ecosystem - what we call 'medical technology provisioning' - whereby production, use, and follow-up care are blended into a holistic whole. We then describe how a strategy of openness and collaboration with regulators and industry not only allowed the movement to avoid enclosure but also significantly reshaped the diabetes device landscape. However, we also highlight the ways in which this strategy of openness has created challenges for the autonomy and sustainability of the movement as a commons.

Futures of Fibromyalgia: Epistemic Injustice & Speaking to Underrepresented UK Demographics

David Tennison

(University College London)

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the emergence of Long Covid, two things are clear: chronic illnesses are on the rise; and there is not adequate support for them within the NHS. Attitudes like "diagnose and discharge" and "cure not care" mean acute illness is dealt with, but chronic illness patients are often given a label, then find there is little to no actual care available. Worse, those with contested chronic illnesses like fibromyalgia (FM), my research focus, often face scepticism and disbelief as further barriers to care.

A positive from the influx of funding and interest into Long Covid research, is that similar illnesses, like FM, are being taken more seriously. What's slower to change is the enduring perception of contested or emerging illnesses as women's illnesses, and particularly as white women's illnesses. I first argue that a crucial lens for examining the plight of FM patients is epistemic injustice, as recognition as an FM patient is often a struggle for credibility. Secondly, I argue for challenging the view of these illnesses as women's illnesses, which discredits some patients, and alienates others, impacting care.

In my work I am interviewing FM patients who are not cis white women to understand how they are treated in healthcare and attempt to make the FM literature more representative. I am using both my philosophical analysis, and insight from these patient interviews, to diagnose problems in FM doctorpatient relationships, aiming to improve healthcare for people with chronic illnesses from all backgrounds.

What Makes Illness Experience? An In-Depth Study of the SLE Patients and Patient Organization

Qiyue Huang

(Shanghai University)

The prevalence of SLE(Systemic Lupus Erythematosus) in China is 70 to 100 per 100,000, which is on the rise year by year and poses a serious threat to people's health. 90% of lupus patients are female and most lupus patients develop the disease between the ages of 15 and 44. As the exact cause and pathogenesis of the disease are not yet clear, different patients will have different symptoms of the disease. Patients still have recurrent disease during treatment, which can cause organ damage and seriously affect the patient's quality of life.

Based on the observations and multiple patient interviews with a patient organization established in Shanghai that serves primarily lupus patients, the author would like to explore what exactly are the reasons for SLE patients to have different experiences of illness? In addition to social culture, social class, age, gender, etc., what role does the relationship between the patient organization and the patient play?

Firstly, as lupus patients, there are differences in the stress, difficulties and social discrimination faced by male and female patients. Secondly, the challenges faced by adolescent patients and adult patients are dissimilar. Finally, social class in many cases determine whether patients are better able to manage their disease. Additionally, having been fully involved with this patient organization, the author recognized the existential and developmental dilemma in which patient organizations faced and how this dilemma affects the illness experience of the majority of patients.

Making Endometriosis in France: Associations' Role in Constructing a Public Health Issue

Hannah Gallagher-Syed

(University of Cambridge)

In about two decades, endometriosis went from barely visible to central in France's public imagination and public health agenda. This presentation examines the pivotal role of patient and advocacy

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associations in transforming endometriosis from a neglected fertility issue into a significant and multifaceted public health concern. Drawing on Janine Barbot's militant models in health activism and Bourdieu's theory of capitals, it analyses strategies employed by three key associations—EndoFrance, ENDOmind, and Info-Endométriose—between 2000 and 2022 and makes the case for the successful construction of endometriosis as a critical public health issue in France using Didier Fassin's performativity framework.

The research combined interviews with association volunteers, observation at a medical conference, and critical analysis of content produced by associations and key actors they worked with. This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of how these associations each navigated relationships with medical experts, political figures, media and celebrities to gain legitimacy and influence both public understandings of endometriosis and policy around the disease.

The study reveals a nuanced landscape of competition and collaboration among these associations. EndoFrance's early strategy of cooperation with medical professionals laid the groundwork for recognition. ENDOmind later adopted a more militant stance, pushing for broader social justice in healthcare access for people with endometriosis. Info-Endométriose leveraged high-profile partnerships to amplify awareness. This case study further evidences how diverse patient advocacy strategies, even when seemingly at odds, can cumulatively reshape public health priorities and offers insights into the evolving nature of health activism in contemporary France.

Methodological Innovations - Room 3.213

Using Social Networks Mapping Tools in the Qualitative Exploration of Rural Living and Mobility Patterns among Young People in a Rural Context

Emilia Pietka-Nykaza

(University of the West of Scotland)

Social Network Analysis provides useful tools in the analysis of formation, dynamism, relationality, and flow of resources facilitating migration patterns (Ryan, 2024). This paper will contribute to these debates by critically reflecting on participatory methodologies applied in the qualitative study of young people's social connections in rural Scotland. Building on traditional ego-network elicitation methodologies such as resource generators and their more recent participatory iteration (Strang & Quin 2019), this study utilises problem-based scenarios to stimulate discussion with young participants about specific people, organisations, or institutions that they perceive important and helpful in addressing identified issue. The social network generated in this way illustrates a range of social relations that young people perceive as resourceful in addressing their social, economic, and emotional needs in a rural context. This paper will reflect on applied methodologies and argue that participatory mapping tools not only allow to identify type of resources attached to social networks but also allow an exploration of the meaning attached to social relations along with an understanding of the context of network development. By reflecting on the methodology itself, this paper will conclude by illustrating the usefulness of participatory mapping tools in gaining greater understanding of the role of social connections in shaping young people's mobility patterns in rural contexts.

Ryan, L. (2024), Social Networks and Migration: Relocation, Relationships and Resources. Bristol University Press.

Strang, A. B., & Quinn, N. (2019). Integration or Isolation? Refugees' Social Connections and Wellbeing, Journal of Refugee Studies, 34 (1), 328–353

British Voices: Scaling Up Qualitative Interviews in the Era of AI

Carrie Friese, Jane Elliott, George Byrne

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Across the social sciences, there is a growing interest in conducting in-depth, qualitative social research at scale. With the increasing availability of archived qualitative research, methodological innovations

57 British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 University of Manchester such as 'Big Qual', and the affordances of Natural Language Processing (NLP), collecting and analysing very large and diverse samples of qualitative interviews is becoming more feasible. David Grusky's American Voices project, for example, collected interviews from a sample of 2,700 people in the U.S., covering topics such as health, work, family, education, and politics. These interviews offer a valuable resource for mixed-methods research and may also help social science researchers to hear voices that are often excluded from our studies. Findings from such a resource have the potential to inform policy and public debate on the challenges facing society.

However, definitions of and approaches to qualitative interviews vary. One debate is whether to use focused, semi-structured interviews for better comparability or open-ended interviews for greater respondent voice. The American Voices project took the former approach, while our pilot study explores the latter, applying it to the UK context. This paper discusses the potential advantages and challenges of creating a large-scale corpus of qualitative interviews intended for mixed methods and qualitative research. We present findings from our ESRC-funded pilot study, UK Voices, and discuss how qualitative interviews could be developed to create a dataset of rich narrative material from a large and diverse set of people regarding how they make sense of their lives in relation to key sociological topics.

Mapping the Circulation of Decolonial Ideas across Academic Networks in the US

Piermarco Piu

(University of Warwick)

In recent years, 'decolonial waves' have gained momentum within global academic circles. In the United States, too, the term 'to decolonise' has become popular, as academic discourse on decoloniality expands, with universities endorsing decolonial initiatives. The impact of the scholars from Latin American and US universities who pioneered decolonial theory in the early 2000s is thus growing, sparking significant institutional and social transformations.

How might we operationalise decolonial theory's influence across US universities over the past 20 years?

This paper uses scientometric methods (i.e. citation analysis, topic modeling and structural topic modeling) to explore the thematic trends emerging from academic networks of people and publications whereby the decolonial research programme (DRP) has spread between 2000 and 2020. It focuses on the DRP's impact, and investigates whether the development of a decolonial theoretical paradigm is continuing, and in what forms.

Specifically, this paper reconstructs a network of decolonial citations that enable the identification of clusters of publications and authors influenced by the DRP. It then extracts topics from these publications, mapping the circulation of decolonial ideas within the citation network. Lastly, it uses structural topic modeling to evaluate whether this circulation is characterized by the DRP's theoretical aspects or by empirical interests.

With this scientometic analysis, this paper makes visible research clusters, themes, and developments of the 'decolonial moment'. It produces a model for mapping circulation which advances socio-historical scholarship in the social sciences and humanities, while speaking to methodological literature by exploring the potential of scientometrics for these fields.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 -Lecture Theatre A

Inclusive Remembrance? Anti-Racism and the Boundaries of Participation in Commemoration

Ashley Collar

(University of Manchester)

This paper explores the tensions between anti-racist intentions and the realities of inclusion and exclusion within the commemoration of the 2017 Manchester Arena Attack. Framed as a moment of unity against hate, public memorials and acts of remembrance have often been heralded as symbols of anti-racism and resilience (Tinsley 2023; 2022). However, beneath this inclusive rhetoric, racialised and marginalised groups—Muslim communities and people of colour —faced exclusion from the very commemorative practices that resilience stemmed from. The highly securitised One Love concert and the Bee Tattoo Appeal, which many could not participate in due to religious beliefs, skin colour or racial profiling, reveal the limitations of these supposedly inclusive efforts. This paper critically examines who is centred and who is marginalised in these acts of remembrance, arguing that despite their anti-racist messaging, such memorials can inadvertently reinforce social divisions, privileging certain experiences while erasing others. By interrogating these commemorative practices, often regarded as quintessentially "Mancunian," the paper also contributes to broader discussions about the creation and maintenance of the Mancunian identity—from its 1842 origins as an emblem of hard work in the textile industry to its erasure of Manchester's connections to colonialism and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Recursivity of Anti-Racist Social Theory: Grappling with Concepts of 'Race' and 'Culture' in a Racialised Cultural Context

Isabelle Higgins

(University of Cambridge)

This paper draws on data collected from 2022 to 2024 which tracks the disparate and unexpected (re)emergence of critical race and anti-racist social theory outside of the academy. While researching adoptive parents occupying spaces of whiteness in the USA who monetize their adopted children's perceived racial alterity on social media, I received targeted advertisements for children's books written by right wing Christian conservatives that focus on 'core American values' of 'liberty', actively opposed the teaching of CRT and tell versions of history that minimise or erase the realities of chattel enslavement and ongoing racialised inequity. Many actors creating these cultural products argue that the relationship between the past and the present should not be paid attention to, with some even arguing that it is communities of colors' self-focus on the past that prevents 'progress' in the present. In this presentation, I use Hall's (2004:11) insight on the importance of studying 'different racisms, that arise in specific historical circumstances, and their effectivity, their ways of operation' to interrogate this recursive re-emergence and misreading of anti-racist and critical race theory. Conducting a 'conjunctural analysis' on this theoretical re/mis-use highlights how some 'racial grammars' (Bonilla-Silva, 2015) of the 2020s rely upon a consistently adaptive misrepresentation of key tenets of modern anti-racist social thought. I show that the intellectual work of tracing these recursive connections matters because it helps to make visible how racialised discursive frameworks continue to exert structuring power in a shifting political and technological context.

Antiracist Terminology in Change: Activist Perspectives on Imported and New Concepts in Norwegian Antiracism

Mette Andersson

(University of Oslo)

In 2020, public debates about racism and antiracist terminology abounded across the world. Global Black Lives Matter campaigns reinvigorated debates over structural and everyday racism, concepts that earlier had been met by severe criticism among white majority audiences across the Western world. This paper asks how Norwegian antiracists relate to a conceptual apparatus deriving from US and UK

59 British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 University of Manchester race, racism and antiracism literature, and how new concepts developed in Norway are viewed within different fractions of Norwegian antiracism. Although most antiracists agree on the need for a clear and understandable Norwegian antiracist language, there are for example differing views on how to designate people of color: Whether to use the general race concept, the term "black", or the term "melanin-rich" which was developed by a Norwegian grassroot organization. The paper builds on indepth interviews with 56 Norwegian self-identified antiracists – representatives of organizations, debaters, journalists, and politicians, and on participation in antiracist seminars on- and off-line in 2020 and after. Theoretical work on conceptual travel and conceptual stretching, and on the relationship between common sense and scientific concepts, informs the analysis.

Challenging the 'Rural Idyll': Tackling Racism and Building Community in Countryside Spaces

Rachel Keighley, Viji Kuppan

(University of Leicester)

In an era marked by division and social inequality, this paper challenges the romanticised depictions of rural life as idyllic and quintessentially English by exploring the pervasive presence of racism. Moving beyond an urban-centric lens, we present the findings of The Rural Racism Project: Towards an Inclusive Countryside, which aims to amplify the voices of minoritised ethnic communities living in and visiting rural England. Despite the idealised notion of the "rural idyll," our empirical research reveals that rural racism is a significant yet often overlooked issue.

Through over 100 conversations, auto-ethnographic fieldwork, and participatory action research, we examine how racism manifests in rural settings, exploring its various forms and the physical, emotional, and behavioural impacts on individuals, families, and communities. By employing a co-produced methodological approach, this project creates inclusive and empowering research, allowing participants and co-researchers to take an active role in the research process.

As national conversations about race and identity become increasingly fraught, this project provides a compelling evidence base for informed public discourse, enriched by the centring of minority ethnic voices. Additionally, we critique the enduring narratives of colonialism and empire embedded in rural spaces, calling for a reckoning with historical injustices that continue to shape contemporary society. Guided by Critical Race Studies and Black Feminism, this paper demonstrates how arts-informed, narrative, and ethnographic methods can contribute to an anti-racist praxis. Ultimately, our research advocates for a more inclusive understanding of rural life, challenging dominant narratives and recognising diverse experiences in the countryside.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 1.218

Voice, Agency and Identity: Muslim Hui Women's Trajectories in Chinese State-Run Education

Beibei Gao

(King's College London)

Muslim women from China's third largest minority group, the Hui, face 'cultural conflict' between partystate discourses of Han-dominated modernisation, heavily promoted through the state education system, and community Islamic traditions, which often include limited education and early marriage for girls. A conceptual link may be drawn between differential educational outcomes, internalisation of religious-cultural norms, and community perceptions of the value of state schooling. This qualitative study of two Hui communities of differing economic development in Ningxia province will draw on interviews with girls, parents, imams and officials, as well as Hui women at university in provincial capital Yinchuan and national capital Beijing, to examine (a) experiences and views of state education; (b) how students and their families navigate intersecting forms of cultural conflict for ethnic and religious minorities and for women; and (c) how these together influence female educational experiences and outcomes. Throughout, young Hui women's agency and voice in negotiating their educational trajectories with families, communities and schools will be emphasised, in a way thus far missing from the mostly Western- and male-dominated scholarship on China's Islamic minorities. Data will be thematically and comparatively analysed, generating insights of use in the culturally sensitive promotion of female empowerment and educational equity among China's Muslim communities and beyond.

Euro-Diversity and Sense of Belonging: Migrant Children's Experiences in a Multi-Ethnic Environment

Thi Bogossian

(University of East Anglia)

This paper draws on ethnographic research conducted in a Catholic school in England to explore how Polish children experience their school environment and develop their identities within a multi-ethnic context. In the UK, schools are key spaces where migrant children navigate their ethnic identities, social relationships, and sense of belonging. Despite a broader socio-political climate marked by rising antiimmigrant sentiment, the inclusive ethos of this school fosters a sense of safety and belonging for Polish pupils. The school becomes a space where diverse interactions help children develop positive identities, acknowledging yet normalising their cultural backgrounds. Their experiences illustrate how schools that embrace diversity can enable migrant children to form meaningful friendships, supporting the development of positive attachments and a sense of belonging.

However, the limited racial diversity in this context complicates conventional ideas of diversity. To address this, the paper adapts Vertovec's (2007) concept of superdiversity, proposing euro-diversity - a framework recognising ethnic diversity within a predominantly white European setting. This concept offers a useful lens for understanding social contexts where white migrant diversity exists without significant racial heterogeneity.

In conclusion, this study shows how euro-diversity shapes the experiences of migrant children, providing insights into how they navigate identity and belonging in multi-ethnic but racially homogeneous environments. It highlights the important role of schools in fostering inclusion and supporting social cohesion, even in contexts where racial diversity is limited.

Selection or Intervention Effect? Ethnic Inequality in Educational Attainment for Children Receiving Social Care Services: Evidence from Linked Administrative Data in Wales

Yongchao Jing, Grace Bailey, Sin Yi Cheung, Lucy Griffiths, Jonathan Scourfield

(Cardiff University)

How does ethnicity moderate the educational outcomes of children with a history of receiving social care services? Children receiving social care services may experience lower educational attainment due to the adverse circumstances that lead to their social care involvement (selection effects), but they may also benefit from interventions that improve their attainment (intervention effects). Utilising linked records from routinely collected administrative social service and education data for the whole of Wales (UK), we examine ethnic inequality in children's school leaving qualification: GCSE Grade A-C. We found that amongst children receiving social care services while remaining with families, there were significantly lower GCSE results for White, Mixed-heritage, and Asian children, but not for Black and Other-ethnicity children, compared with children not receiving social services. Comparing children in state care with those receiving services at home, the GCSE results were similar for White and Mixed-heritage children. However, for Black, Asian, and Other-ethnicity children, those in state care had significantly lower GCSE attainment compared to those receiving services at home. These findings suggest the child welfare system may be selectively admitting educationally well-performing Black and Other-ethnicity children into social care services, while state care interventions are potentially less effective for most ethnic minority children (except for those of Mixed-heritage). Our study advances the scholarship on ethnic inequality in education as well as the social care literature by shedding lights on the ethnic variation within the child welfare system and provides implications for policy and practice.

Privileged to Discuss Racism: Ethnoracial Dynamics among Students in Taiwan's Internationalization of Higher Education

Wei-Yun Chung

(National Taiwan University)

Taiwan is an emerging destination for international students in Asia. From 2007 to 2022, the number of international degree students increased six-fold, with approximately 70% of these students coming from Southeast Asia, a region also prominent as a source of migrant workers in Taiwan. Through in-depth interviews with international degree students in Taiwan. I find that white privilege persists among international students, with Japanese and South Korean students enjoying higher status, while Southeast Asian students occupy the lowest tier of an invisible racial hierarchy both on and off campus. Southeast Asian students are more likely to experience micro-aggressions, exclusion, and racism, which are observed by both Southeast Asian students and other international students. However, Southeast Asian students often perceive these incidents as isolated, attributing them to being mistaken for migrant workers, which reflects a class divide within their communities. In contrast, students from other regions interpret these events as part of broader institutional racism, demonstrating a greater awareness of consistent racialized treatment based on nationality and ethnicity. This research highlights the underexplored diversity within the international student community. It also illustrates how government immigration policies, intersecting with race, class, and nationality, shape the dynamics within migrant communities. Furthermore, the study shows how racial power dynamics influence students' sense of empowerment in discussing racism.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 2.219 Special Event

Transformations in Thinking about Hate: Relationships, Intersectionality and Centring the Perpetrators

Catherine Donovan, Stephen Macdonald, John Clayton

(Durham University, Northumbria University)

Traditionally, hate has been understood primarily as incident-focused physical violence targeting a protected characteristic (race, faith, sexuality, disability, transgender identity); where perpetrators are considered is with a criminal justice lens. At this special event three papers will set out how the research term have been transforming thinking about hate in Britain to throw into question the focus on incidents, to explore the substantial minority of reports of hate that are repeat reporting and to bring the perpetrator politically and in terms of interest, from the margins to the centre of the analysis. Using a multi-disciplinary approach, (including sociology, feminism, criminology, disability studies and human geography), the research team consider the relationships between those involved, including with help providers, the impacts of intersecting identities and the centrality of the home as a space in which many victim/survivors feel like hostages. Their conclusions suggest that help providers, data collection systems and institutional responses to hate need to be transformed in order to better reflect and respond to the victimisation too many people experience in their neighbourhoods from people they know.

In Catherine's paper Stark's (2007) concept of coercive control is used consider the ways in which many of those who repeat report hate are in a hate relationship: where an individual and their family/household are repeatedly victimised by neighbours living in close proximity. Impacts, as with domestically abusive coercive control, are profound for the victim/survivors' physical, social and mental health and wellbeing with many reporting feeling entrapped. As in domestic abuse, poor responses from help providers to repeat reporters of hate, can exacerbate those impacts. Instead of responding to each incident as discrete, it is critical to see the hate relationship.

Steve's paper considers the implications of data collection processes that categorise reports of hate as being associated with one protected characteristic. The analysis described here shows how, too often, intersecting identities are at play in the victimisation and, very often, it is disability that is rendered invisible. As a consequent, where disabled children or vulnerable adults are involved, social services

62 British Sociological Association Annual Conference 2025 University of Manchester are not routinely involved with investigating safeguarding concerns; an important potential multi-agency response which can consider the situation holistically. A focus on the hate relationship and cumulative impacts for disabled victim/survivors of hate would enable practitioners to better understand and respond to repeat reporting.

In John's paper the focus is on the perpetrators whose victimisation is characterised by apparently 'low level' acts of hostility that either do not reach the threshold of a crime and/or are difficult to evidence. Perpetrators deny their hate when police officers attend and make counter allegations against the victim/survivors such that practitioners seem unable to distinguish perpetrators from victim/survivors. The wider socio-economic structural impacts of austerity on communities that, cumulatively, have created the material and location-specific conditions in which hate relationships can occur. These wider factors are considered to point to the potential of community-based potential to develop non-criminal justice responses where appropriate.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies -Room 2.220

Elements of Online Transgression

Vern Smith

(University of Wollongong)

As online social media platforms - such as X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, YouTube, and other social media websites - become increasingly pervasive in everyday life, communication styles between users continue to evolve, particularly regarding (in)appropriate interactions on the Internet. Most of the emerging literature regarding online inappropriateness engages with new theories and evidence surrounding online conduct within public forums (such as comment sections of social media websites), and the dangers of online transgression (such as cyber-bullying, trolling and the spread of misinformation). The literature under review in this presentation generally fails to differentiate, or altogether ignores, important caveats to the phenomena. For example, treating trolling and cyberbullying as the same thing, or failing to acknowledge the ways in which humour and/or satire might play a part in the phenomena. As this research is emerging, there is a need for consistent use of terminology - which is currently absent - and more nuanced understandings of Online Transgression (OT). I argue that the existing literature's conflated understandings are due to only examining one or two of the elements of OT. This presentation identifies OT to encompass three elements: (i) entertainment, (ii) harassment, and (iii) status-quo. Through data collected from Facebook comments, I propose the model of Online Transgression (OT) and its elements for researchers when studying online inappropriateness. By using this model to examine all three elements of OT concurrently, understandings of inappropriate interactions on the Internet – such as trolling, cyber-bullying and online harassment – may be detangled.

A Place without Gender: Exploring the Use of Minecraft by Transgender Individuals

Anna Blair

(Research conducted while a student at the University of Edinburgh)

Imagine a place where all cows have udders yet can reproduce - and where all people have the same body, leaving gender to only be theorised through blurry indications of hair length. Building on Butler's conceptualisations of gender as a performance, and Doan's recognition of the tyranny of gendered space for transgender individuals, this research examines the use of Minecraft -an almost genderless virtual gamespace - by transgender players.

Video games and wider virtual spaces have been recognised for their affordances to play with gender, sexuality, and the presentation of self. Customisable avatars have allowed many people to step into the role of another gender and experience gender-affirmation. Minecraft, as a heavily pixelated sandbox game, strays from this model to create virtual social worlds where gender can be backgrounded.

In this research, six transgender Minecraft players were interviewed via text chat whilst playing in-world. Findings suggest that Minecraft can appeal to transgender individuals as it offers spatial and bodily freedoms which can otherwise be difficult to attain. The server-model of Minecraft creates separate worlds with protective rules to create safe social spaces which act in contrast to the hypervigilance needed by transgender people in public space due to hate and stigma directed towards them. Participants reported that the reading of Minecraft as a non-gendered space led to an alleviation of gender dysphoria. This research questions if Minecraft might act as a model for the backgrounding of gender and a release from gender performance within social space.

TikTok Digital Practices and the Sober Curious

Kate Orton-Johnson

(University of Edinburgh)

This paper presents findings from an ongoing project focused on sober curious communities on TikTok. In this paper I argue that these communities offer a haven from in 'intoxigenic' digital spaces for individuals navigating the complexities of sobriety.

This research examines the implications of TikTok's emergence as a locus of sociality for the sober curious movement, both in terms of individual well-being and broader societal attitudes towards addiction and recovery. Central to this is an exploration of the creative and expressive practices employed by individuals within sober curious communities and the attitudes and experiences of those who follow them.

The paper draws on qualitative data from interviews with 28 sober curious TikTok users and a systematic content analysis of 800 TikTok videos.

Emergent findings reveal insights into the role of TikTok in destigmatizing addiction, fostering empathy and promoting positive representations of abstinence and resilience. Three key themes with be explored: the value of digital storytelling, the nature of TikTok accountability, and the visibility of failures or relapses. These themes underscore TikTok's significance as a platform for personal expression, accountability, and community-building within the sober curious movement.

Combined, these themes speak to TikTok as an important platform for the sober curious. TikTok allows the messy, unpredictable, embodied and digital practices and experiences of sobriety to play out. Reframing sobriety beyond medicalised narratives of addiction to provide a more nuanced and freeing set of practices and contexts that enable respondents to rethink and re-evaluate their relationship with alcohol.

Sharing Memes to Stay In Touch: On New Modes of Digitally Mediated Social Connection

Andreas Schellewald

(Goldsmiths, University of London)

Over the last years, we have witnessed the increasing personalisation of online environments such as social media platforms. Increasingly, people's interactions on these platforms are mediated by algorithmic systems that observe their behaviour and make computational decisions, for example on the types of content that are "relevant" to a given person. In consequence, there have been renewed debates on ideas like that of echo chambers, filter bubbles, as well as calls for the declining "social" qualities of social media and the internet. This paper will offer a counter point, drawing on digital fieldwork on Instagram and TikTok. During a fieldwork period of two and a half years, the experience of 30 young adult TikTok users, the TikTok platform, as well as that of Instagram were ethnographically studied. Based on that fieldwork, the paper offers a situated account on the practice of content sharing. Outlining the variety of sharing practices, and a distinct type of "to be shared" content, the paper highlights the potent sociality that exists within the increasingly "personalised" architecture of the internet. In particular, the paper will outline how sharing practices enable relationship maintenance and cohesion by creating vital atmospheres of sociability – that is, for example, spaces in which friends can feel each other's presence as friends online. From this position, the paper will develop an argument on contemporary forms of sociality.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 3.210

Psychological Traits and Social Class: An Exploration Using Longitudinal Data from the NorLAG Study

Jan Fredrik Hovden

(University of Bergen)

This study investigates the relationship between psychological traits and social class using data from the Norwegian Life Course, Ageing, and Generation (NorLAG) panel study. Psychological measures, such as the Big Five personality traits (extraversion, openness, agreeableness, conscientiousness, and neuroticism), along with indicators of mental health and well-being, are frequently used to understand individual differences in behavior and life outcomes. However, their connection to social class remains underexplored.

Using repeated measures of personality and psychological well-being collected over 15 years, this analysis draws on data from approximately 6,000 participants aged 40 and above, gathered in multiple waves from 2002 to 2017. Combined with rich indicators of education, economic and cultural resources, and life events, it offers a unique opportunity to explore how commonly used personality measures relate to social class.

After a review of the relevant literature, using a Bourdieuan approach to social class and a GDA methodological framework, the study will examine how different psychological traits (including an approximation of Myers-Briggs MBTI types) are distributed in the Norwegian social space, including differences between genders, and to what degree different traits appear related to class. Additionally, the study will explore whether this relationship remains stable over time, and discuss how these insights might be useful for sociological understanding of class situations.

No Boss, No Worker? Class Identifications of Platform Food Couriers in Germany and England

Alexandra Seehaus

(Leeds University)

This paper explores how platform food couriers in Germany and England identify in terms of social class. While the working conditions and resistance of food couriers are widely studied (Cant&Mogno 2020, Woodcock 2021, Cini 2023), the identities of these workers have not been the focus of empirical research, and few researchers have systematically applied a class perspective when investigating platform workers (Robinson 2017). This paper is based on 32 in-depth interviews with food couriers in the aforementioned countries, which were analysed following the coding system of the Grounded Theory approach (Glaser 1978). It shows how the specific working conditions in the platform food courier sector are experienced and how and when this experience shapes the workers' perceptions of their socio-economic position within society. The paper argues that working-class identifications are impeded by the strong sense of autonomy but may evolve around occupational identities linked to collective action or through wider experiences of being disadvantaged. By offering biographic explanations and job-specific context, the paper takes forward debates about class ambiguity and disidentification with class in modern capitalism (Savage et al. 2001, Skeggs 2015) and offers nuances to explanations of a strong middle-class bias (Irwin 2018). The paper further sheds light on the role of dependency and autonomy in the experience of platform labour (Schor et al., 2020).

Class Origins and Wealth Inequality: Examining Opportunity Hoarding across Birth Cohorts in the UK

Mina Mahmoudzadeh

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Recent decades have witnessed a surge in wealth and wealth inequality, yet sociological class analysis has failed to adequately address these critical phenomena (Waitkus, Savage and Toft, 2024). This oversight of class analysis to engage with wealth dynamics is especially concerning given the proliferation of recent literature highlighting the increasing importance of wealth in shaping life chances across numerous outcomes, both within and across generations today (Hällsten and Pfeffer, 2017; Karagiannaki, 2017; Toft and Friedman; 2020; Clark and Cummins, 2014). This paper explores how the recent explosion of wealth has reshaped class inequalities in the UK. Through cohort analysis of Understanding Society data, I reveal a striking rise in the significance of class origins in structuring access to wealth-building opportunities between the 1960s and 1980s birth cohorts. While wealth is often considered as a singular entity, different asset types- such as housing, savings and investmentsoffer distinct advantages and securities. The analysis demonstrates that this increase in wealth-based opportunity hoarding (Tilly, 1998; Hansen and Toft, 2021) applies across all asset types examined. These findings indicate that wealth inequalities are not only deepening but are also becoming more intensely reproduced along class lines. For class analysis to fully capture the mechanisms of inequality reproduction across generations it must expand its focus beyond the labour market, and seriously consider economic returns generated via mechanisms of wealth accumulation today. This research thus contributes to new sociological perspectives which have great potential to renew class analysis in powerful ways.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 3.211

The Arab-Israeli Conflict in the Contemporary Coptic Church Debates between Theological and Political Reflections

Sara Shaltout

(University of St Andrews)

The Coptic Orthodox Church's involvement in the Arab-Israeli conflict reflects broader religious transformations within Egyptian society. Under Pope Kyrillos VI (1959-1971), the Church adopted a firm stance against Israel, exemplified by the 1968 ban on pilgrimages to Palestine in response to the Six-Day War (Youssef, 1987). This position persisted under Pope Shenouda III (1971-2012), who reinforced the Church's opposition by officially prohibiting pilgrimages in 1980. However, in 2015, Pope Tawadros II (2012-present) became the first Coptic leader to visit Israel, signaling a shift in the Church's approach and highlighting a transformation in religious-political engagement (Victor, 2015).

This research explores the ways in which the Coptic Church's shifting stance towards this conflict mirrors deeper religious transformations within Egyptian society. By examining the political, social, and religious factors influencing the Church's evolving position, this study seeks to understand how these transformations have reshaped the Church's identity and its role in society. Special attention will be given to generational shifts, comparing the "Sunday School" generation that shaped the Church's leadership with the younger laity, who grew up after the 1978 Camp David Accords and were influenced by the Arab Spring.

Through an analysis of clergy and lay perspectives since 1967, this research argues that the changing religious attitudes within the Coptic Church are a reflection of broader societal transformations. These shifts reveal how the Church adapts to new political realities and evolving interfaith relations, marking a significant turning point in the relationship between religious institutions and the state in modern Egypt.

One Island, Two lockdowns: Religion in Societies Emerging from COVID-19, Results from Northern Ireland the Republic of Ireland

Caoimhe Ni Dhonaill

(Queen's University)

The two jurisdictions found on the island of Ireland offered different approaches to responses to Covid-19 as they related to religious organisations: Northern Ireland taking a more collaborative, consultative approach and the Republic of Ireland taking a more authoritative approach to implementing restrictions. This paper explores the role that religion played during the Covid-19 pandemic on the island of Ireland, with the context of the diverging approaches by policymakers. The paper focuses on three areas of investigation: discourses around health, illness, and science; relationships between religions and the state; and religious adaptations to the digital world, including digital innovations. Focusing on four groups (the Catholic Church, the three largest Protestant churches, Muslims, and Humanists) it employs a mixed-methods analysis of public documents produced by religious organisations, independent or semi-independent religious media sources, text-mining, online questionnaires of leaders and members, and in-depth interviews with leaders and members.

Findings to be discussed include; the context of ongoing pre-pandemic trends such as secularisation and the decline of religious authority and influence in Ireland; the transitions groups had to make to cope with the pandemic, and consequent changes to religious life in Ireland; a general support for restrictions by religious organisations across the island, even at the expanse of religious freedoms; and the approaches to communication between policymakers and religious leaders in both jurisdictions.

Rethinking Religion and Conflict through a Non-Western Lens: Sociological Insights on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Umur Kosal

(University of Aberdeen)

This paper examines the significance of sociological analysis of religion in understanding its role during periods of socio-political tension, focusing on the intricate dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Drawing on foundational theories, such as Durkheim's exploration of religion as a social phenomenon, alongside contemporary perspectives that discuss the implications of secularism and pluralism, this paper reflects on the evolution of social scientific viewpoints exploring the complex interplay between religion, politics, and power. The emphasis is on moving beyond Western-centric frameworks, as critiqued by Said, to foster a nuanced understanding of religion that integrates global and local contexts, providing insights into the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and similar socio-political struggles. The core argument posits that, amid profound geopolitical change, religion can act as both a divisive force and a catalyst for reconciliation, echoing dualities discussed by Lederach in peacebuilding. To navigate these roles effectively, it is essential to critically re-examine existing sociological theories and develop alternative frameworks that analyse how religious beliefs shape, and are shaped by, broader historical and socio-political factors from a non-Western perspective. By examining the religious dimensions of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict-such as religious narratives and symbols-with such a perspective, the paper illustrates how these dynamics illuminate broader challenges faced by societies in flux and contribute to informed discussions about conflict resolution and social cohesion. This understanding ultimately contributes to more informed discussions about conflict resolution and social cohesion, shedding light on the long and convoluted history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Sociology of Education - Room 4.205

Will You Be My Friend? Assessing Friendship Network in India's Desegregated Schools

Shriyam Gupta

(University of Maryland)

Prejudice begins early around age 5-7 years, with social context starting to play a critical role with increasing age. Could schools provide the necessary environment to bridge social gulfs? Taking a cue from the Brown vs. Board of Education, India reserved 25% seats in private schools for marginalized students from ages 6 to 14 years. The legislative intent of the Right to Education (2009) was: to create "a common place where children sit, eat and live together for at least eight years of their lives across caste and class divides in order that it narrows down such divisions in our society." I examine changes in friendship formations using two rounds of qualitative panel interviews with students (n=33*2 rounds), and their parents (n=31), as they moved from grade 7th to 8th within a single private school in India, affected by affirmative action. Preliminary analysis reveals that students do report cross class friendships. However, economically weaker students (EWS) reported having way more EWS students as their friends even though they make up less than one-fifth of the class size. Further, cross class interactions are limited mostly to the school hours, and after school interactions mostly occur amongst friends with shared class backgrounds. Students reported significant changes in friendship networks in a period of one year, but these changes were more pronounced for economically weaker students. Changing seating arrangements by teachers influenced new friendship formations, and affected EWS networks more than the networks of their privileged peers.

Mindfulness in Schools: Issues of Equality and Diversity

Peter Hemming

(University of Surrey)

Mindfulness is increasingly offered in schools around the UK, as well as internationally. Previous research has focused on the efficacy, the implementation, and the wider meaning of mindfulness in education, rather than sociological interests, such as matters of equality and social justice. This article draws on qualitative data from the 'Mapping Mindfulness in the UK' study, to investigate how mindfulness practitioners discuss and address issues of equality and diversity in relation to school-based mindfulness. Lynch and Baker's key dimensions of equality are used to analyse participants' accounts, including on adjustments to curriculum and pedagogy to accommodate diversity, practitioners' responses to socio-emotional vulnerability, and the dynamics of choice and compulsion in the classroom. By highlighting several issues of concern in these areas, the research makes original contributions to sociological understandings of mindfulness and other similar initiatives in schools, whilst offering new insights on theories of equality in education more broadly.

Boys who Care: Exploring the Negotiation of Young Male Carers' Educational Identities

Aliki Tennant, Alex Blower

(Arts University Bournemouth)

Internationally, little research has investigated the impact of caring responsibilities on educational outcomes. What little is known shows that young carers struggle to reach their primary-age expected levels in reading, writing and maths, and that there is a link between children and young adults with caring responsibilities and socio-economic inequality.

Concurrently, examination of general educational attainment and progression in England continues to demonstrate a stark disparity between boys who are eligible for Free School Meals and their advantaged peers. Young men, especially those from working-class backgrounds, are rarely afforded the opportunity to engage in deep conversations about masculinity and its role in shaping their educational experience. Research also suggests that traditional qualitative methodologies such as semi structured interviews are not adequate tools to facilitate deep reflection when used in isolation (Robb, 2022).

Drawing on previous research which deployed creative activities as a mechanism to critically engage young men with the role of masculinity in their educational experiences and formation of future educational orientations, ten young male carers participated in a Creative Writing workshop. It sought to provide the space, capacity, and opportunity to share reflections on their experiences as both young men and young carers. Through the production of artefacts and subsequent discussion in follow-up interviews, participants were encouraged to explore new possibilities related to the formation of caring dispositions.

Mobilising Habitus as a conceptual tool, this deeply qualitative paper examines and highlights the unique challenges faced by young male carers in education and champions their day-to-day lived experience.

Theory - Room 2.217

Infrastructures as Habitus of the State: On the Transformation of Infrastructural Power

Jakob Hartl

(University of Halle-Wittenberg/Research Institute Social Cohesion)

Forty years after Michael Mann's seminal work on infrastructural power (1984) as the most pervasive and pertinent performance of state power in (late) capitalism, a translation into or for sociological theory is still wanting. This omission is even the more salient, since the state appears to be on the backfoot since just about the same time. A theoretical or at least macro-sociological perspective on the effects of Thathecherite and neoliberal politics more generally however is mainly found in political science, whereas most of the valuable sociological research into them mostly dealt with the repercussions of said politics. At the same time, infrastructure policies and politics are still very much on the table and efficaciously shaping society.

Utilising Bourdieusian theory and semantics, this paper attempts to fill this gap by conceptualising and analysing infrastructures as "habitus of the state". Analogously to the habitus' power in structuring the individual's lifeworld while simultaneously being itself structured by its incorporated history, infrastructures in both their material and provisional aspects need to be understood as results of historical trajectories while simultaneously structuring state-individuum relations. Beyond the theoretical argument, we will present three realms of current infrastructural shifts concerning money, immigration, and transport which are emblematic for the current transformations of infrastructural power, which need analysing as a reshaping of state-society relation.

The Modern State, Overseas Empires, and European Colonialism

Gurminder K Bhambra

(University of Sussex)

One of the central issues within standard sociological accounts of the modern state, as Stuart Hall set out, has been 'within what boundaries and over which peoples the state can enforce its legal will' (1984: 2). Such questions inextricably link the state to ideas of the nation and yet, as I've argued in previous work, the operations of the state have rarely been bound to the nation. While there is greater recognition of the continuing legacies of colonialism and empire within contemporary societies, the significance of colonial histories to the very structure of those societies – and how we understand them within sociology – remains a relatively neglected topic. In this paper, I question the standard genealogies of the modern state that locate its emergence in relation to developments internal to the state – such as struggles among social classes – and geopolitical considerations emerging from interactions within the newly established European interstate system after the 1648 Peace of Westphalia. Concomitant practices of colonialism and the development of overseas empires, which are simultaneous with the emergence of these states, are rarely to be found within the established scholarship. In contrast, I provide a historical sociological reconstruction of what difference a proper accounting of colonial histories and the development of overseas empires are proper accounting of colonial histories and the development of overseas empires are proper accounting of colonial histories and the development of overseas empires are proper accounting of colonial histories and the development of overseas empires are proper accounting of colonial histories and the development of overseas empires are proper accounting of the modern state.

What Can a Capitalist State Do? A DeleuzoGuattarian Inquiry

Nick Fox

(University of Huddersfield)

This paper explores Deleuze and Guattari's (1988: 454) proposition that in the era of global capitalism, the sole purpose of the capitalist state is to enable and sustain the accumulation of capital. 'Integrated world capitalism' (Guattari and Negri, 1985) has become the predominant economic formation, establishing what Deleuze and Guattari called the 'capitalist axiomatic'. This axiomatic comprises the 'de-territorialised' (that is, unfettered or free) flows of capital, commodities and labour required for the everyday workings of the capitalist market. The capitalism state is nothing more nor less than the material manifestation of this capitalist axiomatic, overseeing these free flows through the economy, society and polity.

I use a thought experiment to test this proposition concerning what a contemporary capitalist state does. I consider what policies a wide range of state/government departments (for instance, defence, transport, education, health, environment) would need to put in place to assure unfettered flows of money, commodities and labour.

The paper then invites the audience to assess whether these responsibilities match the real-life policies of contemporary liberal democracy nation-states, and consequently if this comparison adds weight to Deleuze and Guattari's analysis of the capitalist state. It concludes by asking whether a focus on capital accumulation constrains or undermines other civil society policy possibilities.

In Search of the Sociology of Democracy

Benjamin Abrams

(University College London)

Though the political study of democracy is an extremely well-established field, the sociological study of democratic life is still in its relative infancy. Despite prominent political theorists such as Alexis de Tocqueville laying the groundwork for sociological perspectives on democratic life long ago, sociologists have largely failed to take up such a challenge. Only quite recently have macrosociologists (e.g. Perrin, 2014; Polletta 2013;) turned their attention to the dynamics of democratic life, and many sociologists working at the micro and meso levels remain unconcerned with the ramifications of their work for democracy writ-large. This emerging focus offers a rich tapestry of inquiry, examining how democracy is sustained not just as a political system, but a complex social tapestry.

This paper seeks to lay the foundation for a more systematic sociological study of democracy.

The first half of the paper charts the development of sociological thinking about democracy, before drawing together an overview of the state of present-day efforts, explicating the commonalities and tensions exhibited in these select projects, and critically evaluating their promise.

The paper's second half offers a synthetic impression of what 'the sociology of democracy' may constitute, sketching the through-lines and far-boundaries found across historical work, self-conscious democratic sociology, and wider democracy-relevant sociological work. Here, I advance the value of a normative concern with democracy in motivating sociological inquiry into the topic, and lay out an agenda for studying (a) the socio-cultural dynamics of democratic collective behaviour, and (b) the mechanisms that structure social power in democracies.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 -Room 3.204

Exploring Pathways to Employability of People with Learning Disabilities in the UK: A Biographical Approach.

Uzo Ejekwumadu

(University of Westminster)

Improving access to employment for people with disabilities remains a critical issue in the UK. Learning disabilities (LD) cover long-term cognitive challenges individuals may have in processing complex information, communicating, and interacting with others, reducing opportunities for learning skills and independent living. Having LD often hinders people from developing skills and utilising talents that could enhance life chances, particularly in active employment. People with learning disabilities (PWLD) face additional barriers to acquiring relevant skills. They are more likely to be discriminated against in employment, further hindering them from gaining skills and compounding their dependency, precarity, and long-term out-of-job situation. It also perpetuates social exclusion and inequality. PWLDs who have overcome these challenges and are employed are often productive in their workplace and record occupational achievements. Considering the complexity of the problem, which is accentuated by the post-COVID-19 high unemployment among youths and vulnerable people, this paper explores some individual and contextual employability enablers for PWLDs, which would help create more inclusive organisations and society. A biographical method is adopted, giving voice to PWLDs. By narrating their employment and work-life, PWLDs may voice their silenced personal stories and interpret their experiences based on their social reality. The study aims to uncover variegated pathways through which PWLDs as an agency consciously navigate to acquire employability skills. It concludes with recommendations that enable PWLD to transition into sustainable employment and the implications for people management, social policy and future research.

Rethinking Inclusion: Towards a Dialogic Approach to Addressing Inequalities at Work

Chidozie Umeh, Sarah Marks, Nelarine Cornelius, Benish Khan, Luyao Bao, Rym Mouelhi

(University of York)

This study explores workplace inequalities in the UK through Bakhtin's concept of dialogism, focusing on how dialogue can address inequitable social relations. Using over 40,000 qualitative responses from the Race at Work Surveys (2015, 2018, 2021), it examines how dialogic practices—open and participatory—amplify minoritised employees' voices, while non-dialogic practices, marked by exclusion and silence, perpetuate systemic inequalities. An abductive methodology facilitated new insights from this extensive dataset, addressing two key questions: how do dialogic and non-dialogic practices shape minoritised employees' experiences of unfairness, and how do these practices affect the effectiveness of organisational EDI initiatives?

The UK's socio-political context, shaped by events like the Windrush Scandal, Brexit, and the Black Lives Matter movement, underscores the persistence of systemic racial disparities. Despite initiatives such as the Race Disparity Audit (2017) and the Equality Act (2010), racial inequalities remain entrenched in UK workplaces.

Findings reveal that minoritised employees often fear retaliation, preventing authentic dialogue, and many organisations dismiss their concerns, limiting their capacity to articulate experiences of discrimination. Structural barriers, such as exclusion from meaningful EDI discussions, reinforce these inequalities. The study urges leadership to foster environments where genuine dialogue can occur, rethinking HR's role in advancing beyond performative policies. Organisations can initiate pathways toward meaningful reform by embedding dialogic principles that challenge power imbalances. This research contributes to the sociology of work by positioning dialogue as a transformative tool for achieving equitable workplace change.

Transforming the Workplace: Disabled Workers' and Employers' Perspectives on Remote and Hybrid Working

Paula Holland, Calum Carson, Rebecca Florrison, Alison Collins, Alice Martin, Jacqueline Winstanley

(Lancaster University)

The COVID-19 pandemic instigated widespread change to working practices: almost five years on, remote and hybrid working models are still available to many desk-based workers. One-fifth of working-age people in the UK are disabled yet their preferences for, and experiences of, remote and hybrid working are largely unexplored. The disability employment gap stands at 27.9% and is largely driven by organisational inflexibility and non-inclusive workplace policies and practice.

Our large-scale mixed-methods study, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, is underpinned by the Job Demands-Resources model and an intersectional lens. It explores disabled people's perspectives on the benefits and challenges associated with remote and hybrid working in relation to their employment, health and relationships, and factors they perceive as inclusive practice. Through employer interviews and organisational case studies, we also identify whether and how employers are implementing remote/hybrid working models that are inclusive of disabled workers' needs and preferences.

Disabled participants expressed a strong preference for working remotely or in a hybrid way, reporting benefits to health/wellbeing, managing impairments/health condition(s), productivity and work-life balance. However, challenges included isolation, lacking reasonable adjustments in one or both work locations, difficulties participating in hybrid meetings, and concerns over job security. For employers, experiences vary widely dependent on their own organisational decision-making processes and internal culture, leading to varied success in adopting flexible working models for their workforce. Remote and hybrid working can be positive for disabled workers' employment and health, but this is contingent on having access to organisational support, resources and reasonable adjustments.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 -Room 3.205

Citizenship, Sex Work and Taxes: Perspective from Three European Contexts

Isabel Crowhurst

(University of Essex)

By bringing citizenship, sex work and tax studies into dialogue, this article aims to better understand the intersection of sex work and citizenship through the lens of taxation. We approach the latter as an important yet overlooked factor in the relationship between sex workers and the state, one that can help to understand the complexity of the meaning and practice of citizenship for this population. We do this by exploring how sex workers in three European contexts with different legal and fiscal approaches to sex work, Italy, Portugal and canton Geneva in Switzerland, understand and negotiate tax policies and practices. Particularly salient to our analysis is the concept of citizenship which, drawing on feminist scholarship, we understand as confronted and practiced in multiple intersecting spheres of lived experience, including the intimate, the domestic, the sexual, as well as the civic, political and social ones. We show that diverse approaches to tax practices, and the conflicting claims to full citizenship they represent, are mediated by laws and social norms around sex work, as well as emotions, relationality, identity and belonging, all of which are experienced differently according to the different economic, social and political statuses of our participants.

Beyond the Screen: The Hidden Struggles of E-Commerce Live Streamers in a Precarious Economy

Yao Wang

(University of Bristol)

This paper investigates the experiences of e-commerce live streamers in China and focuses on the precarity of their digital labour and the impact of social inequalities. The live-streaming economy has rapidly emerged as a significant component of the digital economy and reshaped consumer engagement and employment patterns. However, the working experiences of e-commerce live streamers remain poorly understood, often characterised by instability and exploitation. This research employs a mixed-methods approach that includes in-depth interviews with 40 e-commerce live streamers, online questionnaires distributed to 40 Multi-Channel Networks (MCNs) and businesses involved in the industry, and participant observation of live streaming activities in Yiwu, China. The findings reveal that e-commerce live streamers frequently face significant income volatility, lack of job security, and limited access to social protections, which exacerbates existing inequalities in the digital labour market. Furthermore, the research highlights the critical role of community support-both from audiences and fellow streamers-in mitigating the negative impacts of these precarious conditions. This study contributes to the discourse on digital labour by illustrating the complex interplay between exploitation, social inequality, and community dynamics in the live-streaming economy. It also underscores the need for policy interventions to enhance protections for digital labourers and calls for further research on the evolving nature of work in the digital landscape.

The Precarity of the 21st Century Industrial Worker and Their Firm

Thomas Wilson

(University of Kent)

Tomlinson (2016) argued that deindustrialisation is not an event but a process. This helps to explain why, over 40 years after large-scale industrial losses in the 1980s, contemporary headlines continue to lead with stories such as the 2,000 industrial workers awaiting redundancy at the Port Talbot steelworks, or the 2,500 in Scunthorpe threatened with a similar fate.

The United Kingdom losing its core manufacturing basis is far from a novel convention, however, recent social transformations are beginning to carry greater consequence across more industrial sites. The growing demand for housing has led to a strange conundrum: a need for land to facilitate development, whilst retaining the industrial capacity required to produce goods for such projects.

The circumstance of Chatham Dockyard is a case in point. Once a Royal Naval Dockyard for 400 years, its remaining industrial site is home to several firms. With the waterside area proving a lucrative venture for development, along with the local councils' target for housing, the future of the site and the livelihood of hundreds are at significant risk. Encompassing a yearlong ethnographic study, as the site manages this struggle, I have recorded the lived experience of work and life on the docks. This has included visual methods, and interviews across the firm's hierarchy. Drawing on sociological theory around embodiment, material culture and deindustrialisation studies, this talk will share key findings and explore the effect of this precarity on the space, along with how worker's sense of meaning and identity has been shaped by this.

PAPER SESSION 6 13:30-15:00

BSA Special Activity – Room 2.218 Monograph Publishing Special Event

From PhD Thesis to Monograph: A Workshop for PhD Students and Early Career Scholars

Théo Leschevin, Caroline Oliver, Shuang Qiu, Louise Ryan, Katherine Twamley (Université Paris Cité, University College London, University of Keele, London Metropolitan University)

This interactive workshop is intended to give guidance and support to early career scholars who are considering writing a monograph based on their PhD thesis. It will be led by three of the editors of the BSA/Routledge Sociological Futures book series, drawing on their experiences as editors and authors. The workshop builds on a webinar hosted by the BSA online in June 2024, to which around 100 people attended.

In the workshop, we will cover: the differences between a thesis and a monograph; the merits of a monograph as opposed to other outputs; how to go about selecting a publisher; the processes of submitting a proposal; and tips for 'converting' the thesis into a monograph.

The workshop will be interactive, with opportunities for attendees to ask questions and discuss their own nascent publication plans.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 4.206

Football from Below: A Punk Ethnography of Alternative Autonomous Queer Footballing Spaces

Alice Hoole

(Leeds Beckett University)

Despite football's association with hegemonic discourses regarding masculinity, heteronormativity, domination, and competition, some teams have carved out alternative, transgressive spaces within football in the UK and beyond. These teams, with roots in radical left-wing politics, utilise a DIY ethos to reimagine football as a vehicle for community, solidarity, activism, and alternative ways of 'doing' sport. Within academia in the UK, there is limited research addressing how anarchism and football can coalesce to create alternative, inclusive sporting practices. Most contemporary work has been mostly written from a White, male perspective. This research seeks to address this.

Drawing upon my Masters and PhD research, this paper critically explores the experiences of football players who identify as female, non-binary, and transgender and their perceptions of playing in queer autonomous football spaces. Due to my positioning within my research group, I have embarked on a punk ethnography to critically reflect and interact with the spaces, praxis, and identities that constitute the network of antifascist football teams I am part of. A queer anarchist lens is employed to deconstruct how discourses are both contested and reified through the alternative narratives and praxis of marginalised identities within sporting contexts. The themes of queer communities, queer temporalities, and safer spaces will be discussed. This research indicates the need for more prefigurative and diverse sporting spaces, practices, and narratives to allow freer participation for marginalised identities within football.

What Can a Body Do? Bodily Conversion in Roller Derby and Feminist Self-Defence

Aurelie Aromatario

(Université Libre de Bruxelles)

This presentation will analyse the role of the body in contexts of sport and leisure activities reframed as activism. Roller derby, a contact sport on roller skates rooted in feminist values and history, and feminist self-defence, whose techniques have been developed and transmitted since the first wave of feminist activism, involve working with the body as part of a political project. Yet, these activities remain associated with leisure and an individual, sub-political approach. As such, they appear to be prefigurative (Yates 2022), aimed at demonstrating more egalitarian social relations through practice. They are also performative (Butler 2011), since they aim to produce realities based on the body and gender.

What does this physical medium of sport and leisure offer compared with other forms of activism? What kind of specific dispositions can be reached through a repertoire of feminist activism based on the body?

The methodology, involving long-term participation and commitment, takes the form of an autoethnographic diary. A phenomenological framework and methodology (Ahmed 2006; Young 1990) indeed enables to consider the continuity between body, self and identity through a transformative process. This theoretical approach of body and gender is here associated with social movements theory, particularly those rooted in everyday practices. Drawing on the concept of conversion as an ascetic process (Darmon 2011) and self-transformation through activism (McAdam 1989), I posit that the practices studied here are a form of bodily conversion.

The Rules of the Game: Informal Schooling Through Immersion in Working-Class Football Culture

Gary Poynton

(Birmingham City University)

Social class and football have been interlinked since the genesis of the game, from the folk footballs which predate the codification of the sport (Giulianotti, 2000:2) to the public schools instrumental in forming the world's first football association in the 19th century (Birley, 1993). I posit that this close relationship between football and social class has fostered the creation of a similarly close relationship between the sport and its fans, people whose identities are interwoven with the colours and traditions of the clubs they follow. My work explores this relationship between football and its working-class fans. and whether fans are participating in communal informal learning practices as a direct result of their fandom and the challenges that arise through these interactions. Data is generated using walking interviews (Evans and Jones, 2011) to account for the experiential and cultural cues arising from interaction with specific places. Using a novel temporal-spatial framework, my thesis analyses the narratives of working-class football fans in Wolverhampton, exploring the learning experiences of their fandom through educational models such as Vygotsky's Zone of Proximal Development (1978) and Bronfenbrenner's Bio-Ecological System (1979). I build upon this co-construction of knowledge in conjunction with Freirian teachings to understand and build upon the pre-established canon of football literature, with a focus towards the learning benefits conferred through immersion in the culture, as well as the promotion of marginalised working-class voices in academia. This will be a presentation of findings as the project approaches completion.

Gender Inequalities in Sport: Exploring the Experiences of Female Coaches

Urszula Wolski

(Buckinghamshire New University)

Participation and equal opportunities for women and girls continues to grow in many sports, which is partly the result of equal rights legislation, but also an increase in positive media coverage. This increased participation includes sports such as cricket and rugby, traditionally seen as being a preserve of the male (Lake, 2012). Charities such as Women in Sport, first developed in 1984, and the Women's Tennis Coaching Association (WTCA), founded in 2015, are making an increasing impact globally to provide equal opportunities for women in sport. Yet, despite these developments, sports remain

gendered and stereotypical. This gendered division is even more apparent when looking at coaching in sport. According to Walker and Bopp (2011), coaching opportunities are limited in women's sports and mostly absent in men's sports. The coaching profession is still a white dominated occupation in which women are under-represented, marginalised, bullied, harassed, and excluded (Norman and Rankin-Wright, 2018).

Previous research carried out by Wolski (unpublished) which looked at the experiences of female tennis coaches found that coaches continue to experience sexism and discrimination within their professions. Key themes identified were stereotyping, the lack of role models and feeling excluded from the Boys' Club. Current research builds on this and explores the experiences of female coaches in other sports in different countries. Using a mixed methods approach, comprising of a questionnaire and semi-structured interviews, findings from the research will be presented at the conference.

Environment & Society - Room 3.209

Rethinking Resilience: Ethnographic Insights into Human and Non-Human Relationships amidst Repetitive Disasters

Ranjita Dilraj

(National University of Singapore)

This paper explores the profound impact of repeated disasters on the interactions and relationships between humans and nonhuman beings. It begins by delving into historical and contemporary examples where catastrophes have altered the dynamics between people and their immediate environments. Specifically, this paper provides an ethnographic examination of how repeated annual floods have shaped the relationship between a community and its livestock and domesticated animals. The discussion highlights how these events often lead to a re-evaluation of human responsibilities towards nonhuman life forms, fostering a sense of interconnectedness and shared vulnerability. Through detailed observations and interviews, it explores the evolving dynamics of care, dependency, and mutual adaptation in the face of recurring natural disasters. By examining case studies, the analysis reveals how these events have reshaped the bonds between humans and their animals, highlighting the crucial role of this recalibration in the community's resilience and survival strategies. Ultimately, the paper contributes to a larger understanding of resilience as a process not a quality, and illustrates how recurrent floods influence not only the economic and practical aspects of the community's lives but also the connections between people and their non-human companions, and how societies perceive and engage with the non-human world in the face of crises.

Nurturing Environmental Consciousness: Faculty's Role in Climate Change Education

Khadija Aftab

(Central European University)

This exploratory research is designed to examine university faculty's insights and experiences of climate change education in their classroom teachings. This research adopted a qualitative approach, and data was collected through in-depth interviews with faculty of several departments, offering a broad range of perspectives on climate change from Central European University (CEU). CEU is chosen as a case study due to its diverse academic community. Additionally, CEU's involvement in university networks such as CIVICA - The European University of Social Sciences and having dual campuses in Hungary and Austria share a similar academic culture with many other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Europe, making the findings relevant to the broader HE landscape.

The results of the study indicate that faculty members actively advocated and nurtured environmental consciousness among their students during classroom discussions despite the fact that it falls out of their academic/curriculum's scope and practice. Moreover, most of the faculty interviewed were aware of the university's sustainability policy and current university-wide practices. However, they accounted for the fact that the gap remains in translating the policy recommendations into sustainable practices that could help create "Green and Sustainable Campuses.

This research lays the groundwork for further exploration into the alignment between faculty's insights and institutional practices for nurturing environmental consciousness in higher education.

"Art of life?": Criminal Injustices, Violent Systems, and Ecological Liberation in the Just Stop Oil Van Gogh Trial

Peter Gardner

(University of York)

In October 2022, Just Stop Oil activists Anna Holland and Phoebe Plummer made headlines for threwing tomato soup over Vincent Van Gogh's masterpiece Sunflowers at London's National Gallery. In 2024, Holland and Plummer were convicted of criminal damage and sentenced to prison for 20 months and 2 years respectively. This paper, based on a courtroom ethnography of their trial, examines the intersection of the criminal justice system and the climate and ecological emergency. Building on both critical climate justice theory and Quinney's critique of "justice" as itself an inherently flawed concept, the paper considers the texture of injustices and the desire for ecological liberation as they play out in and around the courtroom. Social injustices in the courtroom include those relating to gender (nonbinary activists continuously misgendered throughout the trial), relationality (the judge's attitude to various individuals in the courtroom), legal categorisation (the judge's ruling that the act, unanimously understood by the activist community as 'nonviolent direct action', constituted violent protest), and the marginalisation of the climate crisis itself (the judgement that the justification for the protest action was irrelevant to the trial). Moving beyond this, I argue that appealing to (climate) justice is inadequate. Rather, drawing on Quinney, I contend that liberation from global climate violence and ecocide offers a more fitting counter to the injustices faced by climate activists in the criminal justice system.

'Biosecurity' at the Edge of Extinction: Avian Influenza and Capitalist Chicken Production

Deniz Diler

(University of Manchester)

As one of the main drivers of habitat loss, reduced biodiversity and climate change, industrial animal agriculture constitutes one of the most significant sectors implicated in the 6th Mass Extinction. Whilst anthropogenic changes are seen as the foremost reason behind the current rates of extinction of species in the 'Anthropocene', there is an urgent need to recognise the capitalist form of production as the key culprit of the earthly socio-ecological crises. This paper focuses on the dystopian 'imminent' threat of an Influenza type A pandemic in its critical relation to the chicken industry at the time of accelerating extinction. Complementary to 'disaster capitalism', through a discussion of how 'biosecurity' measures aimed to keep out disease in intensive industrial poultry operations for sanitary purposes are tangled in the circuits of value making and the purpose of capital accumulation, it strives to demonstrate the ways in which that the poultry industry might be profiting from zoonotic disease outbreaks, through the bio-security discourse it propagates and the mass 'preventative' killing of birds within/near the outbreak areas. With this discussion of the trajectory of a zoonotic pandemic 'in the making' in the 'Capitalocene', the paper aspires to displace the prevalent outbreak narrative of disease outbreaks originating in and emanating from the Global South and argue instead that industrial (re)production of animals (standard form of which developed in the Global North) is amplifying multispecies disease risks. It contends that this conversation is a crucial contribution to the utopian discussions of eco-socialism.

Emerging Themes & Special Events -Room 4.209

Critical Organisational Paradox as a Lens for Interrogating Social Transformations: Insights from a Women's Movement in Education

Rosie Boparai

(Open University)

The study of new forms of organising offer advantages for understanding social transformations. Yet, despite important exceptions, the new institutionalisms have been criticised for their inability to offer critical insights on account of their modernist underpinnings. This paper draws upon an ethnography of a women's movement in education to set out the advantages of Critical Organisational Paradox as a rich and pluralistic epistemological and methodological approach for the study of social transformation. A Critical Organisational Paradox lens treats emergent forms of activism as energised by contradictions, fissures, and fault lines in existing institutions, relational connections, and social norms. The approach thus offers the possibility of bringing together disconnected and contradictory concepts in research and practice. This paper presents three interwoven paradoxical tensions which are experienced by members of this women's movement: (1) 'Performative compliance': the need to be seen to be compliant in order to legitimately subvert compliance, (2) 'Innovation doublethink': an experience of profound disorientation relating to the purpose and implications of organisational change, and (3) 'Identity paradox': iterative acceptance and rejection of notions of self. The analysis offers a temporal mapping of the language used by participants and its evolution to illustrate the complexity of these paradoxical experiences and illuminate the advantages of a Critical Paradox Analysis. The analysis offers a glimpse into the lived experience of women teachers and school leaders who are responding to dramatic shifts in educational governance and curriculum control connected to the expansion of digital education platforms.

Crisis and Social Change: Social Transformations in the Highlands of Scotland

Steven Speed

(University of Bolton)

Small-scale farming communities in Scotland engaged in a combination of transformative strategies are, to some extent, offering an alternative to capitalism. These strategies have not only made them more resilient to the recent crises of capitalism but have done so by reducing their dependency upon it. During these crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, they were not only more able to sustain themselves when long food supply chains collapsed but they also increased their autonomy and sustainability through an increased demand for local food networks. What is more, in certain areas, these strategies have transformed social relations and, at times, revealed unalienated practices such as gift economies. This research was conducted over a 15-month period and primarily consisted of seasonal interviews with 14 small-scale food producers in Scotland. This paper will examine the manner in which the agricultural practices of these communities offer a glimpse of what an alternative to capitalism might look like through an analysis that draws on the work of James C. Scott, Marcell Mauss and John Holloway.

Value Cohesion in the 21st Century: Exploring Pedagogical and Cultural Cohesion within Joint Venture Universities

Tracy Zhang

(University of Liverpool)

In the era of neoliberalism and market forces, Transnational Education (TNE) has experienced rapid growth in the global Higher Education (HE) frame. Over the past two decades, Sino-British joint venture universities have been established through TNE partnerships in China. The apparent significance of such collaboration is promoting cultural exchange between the East and the West. However, this undertaking brings cross-cultural complexity, which results in corresponding challenges. The research

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aim of this study derives from the researcher's considerable lived experience at such local study sites. Many contradictions, collisions, and confusion shape pedagogy and culture paradoxes and are manifested in practices. This paper investigates how Sino-British joint venture universities might achieve pedagogical and cultural cohesion. In broad terms, pedagogy takes forms in learning and teaching practices, while culture is in business and social practices. These four strings are interconnected by power as the sociology narrative. A qualitative approach guides the data collection and analysis for research design.

This presentation will offer preliminary findings of international fieldwork conducted in two global HE institutions. It asks what academic staff consider the pedagogy, culture, and relevant practices within Sino-British joint venture universities. It offers an interdisciplinary approach to navigating and charting the politically shaped globalised HE landscape. It thus seeks to ask what an alternative intervention might look like and what critical reflection we can forge. Doing so will inform future practices for building meaningful global HE transformation to benefit humanity and society.

Families & Relationships 1 - Room 4.213

How do Fathers Contribute to Managing Childcare Costs with Their Partners?

Emily Christopher, Hayley James, Alexus Davis

(Aston University)

Amid increasing interest in the sharing of parental leave as a pathway for labour market equality, the financial burden and labour associated with managing childcare costs has received much less attention. Existing research demonstrates how mothers in heterosexual relationships tend to shoulder the financial burden of childcare when returning to work, often reducing working hours to accommodate childcare costs and needs, as well as limiting other expenditures such as workplace pension contributions (Agunsoye and James, 2022).

Yet, we know little about how (if at all) fathers are involved in the processes of managing childcare costs that result in this gendered burden. Research on decision-making in higher income couples show that even in households which attempt to share responsibilities equally, women tend to undertake more labour-intensive tasks while men undertake more prestigious tasks (Wong and Daminger, 2024). In terms of financial responsibilities this often means that women look after day-to-day spending while men take care of larger and longer-term financial commitments (Agunsoye et al. 2022). It is not clear how decisions about childcare and particularly the cost of childcare sits in this distinction. This paper draws on qualitative interviews with fathers of pre-school aged children in heterosexual couples to understand how men with children negotiate and manage childcare costs. Through a focus on men's perspectives and actions, the research aims to inform better policy initiatives that will significantly reduce the burden falling on women's shoulders.

'After all, I'm a man!': Fathers' Narratives of Raising Autistic Children in Contemporary China

Kefan Xue, Xiaorong Gu

(University of Oxford, University of Suffolk)

Children with Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) are underdiagnosed, underprivileged, and undersupported within China's child population of 298 million. In China, families become front-line support for these children but the investigation of father's experiences remains sparse compared to mothers'. Nevertheless, it is significant to carry out targeted investigations to explore ASD fathers' perceived roles, caregiving experiences, and support needs. Doing so may facilitate fathers' sharing of responsibilities and experiences with mothers, thus contributing to the family's well-being. This study undertakes a qualitative analysis of secondary data from publicly available social media content in China, we-media in particular. Specifically, we analyzed publicly available we-media data of 33 family stories written by fathers of autistic children, published from 2021 to 2024. They have different family structures, marital and employment statuses, and socioeconomic backgrounds and formulate different support strategies. Our findings show fathers with autistic children negotiate gendered parenting practices and notions of masculinity. For example, several fathers had quit their jobs to participate in the full-time home-based intervention; these fathers, by taking up the 'labor of responsibility' of their autistic children, have been compromising their hegemonic constructions of masculinity. Concurrently, they tend to share their experiences as 'success stories', including their intervening strategies and shaping public opinions. In this way, they are not merely 'full-time fathers', but interveners or semi-professionals who assume an authoritative position to support their families and impact the larger autism community. As such, 'doing masculinity' is a delicate dance between revealing vulnerabilities and demonstrating strengths and dignity.

How do South Asian Fathers in the UK Reconcile Their Paid and Unpaid Care Work Responsibilities?

Lola Cooper

(University College London)

Sociological interest in fatherhood has proliferated in recent decades in response to rapid socioeconomic transformations in the labour market and resultant shifts in family life. How these transformations are being experienced among minority ethnic fathers is under-researched. This paper draws on gualitative empirical research with a diverse sample of South Asian men with children aged 10-14 years. In depth interviews were conducted to discover how participants reconcile the diverse pressures of intimate family life and their multiple roles (such as husband, son, and 'provider') with being a father. The findings reveal how this group of South Asian men negotiate their paid work and fatherhood responsibilities. Whilst paid employment was described as an important and expected component of the father role (even when wives are in full-time employment), the dads prioritised being emotionally and physically present for their children. The men reported that, in comparison to how they were fathered, they value being open and communicative with their children, knowing about their social worlds, and being involved in their education and after school activities. Participants also reported structuring their work lives around their children's needs, including negotiating flexible working hours to spend more time with them, working from home, and choosing jobs that allow them to 'be there'. The findings challenge reductionist notions of South Asian family practices and fathers in particular. Finally, this paper contributes to empirical and theoretical work around the meanings and practices of minority ethnic fatherhood.

Towards a Sociology of Father Inclusion: A Sensitising Concept for Promoting Gendered and Intergenerational Transformations

Anna Tarrant

(University of Lincoln)

Fatherhood is now a well-established sub-discipline of sociology, that has evidenced diversity and dynamism in experiences and practices of fathering, including how men's parenting experiences and trajectories are shaped in context of wider sociocultural welfare regimes and hegemonic structures. The concept of father involvement has been refined to explain cultural shifts among men towards engaged fatherhood and men's expressed intentions to 'be there' for their children. Despite these shifts, current welfare systems and services are ill-equipped for supporting father involvement. With a lack of fatherfocused policy, family-focussed professionals express seemingly immutable challenges with engaging effectively with fathers. Drawing on empirical data generated with young fathers, aged 25 and under, and multi-agency professionals who support families, this paper explores the social welfare contexts where men as-fathers and caregivers experience exclusion, as well as how the language of fatherinclusion, as a corollary, might be more effectively mobilised for the purposes of progressive and systemic institutional and societal change. Building on a socio-genesis of the concepts of father involvement and engagement, father-inclusion is introduced as a sensitising concept that 1) encourages researchers, practitioners, and policymakers to recognise and facilitate fathers' involvement in family dynamics, child development, and social interventions, 2) prompts new lines of sociological inquiry; and 3) advances new empirical and theoretical work in social research about fathers and family support with potential to address stubborn gendered and intergenerational inequalities.

Families & Relationships 2 - Room 4.214

Negotiating Filial Responsibilities and Family Relationships: The Case of Married Same-Sex Couples in Taiwan

Chiting Serena Chuang

(University of Manchester)

What happens when an emerging post-traditional form of family meets enduring family values? Taiwan is the first Asian society to legalise same-sex marriage. At the same time, filial piety – a core concept of Confucianism with thousand years of history – has continued to structure Taiwanese people's family life. Traditionally, filial piety is highly gendered, heteronormative and extends to in-law relationships. Against this background, my research explores how Taiwanese same-sex couples negotiate filial responsibilities and family relationships with the parents. I use qualitative couple interviewing, relational mapping and the vignette technique to unearth the dynamics and diversity of their post-marital life. Apart from same-sex dyads, I have included parents unrelated to the couple sample as interviewees. In so doing, my project adds to the small yet growing scholarship using qualitative methods to attend to same-sex couples' everyday family life beyond the Euro-American context.

I aim to problematise some widespread assumptions in public discourses characterised by dichotomous thinking: same-sex marriage either amplifies heteronormative ideals or demolishes them; it leads to either the death of queer radicalism or marriage and family as social institutions operating on a heteronormative social order. In this presentation, I will share tentative findings from my ongoing data analysis. My focus is twofold: (1) Intergenerational negotiation of filial responsibilities across time and space – or beyond life and death – and their implications for social recognition of same-sex marriage; (2) The intergenerational collaboration of same-sex couples and their parents that has contributed to the reconfiguration of filial piety.

Gender Norms and the Value of Great-Grandparenthood: A Perspective in Contemporary Families

Zuzana Talasova

(Masaryk University)

In a time of significant social change and shifting family dynamics, the role of great-grandparenthood offers a unique lens through which to examine evolving social norms and values across multiple generations. This paper explores the intergenerational relationships between great-grandparents, grandparents, and grandchildren in contemporary families, drawing on in-depth qualitative research. Using key sociological theories this study critically examines how social norms and values regarding caregiving, family roles, and intergenerational solidarity are negotiated across three generations. This multigenerational approach reveals both continuity and transformation in family practices. It demonstrates how social norms around caregiving, respect, and intergenerational support are reshaped by broader societal changes such as aging populations, increased mobility, and changing gender roles. The findings provide insight into the emotional labor performed by great-grandparents and the cultural significance of their role in maintaining family identity and cohesion in an era of social upheaval. Through this analysis, the paper contributes to the broader sociological discourse on family, aging, and social change, offering a nuanced understanding of the role of great-grandparenthood in contemporary societies and how it both reflects and shapes emerging social norms.

"I Am Just Their Daughter-in-Law, and Their Cyber Son Has Finally Appeared": How Male Preferences in the Family Shape the Gender Dilemmas of Only Daughters

Yaquan Liang

(University of Edinburgh)

This study introduces the concept of 'Cyber(virtual) Son' to explore how parental preference for sons under China's one-child policy is perceived, experienced, and understood by only daughters, and how it further shapes their gender dilemmas. While the one-child policy is seen as empowering urban

daughters, as they are often viewed as the family's 'sole hope' and benefit from significant parental investment, little research has examined whether the nature of this investment, rather than its quantity, differs from that for male heirs. More importantly, how do these differences shape only daughters' gendered life experiences?

Based on semi-structured interviews with 12 urban only daughters, this study explores their experiences of being the only daughters under the one-child policy. Findings reveal that, while daughters are expected to achieve in education and careers, they simultaneously face strong gendered expectations, particularly in supporting and assisting potential sons-in-law. This prioritization is understood as serving a virtual 'son' figure, reflecting deeply ingrained androcentric values. This dual expectation embodies an inherent contradiction, as it creates a conflict between personal potential and gendered socialization, exacerbating the gender dilemmas daughters face in education, careers, and intimate relationships.

The study suggests that high parental expectations and investment alone are insufficient to eliminate gender inequality and may, in fact, reaffirm it. Despite the apparent increase in women's rights, patriarchal control remains pervasive and enduring. This research contributes to promote broader discussions on intergenerational relations and gender dynamics, particularly how gender inequality is perpetuated through the family and permeates young women's social lives.

Social Transformation as an Intergenerational Experience

Hazel Wright

(Anglia Ruskin University)

Before the pandemic shook the world, I had a much tidier view of social transformation. Writing in 2017 (published 2020), about individual's views of the natural world, I was able to compartmentalise members of a family running parallel to my own into four generations and contrast and compare their experiences easily. But on turning to generational work within my own family – also a consequence of the pandemic - I find the boundaries harder to sustain. In a world where radical movements for change have become common place, life feels more amorphous. The challenges of wars and power threats, the unpicking of political allegiances, the unmasking of gender and racial biases, the dominance of climate change, of digitalisation and new ways of working, and the cut backs and shortages so frequently experienced, have shaken social expectations into a myriad of unpredictable fragments, challenging my ability to see my personal story as a cohesive, linear, whole. I am experiencing 'intergenerational stretching', living in a liminal space where, at the same time, I am sometimes the daughter of a very elderly mother, sometimes the grandmother of a baby granddaughter and alongside that the mother of her mother, sometimes stretched sideways to focus on partner, home and domestic issues, and rarely simply me. This continual role-taking requires me to constantly glimpse the world through different lenses and seeing the family engage with external society differently brings social transformations into the here and now of my existence; the topic of this paper.

Lifecourse - Room 3.212

Bereaved by Despair: The Aftermath of SUD-Related Deaths during COVID

Aleksandra (Lula) Mecinska

(University of Cumbria)

In this partly autoethnographic reflection I draw on the experience of simultaneously researching deaths of despair and becoming bereaved through one, in the challenging background of a global pandemic. The concept of SUD-related deaths that do not contain a clearly indicated volitional element as deaths of despair is borne out of need to understand their specificity and contrast them from forms of self-injury mortality. Deaths of those living with active addiction are often seen as being the result of an actively chaotic and purposefully destructive form of living, the death being a foreseeable event following addictive behaviours (Nieweglowski et al, 2018; Sumnall et al, 2023). Too often, SUD-related deaths are seen as self-inflicted, negligent, and often not grief-worthy (Dyregov & Selseng, 2021), reflecting the pervasive stigmatisation of people with substance use disorders (Atayde et al, 2020). Through vignettes from my research juxtaposed with the raw parallels of my mothers' death, I want to query their

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non-grievable, stigmatised status. By revealing my personal experience, I also wish to open to critical consideration the notion of aftermath of such an 'outlier' bereavement experienced in the context of a global pandemic. While the deaths of those who perished through COVID might be grieved publicly, how can/is bereavement possibly 'done' otherwise by those bereaved by despair? Spurred by McCarthy, Woodthorpe, and Almack (2023) I seek an alternative way of practicing bereavement, one specifically premised on seeking connection and community.

The Injustices of Disregarded Dying

Glenys Caswell

(Independent Researcher)

Each year in the UK there are deaths which occur and which are unnoticed at the time. People who are living on the margins of society sometimes have so little impact on those around them that their deaths are disregarded until such time as their corpse is discovered. People like the homeless man who died in a tent near a busy road and was only found a year later, or the retired nurse who died in her flat and lay undiscovered for about five years, or the woman whose decomposing body was found on a beach and who has not been identified seven years later. No one had missed them, nor sought them out. Each of their bodies was found by chance. This paper draws on ongoing research exploring instances of such deaths and the work of people who try to make change. It will begin addressing some of the questions raised by such disregarded dying. How is it that such deaths can occur? How do we, as a society, manage such deaths and could we do it in a more equitable way? Do such deaths matter? Do they evidence a plethora of individual problems, or indicate a range of social issues? The case will be argued that the people who die such unnoticed and disregarded deaths are often subject to social injustice during their lifetime, and that this continues until the time of their death and after.

Who has the 'Right to Die'? The Interplay of Moral and Legal Ambiguity in Assisted Dying Eligibility Criteria

Janna Bryson

(University of Cambridge)

In 2021, Canada passed legislation to change its medical assistance in dving (MAID) program from one in which eligibility was restricted to individuals nearing end-of-life to one in which individuals with serious but non-fatal illnesses, diseases, or disabilities could be eligible. Proponents of this change often frame it as a victory for patient autonomy, arguing that it had been a paternalistic moral imposition for the state to restrict the so-called 'right to die' to individuals who were already near death. However, this expanded MAID program still relies on state-defined eligibility criteria as to what kind of suffering renders intentional death acceptable. This paper is part of a larger project, which contends that the 2021 MAID eligibility expansion was not in fact a removal of moral values from MAID law but rather a change in which moral values are dominant. If this is the case, what are these dominant values and how are they operationalised? The paper presents findings from a thematic analysis of a series of 25 semi-structured elite interviews with Canadian MAID experts who influenced the 2021 eligibility criteria expansion. It identifies the concepts of autonomy and harm reduction as key sites of moral contention in the development of the current MAID law, as well as a shared concern amongst pro- and anti-MAID interviewees that the eligibility criteria in the law are too ambiguous. The analysis points to the challenge of crafting policy that adequately manages the tension between patient autonomy and the socially contingent nature of suffering.

Medicine, Health & Illness 1 - Room 1.219

Privileges, and Permissions: Theorising Intersectionality and Cultures of Control in the Care of People Living with Dementia in Acute Hospital Settings

Shadreck Mwale, Andy Northcott, Katie Featherstone

(University of West London)

A longstanding body of public enquiries and research identifies people living with dementia experience systemic inequalities within the hospital setting, concluding a focus on improving care cultures is required. Drawing on a 3-year multi-sited hospital ethnography, this paper examines everyday cultures of care in NHS acute hospital wards to interrogate how ethnicity, gender, and social class intersects to shape the care of people living with dementia. Drawing on Collins' concept of intersectionality and the relational nature of power, the analysis reveals that, while cared for by diverse teams of healthcare professionals, a patients' age, ethnicity, gender, and social class, as interconnected categories, influences the tightening of ward rules for some people living with dementia and the granting of significant privileges for others. Focusing on walking within the ward, with a large number of people living with dementia classified as 'wandering', we explore ways in which intersectional identities informed who was granted privileges to leave the bedside and 'wander' the ward, and who experienced further control. The paper concludes that institutional racism and attitudes to gender, social class, and ageing, permeate the routine organisation and delivery of care within NHS acute hospital wards significantly impact people living with dementia, and in turn, increases the consideration of care pathways that emphasise their discharge to institutional settings.

'I want to get out... I've got a child at home': Intersubjectivity and Reality Disjunctures in the Care Of People Living with Dementia.

Alison Pilnick, Rebecca O'brien, Suzanne Beeke, Isabel Windeatt-Harrison, Lauren Bridgstock, Rowan Harwood

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

Intersubjectivity (the shared understanding of thoughts, meanings or feelings between two people) is a phenomenon which has long exercised philosophers (see e.g. Husserl, 1960). However, it is also a practical social problem; as Schutz (1966) argues, the intersubjectivity of the lifeworld is the basis on which all social relationships are founded. The pivotal role of language in achieving intersubjectivity can create particular problems in contexts where medical conditions affect the use of language. Dementia is one such condition (Dooley et al, 2015). In this paper we present data from two UK-based NIHR funded projects, collected from acute healthcare of the elderly wards in two general hospitals. We collected 94 video and audio recordings of interactions between healthcare professionals (HCPs) and people with dementia (PWD). For our second project, patient participants were identified by their healthcare team as being prone to showing distressed behaviours, and data collection was targeted accordingly. Data were analysed using conversation analysis.

Using Pollner's (1975) concept of reality disjunctures, and drawing on previous work by Lindholm (2015) and Hyder and Samuelsson (2019), we explore how HCPs respond to the challenge of competing experiences of the world. We analyse the ways in which the lack of a common reality becomes apparent, the approaches staff use to manage or avert the distress which can occur as a result, and the consequences of these approaches. Our analysis shows some of the ways in which PWD can be supported to maintain a social rather than a subjective self.

The People behind the NHS Headlines

Yvonne Bennett, Christina Stead

(Independent Researchers)

Following a traumatic incident with her elderly mother, Dr Yvonne Bennett took to social media to "offload" her frustrations and anger with NHS Scotland and its flagship hospital the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital. What followed was an outpouring of similar stories concerning the care of the elderly

within the NHS. Research was undertaken by Dr Bennett and Dr Stead and a book examining the care of the elderly and their exposure to iatrogenic harm in hospitals was written.

Our research concentrated on the new Glasgow hospital which opened in 2015, a hospital blighted by problems since first opening. The size and design of the hospital, alongside staff shortages, having an impact on the elderly their dignity and their care. In this paper we look at who speaks for the elderly when they require hospital care. The lack of personal autonomy leaves them exposed to iatrogenic harm. Our research found that family members were, at times, ignored when it came to their parents' care, preferences often overlooked. The difficult subject of Do Not Resuscitate orders were, in the case of our participants, often carried out over the telephone and decisions made without the patient, or at times, their families' knowledge.

As the numbers of elderly in Scotland are rising it is imperative that the care of the elderly takes on a more prominent position within health care. Their voices must be heard, their autonomy restored.

Preserving Masculinity and Sexuality: How Older Prostate Cancer Patients Navigate Medical Advice and Ageism

Shlomit Manor, Roy Holland

(Western Galilee College)

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among older men in the United States, in many European countries, as well as in Israel. While it generally affects men over 50, the peak incidence occurs between the ages of 70 and 74. Various treatment options exist, including hormone therapy that induces chemical castration, which is associated with unique side effects, such as temporary loss of sexual function. This study examines how physicians address sexual dysfunction in older patients and whether they consider it a detriment to the patient's quality of life.

The study employs a qualitative methodology, utilizing in-depth interviews with 25 men diagnosed with prostate cancer, aged between 65 and 80.

The findings reveal that one-quarter of the participants refused hormone therapy due to its impact on sexual function. For these individuals, sexual activity is considered an essential component of their quality of life, and they are unwilling to give it up, despite physicians' recommendations. Physicians, however, often find it difficult to accept patients' refusal of a treatment that could improve treatment outcome. Moreover, some physicians do not consider their older patients' sexuality to be a significant factor in their treatment decisions. They tend to marginalize the importance of their older patients' sexuality.

In conclusion Some physicians exhibit ageist attitudes towards older patients, often overlooking the significance of masculinity and sexuality in their lives. The study concludes that when recommending treatment, healthcare providers should take into account the patient's preferences, goals, and desires, even in older populations.

Medicine, Health & Illness 2 - Room 4.211

Decolonising Medicine: What Role Will Sociologists Play?

Brigit McWade, Dawn Goodwin

(Lancaster University)

In response to calls to decolonise medicine and healthcare, this paper considers the role of sociologists in this endeavour. In the UK, Sociology has been part of the medical curriculum since the 1960s, and sociologists in medical education position themselves as critical friends to the medical profession, ensuring it meets the needs of diverse populations. However, efforts to decolonise medicine have been led by medical students and clinicians, focussing on biomedical knowledge and practice, such as racialised prescribing for blood pressure, the whiteness of dermatology, and increased mortality rates of Black women in pregnancy and childbirth. Meanwhile, work to decolonise Sociology has under-

explored its relationship to health or medicine, and Medical Sociology has few publications addressing this subject to date.

This paper addresses this lacuna by considering sociologists' role in training tomorrow's doctors, and our (in)activity in Medicine's decolonisation. It draws on the authors' experiences of teaching sociology to medical students and contributing to a national social sciences core curriculum for medical educators. Following the work of Gurminder Bhambra (2021) and Ali Meghji (2021), we argue that, as medical sociologists, we must not confuse our critical dispositions as ones that stand outside of colonialism. Without interrogating the history and contemporary practices of sociology as taught to medical students, we will not be able to effectively support or participate in the decolonisation of Medicine.

Social Transformations and Policy Discourse: On Bringing Politics Back In

Ewen Speed, Daniela Bracke, Konstantinos Roussos, Jimena Vazquez

(University of Essex)

Much of the contemporary around social transformations (particularly in field of social policy) functions to background issues of inequity from the social and political mainstream, and this occurs at regional, national and international levels. It also occurs across the work of local government, national government and international organisations such as the United Nations or the World Health Organisation. The shift to talking about health disparities, rather than health inequalities or even health inequily is an apposite example. In this paper, we take two live policy discourse (health disparities and food security) and consider the work that dominant forms of policy speak does in creating both an apolitical and an atheoretical reframing, and how this works to shut out wider claims for social justice (whilst simultaneously promoting atomising models of responsibility). Furthermore, these individualising responses often function to delimit possible solutions to these problems, in ways which ignore these self-same questions of social justice and equity. As such, there is a need for sociology to better develop methodologies that function to bring questions of justice and equity back into the policy making process. In this paper we consider some of the ways in which this might be accomplished.

Co-Producing Systems Interventions against Stigma: An Update on a South London Project Addressing Stigma towards People Who are Homeless

Andrew Guise

(King's College London)

The Social Responses to Stigma project in south London is using ongoing ethnographic study to inform a co-production process for systems level stigma interventions. The project aims to understand and address the stigmatisation experienced by people who are homeless, including how this stigmatisation intersects with other experiences and identities. The project has a public health framing and so the health consequences of stigmatisation are a core question, with improved health and welfare one outcome sought by the project. Theoretically, the study aims to further apply Bourdieu's theoretical framework of practice and symbolic power to stigmatisation; an approach long promoted but to date little developed in terms of detailed analysis of stigma power that could inform public health interventions.

Ethnographic study in south London has been ongoing since 2022 and will continue to 2028. A coproduction process will run from January 2025 to use the study findings to imagine new systems interventions that target symbolic power. We anticipate the co-production process lasting 9-12 months. Later work will seek to implement and evaluate these systems interventions.

In this presentation we report on the co-production process so far, exploring the theoretical implications from the ethnographic study and how they are being integrated into potential intervention strategies. The presentation will also reflect on how the study and intervention strategy could add to the ongoing debate on how Bourdieu's theory, including in synthesis with other theories and theorists, could identify processes for social change relating to stigma and discrimination.

Methodological Innovations - Room 3.213

Affective Dissonance as a Methodological Framework for Rethinking Young Women's Sexual Expression

Rachel Levi Herz

(Bar Ilan University)

Addressing vulnerability as an affective pattern, this paper offers an innovative epistemic and methodological framework to conceptualize young women's subjective sexual expression. It addresses affective dissonance – both in young women's experience and in the research procedure itself – as a methodological tool to reveal how young women handle their intensified vulnerability while sexually expressing themselves. Affective dissonance relates to an experienced gap between self-perception, the perception of the normativity of social practices, and embodied affective responses.

Drawing on 39 interviews with young women (18-23), the paper analyzes the Israeli case study of "attacking", a heterosexual practice performed in youth nightclubs. It demonstrates how the affective standpoint reveals affective relations and attentiveness to the vulnerable body that support the positioning of young women in relation to the objectifying social practice.

This methodological framework contributes to the conceptualization of vulnerability together with agentic modes of action, thus meeting the challenge of holding a critical analysis of power formations without diminishing young women's subjective sexual expression. By reclaiming the vulnerable affective positionality, it disputes the neoliberal dichotomies that distinguish objectification and vulnerability from subjectification and empowerment. Based on this reflective analysis, the paper offers two principles for rethinking ways to sexually empower young women: raising awareness of the duality of their vulnerability and reclaiming moments of affective dissonance as potentially transformative.

Multi-Sited Ethnography: Developing Avant-Garde Methodology for Creative Research into Everyday Lives

Alexandrina Vanke

(Institute of Sociology of the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences)

This paper argues for the need to develop multi-sited ethnography as an avant-garde methodology that combines classic methods of observation and interviewing with creative and arts-based methods, such as drawing and sketching, in research into everyday lives in multiple locations. I define avant-garde methodology as a creative approach to research aimed at inventing new research forms and strategies, experimenting with mixing methods and genres, and suggesting a deeper, multi-sensory exploration of the everyday. Combining methods and conducting fieldwork in several locations brings multi-sensory data, requiring a complex data analysis strategy termed 'analytical assemblage'. In the paper, I will explain how to use analytical assemblage at the stages of data analysis, writing and dissemination. Applying multi-sited ethnography opens opportunities for generating, revising and synthesising concepts. Writing multi-sited ethnography implies an elaboration of a creative strategy of re-assembling multi-sensory data. The paper contributes to the debate about methodological innovations through bringing new insights into the use of drawing, sketching, analytical assemblage, mixed genre writing and creative dissemination in research into everyday lives.

Manchester Village Stories Project: Evaluating Online Place-Based Memory Mapping

Jessica Mancuso

(University of Manchester)

This paper explores the innovative use of online place-based memory mapping in Manchester's Gay Village Stories Project. Although historically grounded in LGBT+ activism, the Village has undergone gentrification and urban development that the local community see as infringing on its cultural identity, history, and importance for LGBT+ people. Originating in geographies of memory, place-based memory

mapping is used to understand people's identities and their affective relationships with place. This paper evaluates the sociological significance of this approach through a methodological reflection of its use in our project. We explored LGBT+ people's use of the Village and their feelings about its development by creating a website where they post memories and future hopes for the Village on an online map. Open to the public, the map is currently home to 53 posts and remains live. We argue it is a useful tool for sociological inquiry seeking to connect individual stories to broader understandings of place, community, and identity. Our data collection method is novel in LGBT+ spatial research and shows LGBT+ lives as interconnected through a single space. Collating individual memories on the map produces a collective memory of the space, which is useful for thinking about which memories define the Village's importance to LGBT+ people. However, the process also highlighted how researchers can influence how the collective memory is shaped. This must be considered in both the methodology and analysis of the project.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 -Lecture Theatre A

Changing Discourses of Whiteness: Implications for Understanding Constructions of Race

Bridget Byrne

(University of Manchester)

In 1993, Helen (Charles) wrote: 'I have often wondered whether white people know [italics] that they are white. [...] And if they do, is it only when their notion of the 'other' as 'non-white' is placed before them? Is it only when the binary opposition of white and 'black' or 'Asian' is within their field of vision? And can they only speak for themselves from the borrowed position of who they construe as 'other'?" (1993: 99). This paper will argue that, whatever white people in the UK knew in the late 80s and 90s, their awareness of being white has increased significantly, particularly since the 2010s. This awareness is due not least to the popularisation of the concept of 'institutional racism' from the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry and the impact of the Black Lives Matter movement among other social changes and can be seen in the wider usage of terms such as 'white supremacy', 'white privilege' etc.. Reflecting on this profound social change, the paper will ask: How do different discourses about whiteness, ranging from those used by the far right, anti-racist activists and more everyday understandings both converge and conflict; and what impact this awareness has had for understanding the construction of race and racialised identities in the UK?

Mapping Affective Memory: Hair, Emotion and the Racialisation of 'Elite' Universities

Maya McFarlane

(University of Cambridge)

Studies have begun to investigate the reproduction of whiteness in elite universities, highlighting the role of memorialisation and colonial symbols on campus. Focus is here placed on institutional memory, rather than the affective memory of Black students. Through the theoretical lens of racial phenomenology, my paper distinctively explores the racialisation of higher education through the relationship between emotion, memory and hair. From an analysis of seven walking interviews with Black students at the University of Oxford, I identify three core phenomenological 'modes' of belonging among Black students at elite universities. First, I argue that Black students experience a state of 'disorientation' due to the 'stickiness' of painful memories of hair-based racism in early education. Second, Black students avoid the activation of these memories by adopting hair-based tactics of 'orientation'. Third, Black students conversely engage in processes of what I term '(dis)orientation', adopting hairstyling practices which challenge the comfort of the elite institution and its actors. This paper offers numerous recommendations for educational policy, demonstrating the persisting qualitative realities of Black students in higher education. The method of walking interviews is additionally under-utilised within studies of higher education and racialised space-making. The concept of strategic (dis)orientation formulated within this paper vitally complicates present sociological understandings of racialised spatial belonging. By refusing to follow the cultural and geographical 'line'

of institutions, the (dis)orienting body troubles the conception of universities as exclusive and bounded intellectual territories. Through this lens, myriad physical and intellectual proximities to knowledge production are possible.

Off-White: Tensions of Whiteness and Coloniality in Quebec

Uzma Jamil

(McGill University)

This paper addresses the internal hierarchies of whiteness mediated through language and coloniality in the relationship between the white, francophone Quebecois minority and white anglophone majority Canada to create an 'off-white' (Mills 1997) Quebec national identity. It traces the racialisation of French as a language used to define a people, from Quebec's white settler colonial roots to the present-day context of a post-Quiet Revolution society. It builds on two themes in the existing literature. First, it incorporates the contingency of whiteness, referring to the historical, political and social, etc., conditions through which it is constructed in a particular context, while at the same time maintaining the underlying racial white/non-white hierarchy. In the US, for example, 'whitening' has been used to describe the experiences of non-white immigrant groups who are integrated into whiteness over time through a long process of political, economic and social assimilation (Gualtieri 2009, Roediger [2005] 2018). Second, while whiteness is often defined as meaningful through the exclusion of non-white groups, internal hierarchies of whiteness are maintained because the hegemonic conditions of whiteness are not fully realised. For example, people who are seen as 'not really white', or 'not white enough' include Eastern and Central Europeans (Kalmar 2022, Baker et al. 2024) and the Irish (Ignatiev 1995). Using Quebec, this paper expands the conversation to discuss coloniality in global configurations of Whiteness.

Co-Liberation as Embodied Decolonization: The Struggle against Whiteness in the Climate Movement

Tobias Mueller

(University of Cambridge)

The lack of racial diversity has been one of the main criticisms of the climate movement in the UK, both from inside the movement and from a variety of racial justice groups. Continued attempts to address the whiteness of the movement have caused deep frictions in groups such as Extinction Rebellion (XR). It has been suggested that the main problem was the absence of racial justice in the movement's culture and strategizing. However, this narrative erases existing struggles to center anti-oppression and decolonization in the movements practices. This raises the question, what forms of anti-racist practices have emerged in the climate movement, and how do activists try to combine climate justice with racial, gender and other forms of intersectional justice?

This paper addresses this question by using the case study of one group led by people of colour within XR UK, the Co-Liberation circle, to analyse attempts to shift the movement towards an agenda of antioppression and decolonization. Based on 16 months of ethnographic fieldwork, the paper explores how the group sought to build Co-Liberation as alternative to tokenistic anti-racism trainings. In the process they created new practices combining racialized trauma work, embodiment exercises and a comprehensive critique of patriarchal racial capitalism. Taking activists seriously as theorists of their own practice, the paper analyses their conceptual contributions at the intersection of feminist, decolonial and ecological theories. In addition, the paper advances our understanding of the creativity and challenges in creating anti-racist and decolonial transformations in predominantly white spaces.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 1.218

"You need to have a thick (white) skin to work here": The Racialisation of Affective and Skilled Labour in English Sheep Slaughterhouses

Jessica Fagin

(University of Sheffield)

This paper is based on 18 months of comparative ethnographic research with all-male workers at two sheep slaughterhouses in England: a small rural slaughterhouse where the workforce is white British; and a medium-sized halal slaughterhouse near a multi-ethnic city where the workforce is white British. British South Asian and Pakistani. These sites are connected by itinerant white British "skilled" slaughtermen, who work at both. The halal sheep meat market, connected to legacies of postcolonial migrations, has sustained their employment as skilled labour in independently owned operations, bypassing the broader deskilling and corporatisation of their trade. Significantly, they gatekeep their "skills" as the property of white men. Contributing to literature on affective labour more commonly applied to post-Fordist labour models, I compare the treatment of two young men entering the trade at each site: a white British worker at the rural site who is encouraged to develop a metaphorical "thick skin" to become a skilled slaughterman; and a British South Asian worker at the urban halal site whose own slaughter skills are denied based on racist categorisations of his body. Identifying the absence of attention to the promiscuous logics of racialisation in both sociological and anthropological theories of enskilment (Ingold, 2000; Lave & Wenger, 1991), the paper draws out the contradictory equivocations of nature and culture (Wade, 2002) that emerge in the slaughtermen's constructions of these young workers' bodies to argue that the perceived values of affective and skilled labour are unevenly reproduced or denied through the prism of race.

Beyond Diversity Targets: Reimagining Positive Action in the Creative and Cultural Industries

Roaa Ali

(University of Manchester)

This paper explores the evolving role of positive action in addressing ethnic inequalities within the creative and cultural industries (CCIs), using insights from sector-specific case studies. While legal frameworks such as the Equality Act 2010—and updated guidance on positive action introduced in 2023—provide direction, this research reveals ongoing challenges. A significant lack of understanding, along with nervousness and hesitancy, hampers engagement with debates around positive action in CCIs. Diversity, as a broad and often vague discourse (Ali and Byrne, 2020), that dilutes anti-racism as a discourse and practice, is easier to navigate and allows institutions to maintain their existing structures and ideological whiteness. Moreover, a gap persists between setting diversity targets and driving genuine cultural change (Saha, 2022).

The paper presents findings from research and industry focus groups from organisations like Nutopia and Birmingham Hippodrome, and Creative Access, Bectu and Equity unions. These case studies highlight the enduring tension between "fixing the individual" and "fixing the environment" critiquing the deficiency model (Welch, 2011) already implied in diversity discourse and initiatives. The paper argues that while positive action has boosted diversity, these efforts are often fragmented and reactive rather than transformative. It questions the sustainability of short-term initiatives and calls for a systemic cultural shift, deeper understanding of legal and socio-cultural frameworks, long-term inclusion commitments, and stronger leadership accountability. By analysing successful initiatives and critiquing current practices, the paper challenges the sector to move beyond quotas and compliance toward building inclusive environments where diverse talent can truly thrive and advance.

Racialisation in a Platformised Taxicab Trade: A Reworked Figurational View

Salman Khan

(Durham University)

As the UK's taxicab trade has undergone transformation through the rise of digital platforms like Uber in recent years, the proportion of drivers from ethnic minority and migrant backgrounds has risen further. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, North East England, this paper puts forth a reworked figurational view (Elias and Scotson, 1994) of group tensions between White English, 'second-generation' UK-born British Asians, and 'first-generation' migrants of varying backgrounds who are represented in the city's taxicab trade. Focusing in particular on the evolution of racialised group disgrace attached by the White English to the British Asians, it illustrates how the enduring 'sting' of this disgrace comes to be reflected in how British Asians themselves close ranks against, and stigmatise, 'newer' outsider/newcomer groups, including first-generation Asians. An examination of slurs cast on these British Asian taxicab drivers during their school years in the late 1970s and early 1980s, alongside more recent raced suspicions tied to the grooming gangs scandal, throws this into relief. In dissecting this dynamic, the paper proposes to enrol the geographical notion of race as a technology of differentiation (Swanton, 2010) within a figurational lens, in order to understand how racialisation rearticulates against a backdrop of shifting economic and established-outsider relations, exceeding white/non-white boundaries in the process. It empirically locates this process in everyday moments of encounter, wherein discursive articulations, sedimented memories and perceptual practices, and the materiality of phenotype as well as taxicabs variously come together in a cumulative-yet-creative sorting of human difference along racialised lines.

New Ways of Being and the Importance of Community: Experiences of Black and Black Mixed Race Women on Degree Apprenticeships

Sonia Francis

(University of Warwick/Coventry University)

The introduction of Degree Apprenticeships in 2015 provided an alternative pathway to degree level qualifications and professional career developments without the financial stresses and debt ubiquitous of traditional undergraduate and postgraduate study. Lauded as having the rigour and parity of traditional degree programmes, degree apprenticeships not only sought to provide a pipeline for skills shortages, but also provide a vehicle for social mobility, giving real opportunities to those communities often underrepresented in higher education and professional and leadership positions. However, almost 10 years on the transformation anticipated has not materialised. In fact, research has highlighted that those communities who have historically benefitted from education and employment opportunities, are gaining the most from degree apprenticeship programmes, perhaps at the expense of marginalised groups.

However, there is a growing number of apprentices that are creating their own support groups to encourage and advocate the benefits of degree apprenticeships to others in their community. The rise of these grassroots community groups, developed post covid, exist to provide support and representation for racially minoritised degree apprentices who often find themselves underrepresented and marginalised in academic and/or their working environments. Core values of these groups centre on the importance of interconnectedness, community and collective responsibility, in alignment with the African philosophy, Ubuntu. The research will interview 7 Black and Black mixed-race women on Degree apprenticeships using an IPA methodology and Ubuntu as a hermeneutical lens to co create and in the sense-making of experiences of those belonging to the African diaspora.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 2.219

The Appropriation of Feminism at the Far-Right: Exploring the Different Trajectories of Street Harassment in France and Britain

Charlene Calderaro

(University of Lausanne)

How are feminist ideas appropriated by the far-right? In the context of a rising far-right across Europe, the strategic use of feminist rhetorics to further nationalist agendas-known as femonationalism-has become central to this shift.

This paper investigates how contextual factors facilitate the appropriation of feminist causes by far-right actors, focusing on public policies criminalising street harassment in France and Britain.

The analysis draws on 84 interviews with policymakers and activists in France and Britain, and with farright activists who appropriated the cause in France. It also relies on a critical analysis of documents, participant observation in a feminist collective, and digital observations of far-right groups.

The findings reveal how modes of feminist governance and national repertoires of gender and race shape the framing of street harassment. These framings, in turn, shape the political and discursive opportunity structure available to opposing political actors. In France, the absence of an intersectional lens and denial of racism contributed to the racialisation of sexism, facilitating the appropriation of street harassment by far-right activists who leveraged pre-existing discourses. Contrastingly, in Britain, the neoliberal logics of the NGO-feminist campaign against street harassment led to a dilution of the feminist perspective in the final reform, aligning with the broader neoliberalising of feminism.

The paper shows that racialised narratives surrounding gender-based violence, sometimes fostered by mainstream political actors, play a key role in the progress and normalisation of far-right ideas. In doing so, it contributes to the broader understanding of the mainstreaming of the far-right.

Invisibility of Gender (In)Justice in Pro-Democracy Movements: Viewing from the Emotional Lens

Sui-Ting Kong, Stevi Jackson

(Durham University)

The 2019 pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong was ended by the Police's excessive use of force, followed by Beijing government's intensified crackdown on civil society and political dissents through the implementation of the National Security Law (NSL) in 2020. Anti-China sentiment, righteous anger against the government and protective love for valiant protesters, fuelled by the escalated cycles of violence during the protest movement, have become mainstream emotional structures in the post-2019 Hong Kong. These emotional structures delegitimise criticisms of misogyny and homophobia when they were tactically employed for anti-government/anti-China purposes. Drawing on multiple studies carried out from 2017-2024, we have noticed that, under the influence of these collective emotions, women activists' experiences of gender-based violence were trivialised, misogynistic slurs against progovernment politicians went unchallenged, and ethics of care across political divisions became impossible. These emotional structures continue to affect Hongkongers who have left Hong kong for other countries post-2019. Our study with Hong Kong young people in the UK further testifies to the silencing effect that migration and political trauma have had on their identification and disclosure of everyday misogyny and sexism, and it is particularly so when they are performed by political asylum seekers from Hong Kong.

While there is more space to challenge misogyny, the silence around gender-based violence and in Hong Kong, the defeat of the democracy movement and the Beijing government's tightening control raise new challenges for feminism and issues of gender (in)justice in the aftermath of Hong Kong's democracy movement.

Victims on Victimhood: The Politics of the Victim Category from the Vantage Point of Relatives of Forcibly Disappeared People in Mexico

Rodrigo Cirigo-Jimenez

(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Informed by interactionist, Foucauldian, and feminist theories of subjectivity, my paper analyses how people who have endured gross human rights violations interact with the legal categories available to make sense of their experience and frame their actions in the aftermath of atrocity. I will discuss data stemming from in-depth interviews with relatives (mostly mothers or sisters) of forcibly disappeared people in Mexico who participate in "searching collectives", a type of grassroots organisation that has mushroomed in the country amid chronic impunity and social denial of violence. The paper opens with a description of the spiral of deadly violence that has plaqued Mexico for the last two decades, focusing on phenomenological accounts of the corrosive effects of forced disappearance on individuals and communities. I will then analyse how relatives of the disappeared encounter the victim category as they search for their loved ones amid complex and dysfunctional bureaucracies that often fail to actualise the rights to truth, justice, and reparation. I will show how, despite critiquing the stigmatising, infantilising, or depoliticising effects of the victim label, most participants embrace it to describe themselves, even if reluctantly, for a variety of reasons, four of which I will discuss: 1) indifference, 2) recognition and access to rights, 3) mobilising potential, and 4) solidarity-making across different political struggles. I will conclude by arguing for the need to problematise the victim category and existing theoretical critiques of it by taking seriously how the people who are meant to inhabit it experience, judge, and transform it.

Bringing the Masses Back In: A Synergistic Model to Movement Radicalization

Sherman Tai

(National Centre for Social Research)

The masses had disappeared from studies of radicalization. Both terrorism studies and social movement studies had narrowed their scope of interest from how broader historical processes, economic systems and social structures produced radicalism to the specific characteristics, techniques and transformations of "radicalizable" individuals. As a result, the social movement literature largely considers the masses as merely affected by radicalism under the "radical flank effect" or only able to radicalize in "claims". This paper asks: What is the role of the masses in tactical radicalization, if any? It approaches this central question by considering the surprising eruption of a radical movement – the 2019 Anti-Extradition Bill Movement – out of a reformist political environment – the pacified civil society of Hong Kong.

As the existing classical, rational and antagonistic models of radicalization fail to provide a satisfactory answer, I theorise from the "least likely" case of Hong Kong a synergistic model of movement radicalization which brings back the importance of contingent, interactive and non-antagonistic relations in a constantly changing relational field that conduce, rather than provoke, radicalization. Drawing from Eliasian figurational sociology, I argue that the Movement radicalized under eventful interactions between different "fronts" of protestors, including moderates, oppositional legislators, electoral candidates, trade unionists, student lobbyists and organizational activists. Using 14 in-depth interviews with typically hard-to-reach protestors against authoritarianism, I argue that they acted as (i) incubators before violence, (ii) collaborators during violence, and (iii) narrators after violence, enabling militants to exert violence consistently and legitimately.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies -Room 2.220

Making Up Marriage: Bureaucrats and AI Checking the Genuineness of the Relationship

Maria Volkova

(University of Exeter)

This paper explores the UK border as a classificatory infrastructure (Star and Bowker 1999). I argue that while the border creates a classification of individuals embedded in technological devices, migrants attempting to fit into these classifications create feedback loops (Hacking 2004). As a case study, I examine the legalisation process for transnational couples in the UK. To marry, couples must visit a local registration office to give notice. Registrars forward their applications to the Home Office and report if they have suspicions of sham relationships. All data is collected by a Home Office unit, where Al triangulates the information to flag suspicious couples.

This process is shaped by a series of layered interactions. Registrars rely on professional tacit knowledge—an intuitive sense of what constitutes a fake or genuine relationship (Maskens 2015). The border infrastructure channels diverse data into AI systems, enabling algorithms to identify potentially sham marriages. Finally, couples themselves actively engage with the classification, trying to determine what evidence will best convince the state of their relationship's genuineness.

Drawing on interviews with couples and registrars, as well as ethnographic data on the border infrastructure, I demonstrate how the tacit knowledge of registrars, couples' self-presentation, and the infrastructure mutually shape each other.

Hacking, I. (2004). Between Michel Foucault and Erving Goffman: Discourse and interaction. _Economy and Society_, 33(3).

Maskens, M. (2015). Bordering Intimacy: Fighting marriages of convenience in Brussels. _The Cambridge Journal of Anthropology_, 33(2).

Bowker, G., & Star, S. (1999). Sorting Things Out: Classification and its consequences.

Transforming Adolescents with Disabilities Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Information from AI-enabled Chatbots

Sylvia Gyan, Abigail Mills, Michael Kolugu

(University of Ghana)

Globally, adolescents access sexual and reproductive health information from various sources including the Internet and the web. These sources offer adolescents confidential and convenient access to relevant information. However, adolescents with visual, hearing, and speech disabilities living in lowand middle-income countries (LMICs) face many barriers in gaining access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) information, regardless of the source. While artificial intelligence (AI) has proven to increase access to information on virtually any issue of human interest, not all content generated by AI may be culturally appropriate depending on respective socio-cultural contexts and policies. In this paper, we highlight some challenges that adolescents may encounter in their quest for information relying on existing AI platforms. Using the participatory research approach, we engaged relevant stakeholders from the Ghana Health Service (medical officers and health promotion officers) who work on adolescent sexual and reproductive health to vet 6591 questions and answer pairs on adolescent sexual and reproductive health generated from OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini. Employing content analysis, our findings after the vetting indicated that 1,652 answers were modified, deleted, or expanded. It is recommended that efforts to design AI solutions in SRH and other issues in Africa, which require the use of LLMs, should be deliberate about localizing the data generated.

Challenging Epistemic Social Harms: Women's Digital Resistance to Healthcare Harms through the Essure Case

Angela Rogan

(Queen's University Belfast)

This research explores the multi-dimensional harms experienced by women who underwent the Essure sterilisation procedure, and the role of digital activism in contesting these harms. By integrating zemiology (the study of social harm) with Miranda Fricker's theory of epistemic injustice, the study introduces the concept of epistemic social harm. This framework captures how systemic dismissals of women's knowledge in healthcare lead to compounded physical, psychological, financial, relational, and autonomous harms. Using qualitative research methods, including interviews and netnography, this study analyses how institutional failures and gendered power dynamics within healthcare systems exacerbate these harms. Women who participated in a UK Essure Facebook group used the platform as a form of epistemic resistance, sharing their lived experiences to counteract medical narratives that minimised their suffering. The findings reveal that, while this form of digital empowerment allowed women to challenge healthcare dismissals, structural reform in healthcare systems is still essential to dismantle the entrenched epistemic hierarchies that marginalise women's voices. This research makes theoretical and practical contributions by extending the applications of social harm with epistemic injustice in healthcare and by offering recommendations for policy reforms. It emphasises the need for more inclusive, patient-centred healthcare systems that prioritise women's experiential knowledge. By exploring the intersection of digital health activism, feminist epistemology, and social harm, the study critically addresses the ways in which women resist medical injustices, using digital platforms to reclaim their expertise as patients and demand systemic change.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 3.210

"Brown girls can't be gay": Racism Experienced by Queer South Asian Women in the Toronto LGBTQ Community

Sonali Patel

(University of British Columbia)

The absence of scholarship on South Asian discrimination in Western queer discourse contributes to a narrative that South Asians are not subjected to racially charged forms of discrimination in the LGBTQ community, which is fundamentally untrue. This article presents narrative-based accounts of nine queer South Asian women in Toronto, Canada, to examine the ways in which they experience racial discrimination in the LGBTQ community, and the impact that this mistreatment has on identity formation and connectivity to queer spheres. It finds that queer South Asian women experience racial discrimination in the form of racially charged microaggressions, which are evidenced through expectations of assimilation to Western-normative performances of queer identity and erasure of South Asian culture in the LGBTQ community. Further, it reveals that Toronto's LGBTQ community perpetuates a culture of White privilege that discredits the intersectional identity of queer South Asian women, and consequently invisibilizes, alienates, and revokes agency from these women who do not fit the majority's conceptualizations about what a queer woman looks like.

Beyond Reasonable Adjustments: Mutual Aid, (Non)State Solutions and the Queer Left

Yvette Taylor

(University of Strathclyde)

LGBTQ+ communities and organisations have leveraged collective resources to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, as with the AIDS pandemic. Resisting a narrative of victimhood, destruction and risk, queer communities can be thought of as ever-responsive to crises, and as actively sustaining communities. Terms like 'circuit', 'scene', and 'pop-up' (Stillwagon and Ghaziani, 2019) may be useful

to describe networks constructed by and for LGBTQ+ people in remaking community, including in times of crisis. Queer communities often self-organise and disseminate information and resources (Weston, 1991; Weeks et al., 2001). Yet stories of new change through DIY and Mutual Aid cultures often collide with another sense expressed by working-class queers, that they have been practicing exactly this, and before such practices became claimed as queer, as reflected in Alexia Arani's statement that 'long before COVID-19, many TQPoC [trans and queer people of color] were redistributing wealth, sharing meals, offering rides, and opening up our homes, while struggling to gain the support we need in the face of rampant racialized, gendered violence and structural inequalities' (Arani, 2020: 655). Ad-hoc emergency provisions come with questions around access and sustainability: what work will be recognised or undercut, reciprocated or appropriated in these queer moments and as communities and individuals DIY, and 'pay it forward'? Based on long-terms research with over 250 interviewees, this paper considers the limitations of 'reasonable adjustments' as preparedness or solution, and moves towards a queer-left analysis of crisis times (Taylor, 2023).

Political Opportunity, Threats, Strategies of LGBT+ Student Movement in China

Jingjing Huang

(University of Manchester)

The LGBT+ student movement in China started in 2006 when the first LGBT+ student group was formed and flourished after 2012. Meanwhile, Xi Jinping's presidency in 2012 marked a significant political turning point. Subsequently, the party-state tightened its control on power by suppressing civil society and civic engagement. Therefore, this political context had a substantial impact on the strategic decisions made by the LGBT+ student movement in China, requiring activists to adopt a less confrontational form of activism. This article explores the strategies adopted by the LGBT+ student movement in China between 2012 and 2022 and examines how the socio-political context has influenced these strategies and shaped the movement. I draw on findings from 8 gualitative interviews, tracing the evolution of strategies from 2012 to 2022 and argues that LGBT+ student groups' strategies center on providing community support to sustain activism and survive repression. As the political climate in China has become more restrictive, their advocacy efforts have diminished. Faced with the threat of an authoritarian state, they have resorted to strong self-censorship and self-limiting strategies to ensure the survival of the group and the community, even though some of these tactics may not be conducive to their long-term sustainability. Theoretically, this paper contributes to the field of research on youth social movements, authoritarianism, and LGBT+ social movements by adopting a Political Opportunity Structure framework for analysing the structure of political assemblies and exploring how student activists, as powerless underdogs, interact with universities and the state.

"Generational Shift" or "Consistent Vacillation": Contentious Debate of Identity and Identity Politics in Modern LGBTQ Community

Jifei Jiang

(University of London)

Modern LGBTQ social movement has developed and changed a lot since the 1960s, which attracts scholars to use "generational" to delineate shifts. In fact, so-called "generational shift" is a series of oscillating answers in response to identity and identity politics debates. Through summarized the "generational shift" through the discourse behind the "old gay" vs. "new gay", post-gay, post-lesbian era, queer activism, etc., and the generational gap discovered in cross-age group in modern Western LGBTQ context, articles found four questions significantly manifest in the cross-generational discussion with cohesive discussions. What is LGBTQ identity? What's the relationship between different identities? How to perform identities? How to deal with the relationship between different identities? Four questions offer a framework in examining modern LGBTQ movement's development and vacillation, however, it's limited to a Western context. Through conducted 1-vear-long participant observation and 20 semi-structured interviews with China feminist lesbian, bisexual, and queer (LBQ) women community to examine framework's applicability and limitation, article constructs three new contentious debates on the basis of Western frameworks in China LGBTQ context. First, identity debate, in which people commonly believe in essentialism but struggle over identity essence. Second, label debate, which is utilized as strategy to adjust different identities relationships. Third, identity politics debate, which is also divided by liberationists and assimilationist. Above all, research also considers

the specific political context of emergent East Asian radical feminism and China growing authoritarianism in discussion.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 3.211

Reframing the "Forgotten" and "Left Behind" White Working-Class Youth

Amit Singh

(University of Manchester)

Drawing on 50 interviews conducted with white, black and Asian working-class students across four colleges traversing London, Rochdale and Morecambe, this presentation intervenes in and against ongoing narratives about white working-class educational performance and life-course attainment. Increasingly prominent narratives foreground "left behind" white working-class boys, who are said to be the least likely group to attend university, with university positioned here as a stand-in for social mobility. These narratives read "placed based disparities" as a proxy for white class victimhood, through mapping educational underachievement onto white working-class boys living in coastal towns (e.g. Morecambe) and provincial post-industrial locations in the North (e.g. Rochdale). This paper troubles the question of white working-class underachievement through a two-fold intervention. Firstly, by critically interrogating the sociological literature seeking to exceptionalise the experience of white working-class boys, that ignores the experiences of white working-class girls and the ongoing racial injuries faced by ethnic minority working-class youth. Yet, this paper also critiques academic positions that suggest white students have what is often referred to as "white privilege", regardless of social class and place. Through presentation of qualitative data, this paper does not deny the alienation and loss experienced by working-class young people living in places such as Rochdale and Morecambe, as it tracks the barriers they must overcome to forge livable lives. This I argue is not straightforwardly about race, or social class, as the experiences of those living in Morecambe is about place-based class inertia amongst young people who happen to be white.

Turkish Working-Class Culture

Kemal Temel, Şenol Baştürk

(University of Bursa Uludag)

The growing number of wage earners in Türkiye in the past 20 years has led to the social expansion of middle class and working-class groups. Flexible practices, such as subcontracting, contributed to a decline in secure employment. New types of employment have greatly impacted social structure transformations. Studies on social transformation from a class-cultural perspective have focused on middle class groups. This research examines working-class culture in three different districts of Bursa, one of the most densely represented working-class cities in Türkiye. It aims to contribute to the literature by examining the class culture of workers in Yıldırım, Osmangazi and Nilüfer districts of Bursa where the working-class is concentrated and the cultural divide among the workers divided into three different spaces. The research is adopted the cultural class analysis approach that based on Bourdieu's concept of class. The study analyzes shifts in working-class lifestyles, tastes, and voting behaviors in three Bursa districts. The study argues that different social and material conditions of existence spatially differentiate working-class culture. The results of the survey research in Bursa in 2022 were analyzed with multiple correspond analysis (MCA). The results of this research demonstrate that independent variables, such as workers' social background, education level, material earnings and differences in property relations, led to spatial and cultural differentiation.

Through the Lens of Tish: Gen Z's Reflections on Class and Creativity

Helene Snee, Helen Mcghie, Deborah Jump (Manchester Metropolitan University)

There is a class problem in the cultural and creative industries (CCI) that has been the focus of ongoing academic research, policy interest and public discourse. Given these entrenched inequalities are well known, what should be done to support the next generation of working-class talent? This paper reports the findings from an exploratory project involving researchers from sociology, youth studies and photography alongside a group of young creatives from working-class backgrounds in collaboration with SharpFutures, a Manchester-based social enterprise that supports disadvantaged young people into employment in the creative digital sector. A screening of the documentary film Tish (2023) was the catalyst for conversations around the legacy the work of Tish Murtha (1956-2013), Generation Z's experiences of class and their experiences of attempting to establish a CCI career. The young people were supported by SharpFutures to develop creative responses to the film, with three choosing photography themselves and two others choosing their own disciplines of writing and illustration. These offered counter-narratives to typical depictions of working-class life and offered a call to action. An exhibition of the work was explored through interactive reflective discussion in situ with a range of stakeholders. We draw on a theorisation of photography as a 'relational contract' as a tool to facilitate encounters between creative practitioners, organisational communities and image audiences, who collaboratively reflect on social and political issues and develop ideas. Taking inspiration from youthinformed participatory methods, we suggest ways to harness creative practice to bring about meaningful social change in classed inequalities.

Sociology of Education 1 - Room 4.204

'Like Aces in a Game of Cards': Embodied Cultural Capital, Educational Achievement and the Social Mobility of Migrants

Megan Watkins

(Western Sydney University)

Bourdieu (1987: 4) refers to the potential power of capital as being 'like aces in a game of cards'. Individuals' possession of the forms of capital he identifies, economic, cultural and social, leads to differential positioning within social space; the volume and particular composition of these capitals advantaging some over others. While privileging economic capital, Bourdieu's conceptualisation of cultural capital, in particular, offers greater nuance and depth in understandings of class formation and reproduction. It is especially useful within contexts of migration wherein class location, maintenance and mobility are fraught with the precarities of the process. Cultural capital, principally in its embodied form as skills and knowledge pertinent within and across various fields, possesses a unique cachet given it has a certain durability. Once inscribed as dispositions within a habitus, it can traverse space, a boon for example, for those migrants short on its economic equivalent. The embodied cultural capital of interest here is that which pertains to education, both that which is mobilized by parents, in particular mothers, in the education of their children and that which is acquired by the child as a result of their mother's parenting. Drawing on a study of the relation between migrants who can acquire and successfully deploy it, and the implications for those who do not.

The effect of educational support programs on identity and habitus formation of racialised minority Roma first-in-family graduates in Hungary: an intersectional analysis

Judit Durst, Nyiro Zsanna

(Hungarian Research Network)

This paper examines the education-driven mobility experiences of Hungarian first-in-family (FIF) Roma graduates focusing on how the intersections of class and racialised minority status influence the habitus formation and labour market outcomes. As Europe's largest racialised and marginalised ethnic minority,

the Roma offer theoretical and empirical insight into the complex role of the very selective Hungarian educational system in the reproduction of social inequalities. The study also highlights the role of NGO-run educational support programs in mitigating the classed and racial inequalities Roma students face.

Using critical race theory (Yosso, 2005), intersectionality (Crenshaw, 1991; Collins, 1993), and Bourdieu's concept of habitus, field and capitals, the paper provides a multidimensional understanding of classed and racialised positions (Friedman, 2016; Ingram and Abrahams, 2016; Reay, 2005; Thatcher et al, 2016). Through the Bourdieusian lens, we unveil the emotional imprint (Friedman, 2016) of one's social background, that is, the effect of the 'long shadow of class [and racialised ethnic minority] origin' (Friedman and Laurison, 2020) on one's educational mobility trajectory, labour market destination and mode of incorporation into society.

Based on 103 interviews with FIF Roma graduates, the study compares the habitus transformation and social incorporation of those whose mobility path has been facilitated by ethnically oriented educational support programs (the collective path of mobility) with those who navigated mobility individually. Findings suggest that support programmes reduce the emotional 'costs of mobility' and shape Roma graduates' career paths and integration into society.

Cultural Capital, Technical Capital, and Status Hierarchy in East Asian Education: The Case of Academic Status Discrimination Chains in Taiwan

Chi-Chung Wang

(National Sun Yat-sen University)

In recent development in Bourdieusian studies of social inequality, some scholars have begun to focus on the theoretical role of 'technical capital' in social stratification and mobility. Drawing on the case of Taiwan's secondary and higher education, this paper extends this discussion to examine how the ability to excel in exams has played the role of 'technical capital' in the educational systems where standardized testing prevails. The paper will first illustrate how this ability aligns with what Sam Friedman and Daniel Laurison have characterized as 'more transparent' and acquired 'in a fairly linear pattern' (2019). Futhermore, it highlights how competencies associated with cultural capital are marginalized and devalued within such an educational system. Subsequently, I illustrate how the dominant role of technical capital in Taiwan's education system gives rise to a unique status hierarchy and chains of discrimination. Within this framework, class and racial discrimination are reduced to a seemingly neutral form of performance-based discrimination underpinned by meritocratic discourse. This discourse, ostensibly emphasizing ability and fairness, effectively conceals and legitimises social inequality through standardized testing achievements. In conclusion, this paper contends that the conceptual development of technical capital not only aids in clarifying the ambiguous role of cultural capital within East Asian education systems, but also facilitates a more meticulous examination of social stratification, particularly in the contemporary context where standardized test and STEM education have gained increasing prominence.

Sociology of Education 2 - Room 4.205

The 'Encumbered' Academic: An Exploration of Precarity, Class and Disablism in Academia

Alison Wilde, Rebecca Fish

(Northumbria University)

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) have embraced Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) initiatives in recent decades. EDI declarations are frequently evident on the webpages, marketing communications, policies, and within the infrastructure of universities, not least in advertising impressive profiles of minoritised communities across communication domains. e.g., a 'Wall of BAME'. This paper contributes to the growing body of work on how EDI works within universities, examining data from a current study on 'Class-based disablism in Higher Education'. In so doing, it focuses on three main areas. First, the study gathers and prioritises the experiences of thirty precariously employed disabled academics, filling a distinct gap in the literature on Disability and Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Second, it synthesises these experiences with the perspectives of those working in Higher Education EDI, HR,

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and recruitment and/or selection. Third, it triangulates this data with documentary analysis of job descriptions and other relevant recruitment and selection procedures.

Drawing this together, we will present a polyphonic view of how HEIs have reinforced or challenged forms of inclusion. diversity and equality within their practices and processes, asking key questions about the normative trajectory of academics, the heterogeneity of the workforce, the consequences for academic epistemologies, and performances of reputation management. We explore shared experiences and systemic institutional barriers, as well as uncovering glimmers of positivity, and we do this by placing the oft-forgotten precariously employed or aspiring disabled academics at the centre.

Enhancing Belonging for African-Diaspora Students in Australian Schools through Teacher Action Research

Melanie Baak

(University of South Australia)

Schools are key sites to counter marginalisation and enable belonging. This project draws on sociological understandings of belonging, defined as relational, located in particular places, determined by both self and others, and shifting and mobile, although within structural constraints. Belonging in schools is shaped by institutional traditions and systemic policies, by curriculum, pedagogy and assessment practices, and by regional and social-structural situatedness of schools.

Through Participatory Action Research with young people and teachers, this study investigated how Black African diaspora youth experience belonging in Australian schools and ways that schools can change practices to enhance belonging. The project enabled collaborative research with nine Africandiaspora youth co-researchers and twelve teachers from three secondary schools. In the first year of the project, the nine youth co-researchers talked with over 30 other African-diaspora young people across Australia, to identify aspects and experiences of un/belonging at school. As a result of this, we developed a range of professional learning resources which we utilised in workshops with the twelve teacher researchers during the second year of the project. Throughout the research team supported teacher researchers to develop and implement action research in their classrooms and across their schools that aimed in enhance an aspect of belonging for African diaspora young people in their schools. In this paper, we examine some of these action research projects, highlighting how they operated to enhance belonging for African-diaspora students.

Theory - Room 2.217

Give Me a Pottery Factory and I Will Split the World

Ningxiang Sun

(University of Edinburgh)

Latour's concept of "immutable mobiles" has profoundly shaped our understanding of scientific revolution and knowledge transformation in modern European society. This paper extends Latour's insights from laboratories and printed materials to everyday objects - pottery, clothes, and furniture - developing it from a theory of science into one of everyday life transformation.

I argue that by the late 18th century, a fundamental shift in object production occurred: the separation of objects' "surface" from their "body." This separation, exemplified by pottery and furniture production, enabled the large-scale, low-cost attachment of distant cultural experiences to local objects. This process accelerated the circulation of heterogeneous experiences beyond printed materials, gradually dissolving the coherence of lived worlds.

As this separation became widespread by the mid-19th century, everyday objects became isolated entities, disconnected from their surroundings. This led to the disintegration of holistic domestic environments into fragmented, puzzle-like spaces, contributing to the shaping of a new, fractured mode of everyday experience in the modern world, as documented by sociologists such as Simmel, Benjamin, and Kracauer.

This paper provides fresh perspectives on how pottery and furniture factories, like Latour's laboratories, became sites where the world was disintegrated and reassembled in new, often disorienting ways. It bridges the gap between technological progress and the transformation of human experience, illuminating how changes in production methods and object design reshaped the cognitive and experiential landscape of modern European society.

"Data starts (and ends) in my body": Theorising Embodied Entanglements with Technologies

Lisa Thomas, Debbie Watson

(University of Bristol)

Between May and Dec 2024, we ran a series of creative workshops with young people (YP) (aged 11-17) from five community organisations across Bristol. The workshops explored and communicated ideas about 'our data' and its use in ML (machine learning)/ AI systems. Raising questions and concerns around consent, privacy, agency/control, and algorithmic bias; as well as exploring the creative use of data and these systems for re-thinking/re-imagining ourselves and the world. Each workshop, facilitated by different artists/researchers, used different technologies to investigate this topic, such as online AI tools and hologram technology, movement/dance, storytelling and speculative design practices, game design, 360 filming, branching narratives, and VR technology. We offer insights into the YP's experiences of these workshops, and our own (auto-)ethnographies of them. We draw out the relationships between embodied practices with technology, the datafication of the body (Lupton, 2016), and the storying of bodies as fragmented and distributed through coded systems (Hayles, 2017). We became interested in how the YP in the workshops re-storied their bodies and lived experiences with technologies, and the alternative futures they sought to speculate and imagine. We report on the different ways in which they interacted with/through different technologies - from smart phones to multiperson VR, considering 'what does tech do for us?' and 'what does tech do to us?'. We draw on posthumanism, post-phenomenology, new materialist, and techno-feminist theories to question the liveliness of this 'exchange' (Braidotti, 2013). Who do we become through our data? and, what does this mean for YP's futures?

Theorising Sex, Violence and Capitalism: A Micropolitics

Pam Alldred, Nicholas J Fox

(Nottingham Trent University)

How might a materialist and micropolitical framing assist sociology to establish an ethically-sound, theoretically-astute and policy-oriented approach to sexual violence (SV)?

This paper develops recent work on gender-related violence; and has four objectives. The first is to establish a relational alternative to the individualistic analysis of SV that essentialises some as victims, others as perpetrators, and psychologises SV as 'damage'. Instead, we develop a micropolitics in which SV emerges within a complex physical, psychological and sociocultural assemblage that entangles both human bodies and non-human matter.

Second, we ask: what can SV do? To address this new question, we mobilise a toolkit of theoretical concepts, including affect, territorialisation and lines of flight. What many violence affects do is radically disrupt the stability or status quo within an event, altering the capacities of those involved. For a protagonist it may enable previously closed-down capacities, while constraining the capacities of others caught up in SV.

Third, we argue that violence always takes place within a broader assemblage (for instance, a domestic environment or a drunken night-out) that includes multiple non-violent and often non-sexual affects that also shape SV and what bodies can do in that setting.

Finally, we draw on recent work on how de-territorialised flows of money, commodities and bodies underpin contemporary capitalist society, to acknowledge the social, political and economic elements within SV assemblages. In this ontology, including these affective flows does not remove responsibility from instigators of SV, but enables analysis to 'follow the action' within SV assemblages.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 -Room 3.204

Control, Coercion, and Consent: The Structural Ambiguities of Conceptualising Labour Exploitation

Kezia Pugh

(University of Brighton)

Recent years have witnessed the expansion of academic debate about how to: a) conceptualise labour exploitation and free/unfree labour, and b) embed notions of control, coercion, and consent into this discussion. Emerging from literature on labour policy and law, there is growing consensus that labour exploitation can be best understood as a continuum of interrelated practices, with workers' consent to this considered on a spectrum. Elsewhere, the validity of this characterisation has been questioned, claiming it fails to account for the complex modalities of control and coercion that constrain workers' freedoms. This paper considers the debate from a sociological perspective, rejecting adherence to definitive legal binaries. Using experiences of migrant workers in domiciliary care as an example, this paper introduces a visualised pyramid to illustrate the continuum of labour exploitation, inspired by the Anti-Defamation League's 'Pyramid of Hate'. The paper outlines how ambiguities of control, coercion, and consent are structurally embedded into the margins of the labour market. This is particularly the case for workers with acute vulnerabilities, due to, for instance, an insecure migrant status or an informal work arrangement. The paper argues that while the continuum framework alone does not theorise the role of control, coercion, and consent in the presence of labour exploitation, it nevertheless allows a clear understanding of how exploitative practices with varying degrees of severity enable and embolden one another. In turn, this provides a springboard for the exploration of how wider structurally ambiguous concepts contribute to workers' proximity and exposure to labour exploitation.

Exclusions and Labour Control Regime: A Tale of Two Tea Gardens

Shahadat Khandakar, Shahzad Uddin

(University of York)

Responding to the call for more research on dormitory labour regimes worldwide (Goodburn and Mishra, 2023), the article delves into the nature of labour controls in residential workplaces. By comparing traditional (colonial) and new tea gardens, the article offers insights into the dynamics of labour control regimes in residential factories. While both groups are migrant workers residing in factory premises, labour controls in traditional tea gardens are extremely coercive. Conversely, workers in new gardens enjoy comparatively greater freedom, and controls are often consensual or less coercive. We find, in traditional tea gardens. In contrast, workers in new tea gardens are not excluded from these spaces. Drawing on the comparative labour controls, the article extends Burawoy's work on coercion and consent, arguing that the degree of coercion exerted over workers can vary significantly based on the degree of exclusions they encounter in workplaces.

The Social Determination of Contemporary Slave Labour

Bianca Pistorio, Brian Garvey, Pratima Sambajee, Wanderlei Pignati, Maelison Neves

(University of Strathclyde, Universidade Federal de Mato Grosso)

This paper aims to contribute to studies on the recurrence of slave labour in contemporary society, elucidating the case of Brazil and the influence of agribusiness in the degradation of labour and life of traditional populations, who have colonial slavery as their heritage, and today suffer from contemporary slavery. The concept of 'social determination', as well as its 'critical processes', offer this paper elements of analysis of the social reproduction of slavery, considering all the complexity involved in the root of its manifestation. Through this theoretical contribution, it is intended to answer: What are the 'destructive processes' that make members of a Brazilian quilombola community remain vulnerable to contemporary slave labour? And what are the 'protective processes' that contribute to the resistance against

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contemporary slavery? For this, the theoretical contribution of Latin American Critical Epidemiology will be used, with foundations of the sociology of work and collective health.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 -Room 3.205

TVET Systems and Social Transformation: Addressing Economic Challenges and Labour Market Needs

Meghna Khurania

(Jawaharlal Nehru University)

As economies undergo rapid transitions driven by technological advancements and shifting industry demands, vocational education systems play an increasingly vital role in preparing individuals for the workforce. This paper investigates the relationship between vocational education at Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in Delhi and the employment outcomes of graduates, focusing on how these institutions adapt to the changing landscape of work, employment, and economic life.

Drawing on a mixed-methods approach, the study analyzes quantitative data from ITI graduates alongside qualitative insights from interviews with students, educators, and labour market professionals. The findings reveal critical challenges, including skill mismatches, inadequate career guidance, and the evolving demands of industries that impact graduates' ability to secure stable employment. Despite these challenges, the research also highlights opportunities emerging from stronger industry-education partnerships and policy reforms aimed at aligning vocational training with labour market needs.

By focusing on the intersections of education, employment, and economic life, this paper provides practical recommendations for reforming vocational education to better address labour market dynamics. Key suggestions include modernizing curricula to reflect industry requirements, fostering stronger collaborations between ITIs and employers, and enhancing the support structures that guide students from education to employment.

This research contributes to broader discussions on how vocational education systems can be restructured to foster employment opportunities and economic inclusion in an ever-evolving labour market.

Discretionary Learning: The Role of Stakeholders in Apprentice and Organisational Success in a Post C-19 Economy

Elaine Jackson, Hilary Collins, Gary Gillon, Matthew Barr, Oana Andrei

(University of West of Scotland)

The Scottish Government's economic transformation policy prioritizes the development of future work skills, notably through the promotion of graduate apprenticeships. These apprenticeships highlight the workplace as a key environment for both teaching and learning, engaging a variety of external and internal stakeholders, including managers and apprentices, in the educational process. Despite this focus on workplace-based learning, there remains a gap in understanding how autonomy and creativity contribute to apprentices' success.

One under-explored form of workplace learning in the UK is discretionary learning (DL), characterised by enhanced employee autonomy, which fosters collaboration, creativity, and innovation. DL encourages active participation in decision-making and work-related discussion, positioning employees as key contributors to organisational growth. While economic growth typically promotes DL, periods of economic downturn – such as the post-2008 financial crisis – have historically led UK organisations to adopt more hierarchical and less innovative practices, prioritizing short-term goals at the expense of creativity.

In the current post-COVID-19 economic landscape, where recovery is predicted to be slow, this study investigates how DL, when combined with future work skills training, can enhance apprentices' success and contribute to the broader economic recovery. Focusing on graduate degree apprenticeships at two Scottish universities, we aim to investigate the challenges apprentices face in workplace learning environments and the benefits of working in organisations that embrace DL. We propose that fostering stronger collaborative relationships between all stakeholders is critical to successfully integrating DL and enhancing the development of future work skills in apprentices, ultimately driving both individual and economic growth.

Mapping Out the Missing Middle: Exploring Labour Market Transitions and Subjective Experiences of Work for Non-Graduates in Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire

Kaidong Yu, Edward Yates, Jason Heyes

(University of Sheffield)

This research aims to understand how young non-graduates (aged 18-30) experience labour market transitions in the UK. It addresses two gaps in youth transition studies. First, much of the focus in the existing literature has been on graduates or NEET youth, leaving the experiences of the so-called 'missing middle'—school and FE college leavers—under-examined. Second, this research focuses on the under-researched question of how early education and labour market experiences shape young people's subsequent life-course transitions between low-quality and high-quality jobs.

The research draws data from the ESRC-funded project 'Transitions of Young Workers in the UK Labour Market: Consequences for Careers, Earnings, Health and Wellbeing', comprising 45 interviews with non-graduates and 25 interviews with employers in Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire. Initial findings reveal young people experience complex transitions within the middle segment of youth labour markets, while structural inequalities confine many to low-skilled, low-paid jobs in caring, retail and hospitality sectors. Securing an apprenticeship or employment within a larger employer can both lead to improved mobility in later career transitions. Young people reported that skills and experiences gained from early transitions were helpful for securing decent employment. However, limited access to career advice and support constrained their ability to navigate these transitions effectively.

The research highlights the significance of both (i) changes in opportunities structures for young people and (ii) subjective factors, such as cultural knowledge of labour markets, and young people's perceptions of the opportunities available to them for shaping youth transitions between low-quality and high-quality jobs.

PAPER SESSION 7 15:30-17:00

BSA Special Activity 1 - Room 4.205 Book Publishing Special Event

21st Century Standpoints Book Series: The Sociological Vocabulary of the Now *Les Back, Chantelle J Lewis*

(University of Glasgow, University of Cambridge)

The 21st Century Standpoints Book Series, published by Policy Press in collaboration with the BSA, aims to shape public conversations during social, political, economic and cultural disruption. The series' ethos is to identify the big sociological issues by focusing on keywords like class, money, snobbery and even cars. As Raymond Williams pointed out in his 1976 book Keywords, the vocabularies of culture reveal something profound about the nature of society.

Please join the series editors Les Back, Nasar Meer and Chantelle Lewis as they lead us in a lively discussion on The Vocabulary of Now, with a view to opening some challenging, exciting and insightful conversations about today's world, the keywords of our time and the challenges we are facing. We will be thinking together about sociology's agenda for the future.

The series editors will also be very happy to discuss any potential book proposals for the series.

BSA Special Activity 2 - Room 4.211 Journal Publishing Special Event

Meet the Editors of Cultural Sociology

Bernadette Nadya Jaworsky, Ming-Cheng Lo, Christopher Thorpe, Laura Harris (Masaryk University, University of California, Davis, University of Exeter, University of Southampton)

Ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of an academic journal? What are the aims of a journal such as Cultural Sociology and how does it try to realise these in its day-to-day running? How can knowing more about such things increase the chances of publishing your work with us? Intended to be set informally, the purpose of the session is for three of the current editors of Cultural Sociology – Nadya Jaworsky (Masaryk University), Ming-Cheng Lo (University of California, Davis), Laura Harris and Christopher Thorpe (University of Exeter) - to meet and interact with people wishing to know more about the aims of the journal, the range of its interests, and its commitment and efforts to increasing internationalization. In addition to discussing the kind of work involved in running the journal and the kinds of papers we receive, we actively invite questions from prospective authors interested in submitting their work to the journal. We look forward to meeting you on the day to discuss these and any other issues you might want to know more about. All are welcome!

Cities, Mobilities, Place & Space - Room 2.218

The Hybrid City: Newcomers and Unexpected Urban Inclusions

Nerea Viana Alzola

(University of Geneva)

In today's world of geopolitical change and social upheaval, cities are increasingly sites of tension and dissonance. These challenges threaten urban inclusivity and raise urgent questions about how we conceptualise inclusion, particularly in an age where digitalisation reshapes how newcomers experience city life. The paradigm of the 'hybrid city'—where physical and digital, global and local, past and present intertwine—becomes essential for understanding these transformations. How do sociologists respond to these shifts? What new paradigms and methods are required to address the complexities of urban inclusion today?

My research introduces the concept of 'hybrid inclusion,' developed from multi-situated ethnographies in Geneva and Hamamatsu, two cities that embody this hybrid paradigm. Despite distinct sociohistorical contexts, both cities face similar pressures from global and local crises while maintaining ideals of diversity and internationalism. At the macro level, inclusion policies reflect these ideals, yet at the meso and micro levels, a disconnect emerges. Inclusion manifests in unexpected, hybrid forms that bridge physical and digital spaces, shaped by both past and present influences.

This presentation will explore how digitalisation, as a complex catalyst, has reshaped inclusion in these cities, revealing ambivalent practices that diverge from official narratives. By examining the interplay between global crises, local responses, and online-offline dynamics, I aim to contribute to the sociological discourse on how hybrid cities can navigate profound social transformations and foster more inclusive urban environments that respond critically to emerging inequalities.

Co-Constitution of Space and Gender among Northeast Indian Women Migrants in Kerala in Home and Host Locations

Joel Thomas Mathews, Shruthy Harilal

(Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology)

Female occupational migration and marriage migration are a recurrent theme in social sciences research. However, what is understudied in this area is the experiences of gender when they cross boundaries as a woman and become outsiders in the host location. It is in this context that migration of young women from India's Northeast region to a geographically and culturally distinct location in the South of the country, Kerala, becomes an important object of study. Due to this migration of young women from a society that has gender norms completely different to another society, their bodies become a site where gender is inscribed. It also becomes a site of identity formation for the 'insider' women. The class, caste, and gender identities of the 'insider' women would be formed by the 'outsider' identity of the migrant women.

The young Northeast Indian women migrants gain foothold in the city spaces by the negotiations they make in spaces like the workspace, rented accommodation, streets, etc. The study would also discuss how they negotiate their mobility in streets dominated by the local men, as a tenant with their host landlords, as an employee and how they feel belonging to the city. These negotiations are mediated by their positionality of class, caste, ethnicity etc. Using feminist geography as the theoretical framework, this study would look into how space is co-constituted by gender and how gender co-constitutes space.

Spatial Configurations of IT Work in East Bengaluru City

Charis Nogossek

(University of Cambridge)

This paper presents the contemporary significance of East Bengaluru City for India's IT workforce. Bengaluru's reputation as an IT hub was documented and critiqued at the turn of the 21st century (Srinivas, 2001; Heitzman, 2004; Nair, 2005). Since then, studies have advanced a sociological

understanding of class and gender in India's IT industry (Upadhya and Vasavi, 2008; Radhakrishnan, 2009, 2016). Another important body of work traces transnational migrant workers in the sector (Aneesh, 2006; Amrute, 2016; Bhatt, 2018). While the city is sometimes indexed as a site of study, there is an emphasis on how Bengaluru IT offices aesthetically cohere with global offices abroad (Radhakrishnan, 2011; Upadhya, 2016). An analysis of how the city itself shapes the IT industry and its workforce has stalled in recent years.

Through interviews with 38 IT workers and five real estate professionals, site visits and photo journals, I show how the place of East Bengaluru and its IT office spaces continue to co-construct working conditions and convene IT workers. I demonstrate that technology parks do not just deliver a uniform work experience for companies with global operations. Rather, they are constantly curated to leverage local histories and amenities to attract and retain spatially clustered, specialised talent pools. In turn, IT workers and companies are attuned to inter- and intra-city differences, which are reflected in their (re-)location decisions. I argue places like East Bengaluru are spatially (re-)configured to distinctly compete for and amass IT workers; dynamics which are missed in national-level analyses.

Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 4.206

The Impact of Overtime Culture on Physical Activity Participation among Divorced Single Mothers in China

Chunhong Zhou, Győző Molnár

(University of Worcester)

Introduction: Overtime culture is prevalent in China, particularly in the IT industry (ITI). 74.1% of all Chinese professional women were reported to work overtime in 2024. Among them, professional women in ITI experienced the highest work-related stress and insufficient time for physical activity (PA). Professional divorced single mothers (DSMs) in ITI can be more marginalized concerning PA due to work-related and parenting stress and potential financial strains. However, barriers to their PA participation remain underexplored.

Objectives: To investigate how overtime culture, work field, and single motherhood have jointly created barriers to the PA participation of Chinese DSMs working in ITI.

Methods: Qualitative interviews are conducted to gather data on the PA experiences of professional DSMs in ITI. Intersectionality is applied for data analysis and Chinese gender theories are employed for data interpretation.

Findings: Findings suggest that pervasive overtime culture and fierce workplace competitions in ITI, single parenthood, financial stress, and gendered expectations have collaboratively produced barriers to the participants' PA involvement.

Discussion: Overtime culture in ITI, promoting high productivity and intense workplace competitions while neglecting employee health, has triggered burnout and inadequate time for PA among DSMs. Gendered expectations for DSMs to prioritize childcare over self-care and limited child support have generated constraints on DSMs' PA participation.

Conclusion: Overtime culture, gendered expectations, and single motherhood have produced intersectional barriers to DSMs' PA participation. Given the tension between overtime culture and gendered expectations at the organizational and personal levels, Chinese women continue to battle for equality in PA engagement with men.

Transforming to Sustainable Foodways: Navigating Urban Daily Routines, Consumers' Needs, and Food Waste Reduction in the Middle-Class Households of Kunming (China)

Yu Han

(University of Surrey)

This project investigates food waste at the consumption level within middle-class households in Kunming, a multi-ethnic, mid-sized city in Southwest China. Over a 9-month period, a multi-sited ethnography was conducted across various food consumption settings in Kunming, combined with indepth interviews with 44 participants from 29 households. The study draws on sociological frameworks, including practice theories (Bourdieu, 1992; Warde, 2005; Shove et al., 2012), to analyze how food waste occurs at different stages, such as food shopping, dining in the workplace, at vendors, or home, and during food storage.

More importantly, this research also explores how Kunming residents actively mobilized their agency to adopt sustainable food practices. For instance, participants pursued ethnic and organic food products, engaged in self-growing and compositing, and sourced cross-regional options like salmon from Xinjiang, which was perceived as a safer alternative to local supplies to avoid wasting food that didn't meet their quality and safety expectations. These individual efforts were complemented by social and material influences, such as public "empty-plate" campaigns aimed at reducing food waste in canteens and restaurants. In addition, Kunming consumers sought to balance sustainability with their busy urban routines, adopting technological solutions like freezers and air fryers to optimize food storage and cooking practices. The research underscores the interplay between individual choices, socio-material environments, and broader sustainability efforts, offering insights into how urban middle-class households in China navigate the complexities of reducing food waste while adapting to evolving consumer needs and environmental practices.

"If you've got no money, you don't care about sustainability. Cause why would you?" Exploring Symbolic Boundary-Making Based on Sustainable Consumption

Robbe Geerts, Frédéric Vandermoere, Stijn Oosterlynck

(University of Antwerp)

Research increasingly examines the role of sustainable consumption in the (re)production of social class, mostly inspired by Bourdieusian theory. Indeed, notions such as eco-habitus reconceptualise sustainable consumption as a high-status taste. Yet, little research actually examines how people from various social classes make social judgements based on sustainable consumption and how this affects social differentiation. Utilising qualitative interviews, this study highlights class-based symbolic boundary-making regarding sustainable consumption and sheds light on the cultural repertoires that underlie these boundaries. Results show that (un)sustainable consumption often serves as a basis for moral judgements. Furthermore, various cultural repertoires were employed to understand the relationship between social class and sustainable consumption. Dominantly, top-down boundaries were utilised to construct a positive association between class and sustainable consumption. Here, sustainable consumption was understood as a luxury good that people with little wealth are unable to afford. Crucially, these boundaries are dependent on framing sustainable consumption as high-cost practices such as buying eco-labelled products. At the same time, people from lower classes constructed bottom-up boundaries by highlighting their low ecological footprint and the (over)consumption patterns of middle classes and elites. In addition, they ridiculed 'eco-snobs' for their green aesthetics and gullibility regarding eco-labels. In conclusion, while most research arguably overestimates the universal acceptance of dominant (and perhaps elitist) views on sustainable consumption, we provide a more active, inductive view on social differentiation. Moreover, our approach directs attention to bottom-up struggles for legitimacy, revealing that lower classes also construct boundaries to place themselves above middle classes and elites.

Environment & Society - Room 3.209

Transformation without Measure? Unsettling the Logic of Quantification

Ben Purvis

(University of Sheffield)

Sustainability assessment presents a vast paradigm of tools, frameworks, and indicators for aiding the transition towards a normatively conceived 'better' society. To realise change we need to be able to measure transformative progress, to make sure we are going in the right direction, and adjust our trajectory if necessary. Such logics are embraced, largely uncritically, across sustainability research. Yet after four decades of sustainability assessment, societal transformation in this direction is arguably further from reach. There is no agreement on what sustainability means, let alone how to measure it.

This paper seeks to unsettle this measurement logic by posing the simple question: why do we need/want to measure sustainability (or indeed social transformation more broadly)?

This question is used alongside the analysis of various sustainability measurement studies to pick out a number of distinct measurement logics and theories of change. These logics are subsequently interrogated with respect to their political orientation, vision of the future, and underlying epistemological and ontological assumptions.

I argue that sustainability assessment, and more broadly any attempt to measure or quantify social transformation, need to be rooted in politics. Further, there is a need to fundamentally interrogate the transformative potential of indicators and measurements as a tool for dismantling the master's house (Lorde, 1984). Can measurement logics actually end up inhibiting transformative potential? What can they offer us beyond an incrementalist adjustment to the status quo?

Lorde, A. (1984). The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle The Master's House

The Postpolitics of Rewilding

Alex Lee

(University of Brighton)

Rewilding is frequently suggested as a 'radical' solution to the biodiversity crisis. This radicalism is generally positioned in relation to traditional conservation practices, which are described as reactive, expensive and premised on control over nonhuman natures. Rewilding instead suggests that a different approach can be more ethical, cost-effective and suited to a world facing increasing environmental crises. However, rewilding has much less to say about the similarly urgent social crises, and as such, could be inadvertently exacerbating these problems. Based on gualitative analysis of 24 interviews with people connected to rewilding, such as landowners, consultants, activists and NGO workers, this paper discusses how rewilding often supports a political status quo that is at odds with a just and sustainable future. A thematic analysis of this data shows that while owners position themselves, or are positioned by others, as doing "the right thing", many interviewees frame private rewilding primarily in terms of a neoliberal governmentality. This discourse promotes the idea of profit-making, commodification of nature, and large incentives for a small number of wealthy landowners, which would likely further increase wealth inequality in the UK. It also could reinforce the power of a small clique of elites, who are often constructed as crucial to saving biodiversity, while further alienating many other people from the countryside. Given the interconnections between neoliberalism, injustice and environmental breakdown, this paper argues that rewilding as a 'radical' solution, as articulated by these interviewees, is not nearly radical enough.

Slow Violence and the Siege on Genuine Environmental Transformation

Imran Sabir

(Quaid-i-azam University Islamabad)

In the grand narrative of climate change, marginalized communities often find their voices silenced, environmental concerns painted as luxuries for the privileged. This paper employs environmental justice and structural violence theories to expose how systemic inequalities obstruct grassroots environmental efforts, widening disparities in aid-dependent societies.

Focusing on the Household Solid Waste Management project in Bhara Kahu, Pakistan—a community's quest for sustainable waste practices—we reveal how entrenched structural inequities caused the project to stumble. International funders like the World Bank impose top-down strategies that ignore local realities. The Higher Education Commission (HEC), acting as gatekeeper, favors bureaucracy over innovation, shackling principal investigators.

Complicating matters further, governmental agencies—city administrators, EPA officials—exhibit bureaucratic inertia that grinds progress to a halt. Local political and business factions actively undermine such projects, fearing the dismantling of corrupt systems profiting from environmental degradation.

This case dissects funding models that favor polished reports over real environmental progress. Invoking Rob Nixon's concept of "slow violence," we argue these structural barriers inflict a form of violence against marginalized communities, perpetuating environmental injustice and stifling genuine social transformation.

The Bhara Kahu project spotlights the urgent need to reimagine environmental initiatives through environmental justice, dismantling barriers that impede grassroots efforts. To kindle authentic change, we must move beyond token gestures to genuinely engage with local actors. Only by confronting these deep-seated inequalities can we turn environmental rhetoric into meaningful, equitable outcomes—transforming slogans into sustainable and just realities.

Emergent Leadership and External Control: Rohingya-Led Organising In Cox's Bazar

Mikey Rose

(University College Cork)

This paper investigates the evolving dynamics of Rohingya-led organising in Cox's Bazar during and after the Covid-19 pandemic, focusing on refugee leadership amid ongoing crises. Based on my PhD research, the study employs situational analysis (Clarke, 2005) to explore the capacities, assemblages, and affects (Deleuze & Guattari, 1987; Fox & Alldred, 2022) shaping these efforts. As Covid-19 spread through overcrowded camps, many NGOs scaled back operations due to funding cuts and safety concerns, leaving critical gaps in areas such as health campaigns and education. This withdrawal exposed how NGO involvement had structured local capacities, while also revealing emergent forms of self-organised leadership. Rohingya-led organisations responded by managing learning centres, leading public health initiatives, and providing leadership training, despite challenges such as gang activity, limited resources, and internal tensions.

Since the return of NGOs, the dynamics of organising have shifted again, affecting the coordination between external actors and refugee-led efforts. Additionally, the assassination, as well as resettlement, of prominent Rohingya leaders has disrupted leadership structures, while ongoing environmental devastation and systemic exploitation continue to create uncertainty about the future. Through interviews and document analysis from Rohingya organisations and secondary sources from NGOs, this study examines how leadership capacities and organising strategies have adapted amid these evolving conditions.

This paper contributes to critical discussions on the contradictions inherent in NGO-led interventions, the potential for autonomous refugee leadership, and how marginalised communities navigate systems of exploitation and crisis within a capitalist framework.

Emerging Themes & Special Events -Room 4.209 Special Event

Radical Mothering Research Collective: Futures and contradictions

Patricia Hamilton, Sarah Werner Boada

(Radical Mothering Research Collective)

This Special Event reflects on the 12 months since the inaugural conference of the Radical Mothering Research Collective, an activist-scholar initiative that seeks both to detail and challenge the colonial logics that shape reproductive labour in Europe. In the midst of the June 2024 European election results, August 2024's far-right riots in the UK and the increased policing of movements to protest Palestinian genocide and climate change failures, the questions posed by the Collective are more urgent than ever: how can we as sociologists theorise the relationship between the European project of nation-building and colonial expansion and the contemporary policing of racially minoritised mothers and families? How do we make sense of calls for equity, diversity and even decolonisation at the same time as ongoing raced and classed inequities in reproductive health, maternity services and parenting? What can we learn from community organisers, activists and everyday acts of mothering about how to survive and resist the contradictions of contemporary Europe?

Sarah Werner Boada (University of Warwick) and Patricia Hamilton (University of York), co-founders of the Collective, will be joined by speakers at the inaugural conference and members of the Collective. The event will explore potential futures and further opportunities for analyses of mothering that takes seriously both the violence of borders, carcerality and racial capitalism and the opportunities to resist such violence enacted by mothers, activists and scholars.

Families & Relationships 1 - Room 4.213

What Influences Fathers' Engagement in Children's Education and Care in the UK?

Helen Norman, Wei Zhuang

(University of Leeds)

Previous research shows that fathers' childcare engagement, defined as the one-to-one interaction with a child, has an important association with children's educational attainment in the early years of primary school (www.piecestudy.org). Yet fathers are significantly less likely to engage with their child's care and education compared to mothers. This indicates that there are barriers to paternal engagement, but it is unclear what those barriers are and why they are significant. This paper aims to address this knowledge gap by exploring the influences on fathers' engagement in their children's care and education in the UK.

Using multiple regression on bespoke survey data collected from over 5,000 UK parents in June 2023 by YouGov (on behalf of the UK charity Parentkind), we explore fathers' attitudes, perceptions, and practices of engagement in their child's education and with their child's school. We explore the extent to which this is shaped by demographics such as social class, work status and geographical location. Initial analysis reveals that although fathers are still less likely to engage in all care and educational activities with their children compared to mothers, they are more likely to say that they would do these activities if they had the opportunity. We find significant variations in capacities to engage according to social class. The analysis reveals certain barriers to paternal care, which call for targeted interventions, given the implications such barriers can have for children's development as well as gender inequalities in care and education more broadly.

An Exploration of Relationships Education in Primary Schools

Andrew Davison

(Sheffield Hallam)

This paper responds to ongoing debates on statutory Relationships Education (RE) in primary schools, particularly aspects related to LGBT-inclusive teaching. The DfE guidance (2019) outlines the topics to be covered but leaves the approach and timing at the discretion of individual schools, raising concerns about tokenistic and uncritical delivery of LGBT-related content (Glazzard & Stones, 2021). Although the guidance emphasises age-appropriate sensitivity, it risks excluding younger primary-aged children from learning about LGBT identities, even those from LGBT families (Glazzard & Stones, 2022). Research on faith-sensitive Relationships Education highlights the complexities schools face in addressing diverse community values (Sell & Reiss, 2022). Research by Ofsted (2021) identified ambiguities in the guidance, particularly regarding LGBT issues. The lack of clarity within the guidance has resulted in petitions calling for the removal of LGBT content (UK Government and Parliament, 2023).

Through a mixed-methods approach, including classroom observations, curriculum analysis, and teacher interviews, this paper provides updated insights into the implementation of RE. Previous research examines teacher reluctance to address LGBT issues, influenced by heteronormativity and institutional silence (DePalma & Jennett, 2010; Atkinson, 2021). Current research identifies staff training as an issue that impacts teacher confidence in implementing RE (Cumper et al., 2024; Daly & Neah, 2023). Recent draft guidance (DfE, 2024) threatens to limit LGBT-inclusive teaching by allowing schools to opt out, reinforcing heteronormative standards. This study addresses the pressing concern of how educational policy and practice intersect with issues of inclusion and equality, particularly with the growing cultural and political divides.

Transnational Cousin Marriages among Pakistani Diasporas in the U.K.

Rafia Arshad

(Loughborough University)

This paper is part of my PhD research project, which focuses on transnational cousin marriages among Pakistani diasporas in the U.K. A key theme of this study is to examine the motivations behind these marriages. Using a combination of in-depth interviews and qualitative survey data, the research investigates both the reasons for and the implications of these unions. Existing literature suggests that one of the primary motivations for these marriages was the pursuit of economic stability for families in Pakistan. Previously, Pakistani parents in the U.K. arranged the marriages of their children with their nephews and nieces from Pakistan with an aim of providing economic benefits to their siblings, thinking that this is their prime obligation towards family members. However, this study reveals a notable shift in decision-making regarding children's marriages. While parents still prefer their children to marry within the family, the primary motivation is no longer the economic benefit. Instead, the epicenter of these decisions is the 'wellbeing of their children'. It is the belief that marriages within the same family offer greater convenience for the couple. This reflects that the marriage decisions among Pakistani families have been transitioned to the 'individual' wellbeing from the wellbeing of the broader family.

Human/Animal Relations and Vegan Sociology in the Undergraduate Curriculum

Kate Stewart, Matthew Melsa

(University of East Anglia)

Over recent decades, the scholarly study of Human/Animal Relations has expanded into multiple academic fields, including Sociology where the sub-diciplinary field of Vegan Sociology has emerged as a distinctive sociological enterprise.

The authors have been researching and publishing in this field for over 15 years, and this paper will focus on how they have developed undergraduate taught content which draws on this scholarship, as well as identifying other examples of Vegan Sociology in undergraduate curricula elsewhere.

The paper will focus 2 examples of their own teaching development which take contrasting approaches:

- 1. The development of a specialist final year undergraduate option module on Critical Vegan Studies within the Sociology module suite at the University of East Anglia;
- 2. Content embedded within a second year compulsory research methods module delivered to Sociology and Criminology students at the Open University.

The paper will show how this ostensibly niche sub-disciplinary field fits within and contributes to broader curriculum and pedagogical ambitions of undergraduate study in Sociology. The examples drawn on aim to empower learners with skills to deconstruct speciesist structures and discourses and to recognise speciesism as a structural-discursive problem. They also illustrate how the thriving collaborative culture among Vegan Sociologists is driving pedagogy and practice forward through collegiality and the sharing of experience, expertise and resources. Collectively, this asserts the legitimacy of Vegan Sociology, and therefore of nonhuman animals as legitimate subjects of sociological concern.

Families & Relationships 2 - Room 4.214

Negotiating Agency and Expectations through Cohabitation: Dynamics of Elderly Matchmaking and Later-Life Romance in Urban China

Aikedan Ainiwaer

(University of Oxford)

This paper explores the formation and gender dynamics of cohabitation as a "peer-ageing" strategy in urban China, emphasizing the emotional and practical significance of companionship in later-life partnerships. Drawing on fieldwork data collected in Beijing 2023, including interviews, participant observation at matchmaking corners, and visual data, it investigates how older singles seeking cohabitation partners present themselves in public settings and how they interact, communicate, and negotiate their expectations for romance and care. The paper begins by introducing the history and development of matchmaking corners (Xiangqin Jiao) in the parks of modern Chinese cities. Furthermore, the emergence of dancing, singing, and acting corners within the matchmaking space reflects older people's agency in transforming public spaces to serve creative purposes. I analyzed 237 dating profiles (those printed CVs that older people bring and present in the park) and examined how a social support network forms unintentionally in the name of "partner-seeking". Nevertheless, contrasting with socio-emotional selectivity theory (SST), which suggests that older individuals focus on emotionally meaningful goals as they age, this paper highlights a different perspective among elderly singles in Chinese matchmaking parks negotiating care through public matchmaking spaces. Rather than solely prioritising emotional fulfilment, many older individuals are driven by materialistic motivations rooted in concerns about livelihood insecurity. The paper concludes that older men and women navigate their agency and expectations in the initial stages of cohabitation while dealing with the contradiction between their optimism and the intersection of gendered expectations, social pressures, and economic anxieties in contemporary China.

Couple Friends: Friendship Practices of Midlife Couples

Jenny Van Hooff

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

This paper explores the friendship practices of midlife men and women in long-term couple relationships in Britain. Drawing on in-depth interviews with six men and ten women in both mixed- and same-sex relationships, I examine how friendships and couple relationships intersect. The findings reveal that while participants draw on friendships for emotional support, the extent of reciprocation is limited by the "couple norm" (Roseneil et al., 2020). This norm positions couple relationships as central to personal life, often devaluing friendships in favour of romantic partnerships. Reflecting Coser's (1974) concept of the "greedy marriage," heterosexual participants, in particular, provided limited support to friends. For many, friendships functioned as a supportive extension of their relationship, though these bonds were often constrained by the demands of coupledom and family life. The couple norm thus shapes friendship practices, reinforcing normative frameworks that structure personal life. By examining how couple relationships and friendships intersect, this study illuminates the blurring of personal life categories over the lifecourse.

Narrating Intimacy: An Ethnography of Older Women's Intimate Relationships in Chengdu

Yueqian Wu

(Lingnan University)

Since 2023, China has become a moderately aging society, with 296.97 million people aged 60 and above, accounting for 21.1% of the population. Among the aged population, Chinese women live five years longer than men on average, and the divorce rate among older couples is rising. However, older women continue to lack attention, especially their intimate relationships. This ethnographic study investigates how older women experience and narrate intimacy in their lived experiences; and how they conceptualize and redefine intimacy in urban China. The research methodology included in-depth interviews with 20 older women in Chengdu conducted over five months in 2024, complemented by focus group discussions and podcast recordings.

This study provides an intercultural interpretation of intimate relationships, as discussed by Lynn Jamieson and Eva Illouz, and focuses on partnerships, friendships, and intergenerational relationships. The research examines older women's fantasies and their feelings of disconnection about love by comparing happy and unhappy marriages in the era of cold intimacy. It explores private lives in public spaces, highlighting friendships and community interactions among older women. The study also analyzes how older women use online dating apps and view social media as a transformative tool. Finally, it includes intergenerational perspectives, reflecting on the researcher's position through focus group discussions and podcast recordings.

This study contributes to the existing literature on the intersection of aging, gender, and intimate relationships. Furthermore, it examines the local identity and Chineseness in urban culture, providing an interpretation of intimacy among older women in an urban setting.

Lifecourse - Room 3.212

HUMANE-CLIMATE: Young People Making Sense of a Changing World

Benjamin Bowman, Vilhelmiina Vainikka, Kirsi Pauliina Kallio

(Manchester Metropolitan University)

The impacts of climate change on young people's lives are profound and wide-ranging. In HUMANE-CLIMATE, an international research project explored the critical environmental citizenship of young people in Finland and Greece, among children with a recent migrant and non-migrant background. In this project, a toolkit of creative methods were used to investigate the ways in which climate change and migration are part of young people's world view. Early findings from this project include reflections on the creative methodology for research with young people on climate change, empirical data on young people's postcolonial perceptions of a world where climate change's impacts do not stop at territorial borders, and the key role of empathy played in young people's world view.

Teen Diaries: How the Interactive Documentary Explores Rural Teen Life

Claire Levy

(Goldsmiths, University of London)

This paper explores the participatory research project and co-produced interactive documentary (i-doc) which took place over 6 years in Stroud, Gloucestershire, UK with groups of rural teenagers aged between 13 and 17 years. Visual approaches and the use of i-doc both to explore and perform the fragmentary experiences of young people in the countryside have afforded the chance to open up the research process and resist the compression often found in sociological writing and conventional documentary film. Moreover, the desire to create a more holistic understanding of rural youth

experience, what is meant by an 'open-ended sort of practice' (Rooke, 2013) has led to embracing 'failures' in the methods (Jancovich and Stevenson, 2021) as a productive part of the research process.

Utilising participatory multimedia methods has helped to create a new taxonomy of space for rural youth which reflects experiences of young people before the often cited transitional axis of home to work or higher education (Cohen,1997; Juvonene and Romakkeniemi, 2018; Rye, 2006; Willis, 1981). Refocusing the lens at 'eye-level' of younger teens through the framework of the idoc affords an updated understanding of the landscape's role in rural teen experience. The 'messy methods' (Law, 2004) employed are designed to engage with the dynamism of the teen self. The i-doc, titled 'Teen Diaries' reinforces the importance of the relationship between methods and data (Lury and Wakeford, 2012); exploring and performing young people's changing perceptions of rural places as they find inventive ways to grow up.

Young People and Low Carbon Jobs: Intersections of Class, Place and Future Employment Opportunities

Faye Wade

(University of Edinburgh)

Definitions of youth success are often based on mobility, with attachment to place seen as a hinderance to the realisation of career aspirations. Despite young people's imagined futures being 'strikingly local', staying in certain places – especially post-industrial areas - is stigmatised with perceptions of limited aspirations and defeat, particularly for working class youth. Crucially, young people are now being placed at the centre of an envisaged 'future workforce' that will deliver technological transformation to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

Neoliberal policy strategies for meeting the UK's net zero goals make dual claims that technologies like low carbon heating and electric vehicles will deliver both emissions reductions and low carbon jobs to all UK regions. However, it is unclear who these proposed low carbon jobs might be aspirational for, or how and whether they might create a difference between 'being stuck' and 'staying' for young people from different class backgrounds.

Drawing on results from preliminary interviews and local walking tours with 12–14 year olds in postindustrial towns, this presentation investigates young people's perceptions of, and potential access to, local low carbon jobs. Discussion with young people from different socio-economic backgrounds is used to explore how intersections of class and place might shape their awareness and consideration of low carbon jobs. The findings are used to reflect on how low carbon transitions might intersect with deeply entrenched class and mobility structures currently shaping young people's futures.

Medicine, Health & Illness - Room 1.219

From Purging to Pills: Neoliberal Responsibilisation and the 'Revolution' in Abortion Methods

Aideen O'Shaughnessy

(University of Lincoln)

Whilst early medical abortion now accounts for more than half of all abortions carried out worldwide, political debate and public health research illustrates that many practitioners are reticent to provide 'late term' or surgical methods of abortion care, including dilation and curettage and manual or electronic vacuum aspiration. Even in contexts where abortion is legal, a complex constellation of factors including legislative frameworks, medical education, and health infrastructures influences the methods of care available. The institutional prioritisation of specific abortion methods has practical effects on the material experiences of abortion-seekers and symbolic effects in terms of reifying medico-legal understandings of 'acceptable' forms of abortion care. In the context of the global backlash against reproductive rights, this paper questions how how scientific and technological developments in abortion methods, and political and moral debate surrounding abortion inform one another. Advancing an original theoretical framework inspired by feminist technoscience studies, it analyses how distinctive abortion methods mould the material practice and lived experience of abortion and the associated tensions relating to

stigma, knowledge production, and the gendered division of labour. Through the analysis of medical literature and secondary data relating to the experiences of abortion-seekers and abortion providers in the Republic of Ireland in the aftermath of the legalisation of abortion there in 2018, this paper explores how medical practitioners, activists, and abortion-seekers discursively construct different abortion methods and how this continues to implicates the practical provision and wider framing of abortion in moral, social, and political terms.

How Australia is Losing Its Fluoride: Critically Evaluating the Devolution of Public Health Decision-Making to Local Government

Matt Wade

(La Trobe University)

Water fluoridation ranks among Australia's greatest public health success stories, substantially decreasing tooth decay and related health issues, especially among children. However, the Australian state of Queensland is unique in that the decision whether to fluoridate water supplies is decided within Local Government Areas (i.e. local councils). In 2001, less than 5% of the Queensland population had fluoridated water, despite strong public support. In response, in 2008 the Labor Government implemented a policy to ensure all communities with more than 1000 people would have fluoridated water. Within four years, the proportion of Queenslanders with access to fluoridated water increased to over 80%. However, in 2012, the incoming Liberal Government altered the policy dramatically, stating that the decision would be given to local councils. The result has been a steady decline in fluoridation across Queensland, with many councils - all in rural and non-metro areas - deciding to cease fluoridation. In part, these deliberations are increasingly informed by the infiltration of far-right interests into local government. Focussing on key case studies of local council decision-making, this talk explores: how were decisions made to cease fluoridation?; what reasons were given?; was the local community consulted?; were health and medical experts consulted?; and is there even adequate record keeping of all this? In some instances, such decisions are being made with troubling haste, driven by misinformation, without community consultation, nor engagement with relevant health expertise of any kind. Such outcomes highlight the urgent need to develop improved deliberative democracy and health communication strategies.

We Don't Want Grandmothers with Fancy Noses and Brazilian Buttocks!

Narges Pirhayati, Giselinde Kuipers

(Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)

This research investigates the role of cosmetic surgeons in Tehran as medical professionals who navigate between diverse cultural, social, and medical frameworks, including ethnicity, gender, age, class, and religion, in their practice. Drawing from Kuipers' (2022) theoretical model, which builds on Lamont's (2014) framework of cultural processes, the study examines how surgeons not only mediate ideals of beauty but also reinforce and reshape social norms and health-related practices, ultimately contributing to both the reproduction and transformation of social inequalities in Iranian society. Cosmetic surgery, once primarily associated with women, is now increasingly accepted as a medical intervention for men, becoming a normalized part of beauty practices across genders (Kuipers 2022).

Through semi-structured interviews with 20 cosmetic surgeons, in-depth discussions with three clinic project managers, 27 days of field observation, and participation in cosmetic surgery conferences, the study reveals how the practice of cosmetic surgery is deeply intertwined with Tehran's socio-cultural and medical contexts. Surgeons tailor their recommendations according to patients' socio-economic background, gender, and cultural factors, reflecting the broader medicalized views of the body and beauty.

This study demonstrates that cosmetic surgeons act as gatekeepers of both beauty and health standards, reinforcing symbolic boundaries that contribute to social stratification. By integrating medical ideals of beauty into their practice, they also play a pivotal role in maintaining social hierarchies within Tehran's healthcare system. In shaping societal perceptions of the ideal body, cosmetic surgeons further entrench socio-economic and cultural divides, thereby impacting both health and social inequality in Tehran.

Field-Ready: Ethnographic Fieldwork Preparation and Cultural Sensitivity in Abortion and Obstetrics Clinics in the UK, France, Greece and Italy

Marcin W. Smietana, Garyfalia Varelaki, Alessandra Brigo, Manon Vialle, Giulia Zanini

(Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

This paper brings into focus the experiences and cultural sensitivities of ethnographic fieldwork preparation within the comparative international ERC-funded research project 'PregDaT - Pregnancy Dating Challenges: Technologies and Unequal Geographies of Abortion and Childbirth Care' (2023-2028). The project looks at pregnant people and abortion and obstetrics professionals' experiences of gestational age (GA) assessment and investigates how time is mobilised as a technology of (un)care in reproduction. Despite its profound implications for pregnancy care, the GA assessment process differs widely across health care services and countries, which can in turn produce unequal access to care in terms of abortion and childbirth options. The paper builds on the research team's experiences of preparing fieldwork in four different contexts: the UK, France, Greece and Italy. We present how each context required a different approach due to the different ways relationships are built within each medical system, as well as due to the different kinds of social transformations ongoing within reproductive biomedicine in each country (such as the onset of abortion via telemedicine in the UK). We stress how preparing fieldwork often relied on team efforts exceeding the classic model of a sole ethnographer. The paper argues that collective, team and transnational work by academic and nonacademic actors is often necessary for the successful preparation of contemporary ethnographic fieldwork in reproduction. At a broader level, we also ask what fieldwork preparation is for an ethnographer.

Methodological Innovations - Room 3.213

Living Knowledge: Co-Produced Anti-Poverty Activism in Action

Katy Goldstraw

(Staffordshire University)

The overall aim of this paper presentation shares research to develop inspirational practice models of co-produced activism with people who have lived experience of poverty.

The concept and definition of lived experience will be critically examined from a range of academic and practitioner perspectives. Lived Experience is a contested term (McIntosh & Wright, 2019), it can be defined as 'The experience(s) of people on whom a social issue, or combination of issues, has had a direct impact' (Sandu, 2017:2). The term lived experience is in danger of becoming a buzz word, misused in exchange for project funding (McLaughlin, 2009; McIntosh & Wright, 2019). The paper seeks to redress the mis-use of the term 'lived experience' and instead critically evaluate the term within the context of ethical praxis (Friere, 2020).

The paper presentation will share key themes from a soon to be published Policy Press book's interrogation of what meaningful and ethical lived experience led co-produced activism looks, feels and sounds like seeks to inform both academic debates around epistemic justice (Fricker, 2007) and practitioner debates around ethical co-production (Goldstraw, 2021). This paper is a vital contribution to the debate around the ethics of practice in lived experience co-production. The layered international , national and local level knowledge that this paper draws together allows intersecting principles for co-produced participatory activism to be critically interrogated and the multiplicity of themes that emerge from these principles to be analysed.

Selling Products: An Advertising Response to Entrenched Dental Poverty in the UK

Jay Dunstan

(University of East London)

Relationships in society are increasingly mediated by images and imagery communication (Grady, 1996; O'Halloran, 2023). This intricate relationship of representation and meaning making is known in

visual sociology as iconic communication (Grady, 1996; Mullen, 2024). Reductive technologies of iconic communication are employed by advertisers to simplify this composite relationship to succinctly convey social messages and meanings (Deacon, et al., 1999).

This paper employs tools afforded by visual sociology to examine complex relationships amongst images and society. It seeks to explore neoliberal social stresses impacting on the lives of children through their dental care and oral hygiene. Wherein, decoding socially located images affords the possibility to investigate formative social structure, organisation and cultural meaning. Achieved through a visual analysis of a mass-consumer brand, advertised on a billboard sited in an unremarkable 'everyday' part of Greater London. Positing that the image forms part of an advertising campaign which seeks to discursively reverse normative assumptions of oral health for children. Wherein, the advertisement represents a communicative vehicle to transform long-standing health discourses in response to sociocultural changes affecting vulnerable populations (BMA, 2016; Dorling, 2024).

Interpreted as a 'visual commons' resource, the image utilises contemporary societal discourses, particularly those related to iconic/symbolic racialised notions of deprivation. In turn, realised through the use of dualisms and explicit/implicit binary framing techniques. Visually, the communication simultaneously reinforces notions of aesthetic beauty (Eagleton, 1990) while offering the possibility of idiosyncratic transformation (Kieran, 1997).

In providing a detailed analysis this study illuminates the social context that produced this advertisement.

Embracing Participatory Forms of Data Analysis in Visual Research

Kaylan Schwarz

(University of Lethbridge)

In this presentation, I reflect on the methodological journey I have taken toward embracing more participatory forms of data analysis in visual research. Across three identity-related research projects with youth and adults – one in the United Kingdom and two in Canada – I have shifted from conducting a visual analysis (where I interpreted participants' photographs on my own), to a visual elicitation approach (where participants walked me through the context and significance of their chosen objects), to a participatory visual elicitation approach (where participants walked me through the context and significance of their chosen objects), to a participatory visual elicitation approach (where participants were directly engaged in the process of analysing their own and their fellow participants' chosen objects). I consider the distinct methodological insights offered by each of these approaches, including their strengths, limitations, and future alternative possibilities. I conclude by highlighting the ways participatory forms of data analysis align with and reflect the tenets of feminist research, notably, by seeking to reduce hierarchies between researchers and participants and by prioritizing an ethic of care and collaboration. While participatory forms of data analysis require additional time and resource investments, these approaches may enhance the quality and accuracy of research findings and provide a meaningful and enjoyable experience for participants.

Eco-Immersive Analysis: Rethinking Qualitative Data Analysis in the Era of Climate Breakdown

Peter Gardner

(University of York)

This paper introduces eco-immersive analysis: a novel methodological innovation for qualitative data analysis that integrates eco-therapeutic practices with qualitative meaning-making. In recent years, green psychology and related health studies research have found immersion in nature to have wide-ranging benefits for an individual's physical and mental well-being. Meanwhile, the climate and ecological emergency has emerged as a challenge to both society and social science. In developing eco-immersive analysis, I draw on insights from eco-therapeutic interventions and conceptualisations of qualitative research that incorporate the researcher as embodied subject. Having provided a theoretical basis for the approach, the paper outlines a 6-step process for conducting eco-immersive analysis, wherein the researcher undertakes their analysis in a natural environment, engages in conscious and unconscious pattern-finding, and alternates between immersion in nature and focused analysis. After outlining the approach, the paper includes an auto-ethnographic reflection of my experience undertaking eco-immersive analysis to analyse a dataset of qualitative interviews.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 -Lecture Theatre A

Plural Cosmopolitanism after WW1: Herbert Adolphus Miller and the Beginnings of Tomorrow

John Holmwood, Jan Balon

(University of Nottingham, Czech Academy of Science)

We address the 'forgotten' US pragmatist sociologist, Herbert Adolphus Miller (1875-1951). He was directly involved with social reform and the progressive movement in US politics, a movement that was in retreat after WW1. He was committed to science as the basis of action, and he considered his political activities to be continuous with that science. The political climate may not have been propitious, but 'science' would provide for a different politics to come, and, in an unfavourable present, a politics engaged with the issues of tomorrow remained necessary. Unusually, even for progressives, Miller was committed to race equality in the US and globally. He was one of the few white sociologists to address issues of colonialism and empire, drawing out the interconnections between domestic race relations, immigration and international relations. He argued against European (and Japanese) overseas colonialism and supported anti-colonial revolutions (including in central Europe). He warned against the pathologies of nationalism and new forms of oppression of minorities. In this context, the future that Miller described as both possible and necessary was at odds with the future conceived in the mainstream politics of his time. The dominant view (including progressives) was of a future global order organised through the 'benevolent hegemony' of an American, British and French domination. It is this order that has now broken down and whose divisions Miller addressed. His future is our present and his diagnosis remains prescient, as the problems he described continue to divide peoples both nationally and internationally.

Race, Waiting and Bordering Practices of Young African Migrants

Dogus Simsek

(Kingston University London)

This study is about race, waiting and bordering practices of young African migrants in Turkey that receive little attention within the global South scholarship. The vast majority of the literature on migration from Africa has focused on Europe and overlooked African migration towards the global South. However, most African migrations are not directed towards Europe, but towards Africa, the Gulf and Turkey. Founded on seven years of ethnographic research from 2016 to 2023 with young African migrants in Istanbul and Izmir, where I documented their everyday lives, settlement practices, and responses and resistance to racism, waiting and criminalisation, the study answers the questions of how the intersections of migrant status, race, class, gender and religion shape the experiences of young African migrants in Turkey; how young African migrants position themselves within a range of locations where they face racial and class hierarchy, racism and discrimination and how solidarity among young African migrants is maintained to overcome racism, deportation and police violence. I argue that waiting is a racialised phenomenon and concomitantly when it intersects with migrant status, class, gender and religion, it makes some young Africans exploited more. It aims to contribute to the construction of 'non-Western' forms of knowledge in migration scholarship by showing that there is a need to focus on racialised forms of everyday experiences such as waiting, exploitation, oppression, racism, and inequalities in exploring young Africans' experiences, and most importantly hierarchies among them that have emerged from different class backgrounds, gender and religious beliefs.

Re-making Citizenship from the Margins: Migrant Women's Activism in the UK

Sugandha Agarwal

(University of Manchester)

Situated at the theoretical intersection of sociology and politics, this paper brings a critical lens to the study of citizenship by investigating and analysing the lives of migrant women living in the UK. Through interviews and participant observation conducted over a year, this paper examines how migrant women

engage in individual and collective community work and activism against the backdrop of the UK's changing immigration policies. The objective of this research is to shift away from the narrative of migrant women as passive victims to recognize the multiple ways in which they exercise agency, and in doing so, enact their own forms of "activist citizenship." Isin (2009) uses the term to characterize the newly emerging types of citizen subjectivities that challenge the traditional notions of citizenship attached to modern liberal democracies. This paper asks a central question: what claims to "citizenship" are migrant women making through activism? How do these intersect with notions of belonging and identity? Ultimately, It seeks to understand how 'non-citizen' migrants engage, contest, transform, and otherwise resist new ways of regulating mobility and in doing so "enact forms of transnationalism and citizenship 'from below,'" (Nyers and Rygiel, 2012: 9). A rapidly growing international diaspora teamed with anti-immigration political discourse across the UK lends this research particular urgency, making it doubly important to centralize the marginalized narratives of migrant women. This research will contribute to existing literature on forced migration, citizenship and migrant activism in the UK, particularly on the obscured narratives of women activists in Manchester.

'Citizenship from Below': Integration as Assemblage for Immigrant Youth Volunteers in Canada

Shibao Guo, Yan Guo

(University of Calgary)

As an immigrant society, Canada has become ethno-culturally diverse as a result of growing immigration and refugee resettlement over the past four decades. One prominent issue facing Canada as an immigrant society pertains to the social and cultural integration of immigrant youth, who are often criticised in academic and popular discourse as passive citizens. This paper therefore examines the civic engagement and participation of immigrant youth as active citizens from below through volunteering. The study adopts an explanatory sequential mixed method approach, which involves the collection and analysis of 500 completed questionnaires in phase 1 followed by 52 semi-structured personal interviews with immigrant youth volunteers and focus groups with 15 frontline workers in phase 2.

The concept of assemblage as a theoretical framework allows for an understanding of social integration as practices of 'citizenship from below' and social formations that are affective, relational and configured. One layer of social integration views youth volunteering as an assemblage that provides immigrant youth with agency evolving over time as youth mature and move more towards a deeper connection to community to effect change as a form of lived citizenship. Second, developing a sense of belonging and identity with Canada illustrates an affective dimension in the assemblage of social integration. The study also suggests that youth volunteering as assemblage is an integral part of social integration and citizenship that is endlessly being socially produced and assembled. The findings challenge the diffuse negative perceptions about immigrant youth as passive citizens.

Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 1.218

Parresian Dissonance: Constructing Alternate Realities in the US Immigration Debate

Svetoslav Nenov

(King's College London)

This article builds on the Foucauldian interpretation of the Greco-Roman concept of parresia to analyze the discourses constructed around immigration in the US election campaign. While later interpretations of parresia are focused around the duty to speak factual truth to power, for the betterment of society, the Greco-Roman concept frames the parrhesiast as someone who has the moral obligation to say everything that is on their mind, who says it in the face of danger, and who believes it to be true; i.e. truth arises from the apparent belief of the parrhesiast, not from evidence-based arguments. The article will look at Donald Trump as someone who presents himself as such a parrhesiast, which allows him to create discursive narratives that, while disconnected from factual reality, nevertheless create a reality within which his opponents are forced to act. This problem will be exemplified by the nature of the

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immigration debate in the current US election cycle and the failure of the democratic party to challenge the Republican framing on immigration. Kamala Harris has accepted key factually incorrect premises on immigration - e.g. migration leads to increase in crime and illegal drug trafficking - and has failed to meaningfully address others, such as the hateful rhetoric surrounding the Springfield Haitian immigrants. The article will conclude by suggesting that the way to disrupt Trump's very successful world-building is through continuous, evidence-based challenges to his key narratives, an approach that corresponds to the contemporary interpretation of parresia.

Hongkonger Diaspora in the UK: Exiled Solidarity and Solidarity-in-Exile

Sui-Ting Kong, Petula Sik-Ying Ho, Stevi Jackson

(Durham University)

One prominent feature of the protests that rocked Hong Kong in 2019 was the high degree of solidarity among different political factions as they fought first against the Extradition Law Amendment Bill, and later against police brutality and the diminishing prospect of genuine universal suffrage. Many slogans of the time emphasised the importance of leaving no one behind and maintaining support and ties between peaceful demonstrators and the 'valiant' – the street fighters confronting the police - as well as between those seeking democracy and those pursuing Hong Kong independence. This sense of solidarity, much needed in a leaderless mass movement, continues to have traction in the new Hongkonger diaspora which is now emerging in all countries with lifeboat schemes for Hong Kong.

Our analysis is based on 20 interviews with Hongkongers living in the UK and in Hong Kong as well as extensive field observations in social and political events of the post-2019 Hongkonger diaspora in the UK. By situating solidarity practices within the wider socio-political context as well as attending to the social, cultural, emotional and political dislocation engendered by the migration process, we conceptualise this phenomenon as relocated solidarity, which has two aspects: 'solidarity in exile' and 'exiled solidarity.' Solidarity-in-exile' refers to how Hongkongers' social movement solidarity is driving Hongkongers' participation in the UK politics as an extension of their democratic struggles 'Exiled solidarity' describes the strategies that Hongkongers employ to build the 'exiled Hongkonger ('我哋係

走難唔係移民')' identity to smooth intra-community differences.

Lived Experiences of Hairism in Trinidad: A Border Thinking Autoethnography Approach

Glenn Lauren Moore

(University of the West of England)

This contribution uses a border thinking autoethnography approach to shed light on lived experiences of hairism in Trinidad. Engaging in writing via border thinking is a form of decolonial resistance to colonialities of knowledge. My writing aims to tell truths about lived experiences of hairisim, and also of mixedness and anti-Blackness, and to address colonial legacies, in Trinidad, to help to create spaces for building communities and solidarities with other marginalised peoples with similar experiences and with all peoples committed to decolonisation and to dismantling colourism, racism, and anti-Blackness via anti-racist and decolonial activisms. By using a border thinking autoethnography approach, by focusing on Trinidad using my own voice and experiences, and by challenging hegemonic ways of representing marginalised peoples in UK academia, my writing also aims to contribute to the decolonisation of sociology and of knowledge.

Pakistan and its Diasporas: Exploring Transnational Networks of Pakistani Political Parties in the UK and US

Tania Saeed

(Lahore University of Management Sciences)

Diaspora communities have increasingly become important in the political dynamics of countries like Pakistan. Political parties have established overseas networks to mobilize supporters for financial support and lobbying. Political leaders and the Pakistani state are incentivizing diaspora investments and contributions in Pakistan. In an international context that is oxymoronically polarized while being

increasingly interconnected online, where air travel is accessible subject to affordability, diaspora communities have become more involved with politics inside the country than any time before in Pakistan's history. In this presentation I draw on 100 biographical interviews with British and American Pakistanis and Overseas Pakistanis in the UK and US, examining how political networks operate and their perceptions of politics and the state in Pakistan. I highlight the workings of the overseas networks of two political parties from Pakistan: former PM Imran Khan's Office of International Chapters of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and former PMs Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, and Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP). I explore interviews across generations of immigrants, reflecting on how "the myth of return" (see Bolognani 2007; Anwar 1979) that existed for immigrants in the 50s-60s, has taken different forms of trans-national belonging(s). Supporters are motivated by love for the "motherland", loyalty to their leader, and at times personal ambition. The paper presents insights into a largely under researched area of political party networks in the diasporas for Pakistan, but also reflections on broader questions of citizenship and belonging in a context where transnational identities and networks are increasingly becoming the norm.

Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 2.219 Special Event

Domestic and Sexual Abuse Victimisation in LGBT+ Communities: Thinking Theoretically and Methodologically About How to Transform Policy and Practice

Catherine Donovan, James Rowlands, Holly McSpadden, Briony Anderson

(Durham University)

Whilst legislative and policy responses increasingly recognise domestic and sexual abuse victimisation in LGBT+ communities, in practice and research victim/survivors are still less visible and understood. Feminist scholarship, lobbying and activism that successfully championed the transformation of domestic abuse from a private trouble to a serious social problem and that underpins the New Labour Government's intention to reduce violence against women by half in the next 10 years, inadvertently led to a public story of domestic and sexual abuse that constructs 'the problem' as cis heterosexual men being, typically, physically violent towards cis heterosexual women (Donovan and Hester, 2014). Notwithstanding the scale of the domestic and sexual violence targeting cis heterosexual women, available data from the Office for National Statistics suggests that proportionately, bisexual women and lesbians are at higher risk of being victimised by domestic and sexual abuse than heterosexual women. In this special event we focus on domestic and sexual violence victimisation in LGBT+ communities. Each paper takes a different aspect of domestic abuse and identity abuse – to consider how we can develop theory and methodologies that start from the victimisation of LGBT+ people and centre their experiences in order to better explain and respond to their needs.

Holly McSpadden's focus is sexual minority individuals marginalised by their gender (including women, non-binary, agender, and genderqueer people) showing how a single-axis, binary gendered analysis of sexual violence silences them and ignores the cis-heteronormative structures shaping their experiences. Instead, the benefits of a queer, poststructuralist feminist lens to account for sexual and gender minorities' experiences of sexual violence, extending beyond a single-axis, binary gendered approach will be outlined.

Briony Anderson's focus is an interrogation of the role of technology in queer, family, and intimate partner abuse (see Fileborn and Ball, 2023; Harris and Woodlock, 2021). These reveal insights into the coercive, intimidating, and abusive capacities of technologies in domestic and family violence (DFV), and call for research approaches attentive to the unique experiences and needs of queer DFV victimsurvivors. A particular concern is about sensorial/atmospheric implications of queer technology-facilitated DFV.

Science, Technology & Digital Studies -Room 2.220

From 'Care' to 'Carefulness': On Relational Inequalities in Digital Empirical Sociology

Isabelle Higgins

(University of Cambridge)

This paper begins by acknowledging the relational inequalities that can occur during digital empirical sociological work. I illustrate this by reflecting on my research into the privacy violations happening to children in the adoption process in the USA, whose personal data is shared publicly online by state and private adoption agencies, and subsequently analysed in my sociological practice. This case functions as a starting point from which wider questions about the function and effects of disciplinary sociology in the digital age are explored. This exploration happens in four stages: I first highlight that 'coloniality-asstructure' shaped disciplinary sociology from its inception and then examine how this structure is rearticulated within digital contexts in which sociologists conduct research in the present. Next, I explore theoretical work which seeks to redress or mitigate against some of these structural inequalities, often expressed in the researcher/researched relationship, by focusing reflexively on 'care'. To finish, the paper asserts that, for digital sociologists working in contexts where informed consent may be impossible to gain from those being researched, a more productive methodological/ethical framework might focus on 'carefulness as research practice'. This is particularly the case in contexts where digital sociologists hope to unsettle relations of power and inequality in and through their research. The paper thus takes a reflexive, theoretically informed stance on the purpose and function of digital sociology, develops methodological and ethical insights related to this stance, and does so by drawing dialectically on novel, empirical, digital research throughout.

Figuring 'Patient 4.0' in Scotland's 'Person-Centred' Health Data Futures

Nicola Sugden

(University of Edinburgh)

As health and care become 'datafied' (Ruckenstein & Schüll, 2017) and new healthcare practices seek to leverage the dual promises of 'big data' and 'personalised care', the role of the patient is changing. Various figures have been called forth to explicate the role of the patient in 21st century health-data ecosystems: the 'digitally-engaged patient' (Lupton, 2013); 'patient 2.0' (Danholt et al., 2013); the 'patient-consumer' (Defibaugh, 2019). Other work has elaborated on the emergence in recent decades of 'data selves' (Lupton, 2020), 'technoselves' (Brierley, 2015), and 'scientific citizens' (Irwin, 2001). I posit a new figuration, 'Patient 4.0', and critically reflect on its entanglement within person-centred health data policy and practice in Scotland.

Since data practices entail particular kinds of subjectivation (Scheel & Ruppert, 2021), it is apt to consider the processes by which such figurations are enacted, the arrangements of power they represent and reinforce, and the practical consequences they entail. Person-centred health data practices promise a 'humanised' (Chute & French, 2019) solution to some of the ethical pitfalls of 'Industry 4.0' principles as applied to healthcare, and a response to some of the problems identified by critical social studies of health, care, and data. But who is the 'person' such policies and practices are 'centred' around? Drawing on an ethnography of person-centred health data policy and practices in Scotland, I address how this person – 'Patient 4.0' – is imagined to emerge from the current duplicative and multiplicative data ecosystem, and from the messy everyday world.

Living with Intelligent Artifacts: Imaging Domestic Life with Humanoid Robots

Yuyun Hu

(University College London)

This paper explores the imaginaries associated with interacting with humanoid robots on an everyday basis. Employing a speculative design approach, this study uses innovative qualitative methods,

including the use of an interactive novel as stimuli in focus groups with young Chinese adults residing in the UK. The research captures a cross-cultural perspective to probe their anticipations, concerns, and cultural narratives surrounding the integration of humanoid robots into home environments.

The findings highlight the construction of symbolic boundaries as a defensive mechanism against the potential overreach of robot autonomy and maintaining human exceptionalism, reflecting broader societal anxieties about privacy, self-identity, and the blurring of lines between human and machine agency. These boundaries are explored through three aspects: visual distinctions between humans and humanoid robots, action and control, and the preservation of the unique human self against the capabilities of robots. Through the three boundaries, this study illustrated a tension between individual technology users and major technology corporations, underscoring the ongoing struggle for control over everyday life in the context of surveillance capitalism; and the struggle to define what it means to be human in the face of increasingly automated humanoid robots.

The findings should contribute to the discourse on human-robot interaction and the field of Science and Technology Studies by exploring and analyzing the possibilities of imaginaries in revealing the social structures that technology embeds. It emphasizes the significance of the role of alternative imaginaries in opening up a more equitable future that aligns with diverse human values.

Caring Imaginaries of Robotic 'Care'

Stevienna De Saille

(University of Sheffield)

The UK government is presently investing millions in research aimed at producing semi-autonomous robots for a variety of tasks including at-home medical monitoring and diagnosis, personal care, and personable companionship for those living alone. This paper discusses empirical research from three sequentially linked projects in which LEGO® Serious Play® was used as a tool to enable diverse publics (people with disabilities, young and old people, care sector workers) to imagine potential robotic technologies for care at far-upstream (pre-prototype) stages of development. What is included in these sociotechnical imaginaries and what is left out? How do different conceptions of 'care' – as a service, a process or an emotive relationship – shape the response? And perhaps most pertinent, how can we as social scientists shape these engagements so that they produce information which technicians can draw upon to inform proposals for care robotics research (rather than bringing in 'the public' after prototypes have already been developed), and what can roboticists learn from being involved in this kind of far-upstream research? The results form part of an effort to develop responsible innovation practices which can go beyond the usual calls for public and stakeholder engagement, and consider the wider ecosystem in which care robotics are being developed and will eventually be deployed.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 3.210

Means-Tested Welfare Policies and the Quiet Fear of Poverty amongst Older People in the UK

Kingsley Purdam, Jill Ebrey

(University of Manchester)

In the UK 1.9 million older people (aged 66 years and older) live in relative income poverty and many have unmet care needs. However many older people do not take-up all the welfare support benefits that they are entitled to. Drawing on evidence from interviews and discussion groups in the North West of England, this study examined why older people living on low incomes do not claim means-tested welfare support benefits. The findings suggest a number of interlinked factors were associated with the lack of take-up of welfare support benefits including: awareness, not recognising being in need, embarrassment, a lack of trust and the complexity of applying. There was also a determination amongst some older people to not be seen as being in need. Many were also fearful about whether they would have money taken off them and did not know who to go to for help. The new means-tested restrictions

on Winter Fuel Payments for pensioners raise concerns. As the population ages, a more effective and easier to use welfare support system is required which recognises the vulnerability and the changing support needs of older people, as part of a renewed relationship between citizens and the state. This is of vital importance, not only for older people, but also for the families, carers and the public service providers which older people may be additionally reliant on, due to not receiving all the financial support they are entitled to.

Marginalisation and Promises of Change in Deindustrialised Communities in England's North

Maike Dinger, Darren Lilleker, James Morrison, Antje Glueck

(Bournemouth University)

Industrial decline has had a significant impact on the position former industrial powerhouses and their communities have occupied in the national media and psyche: from perceptions as important heartlands of productivity and pride to deprived fringes of poverty and lost opportunity. Related social and geographical inequalities are reflected in an ongoing sense of disaffection with mainstream politics and the perceived marginalisation of deindustrialised and impoverished communities who are promised much but given little. How do recent initiatives which claim to redress these imbalances, such as the Conservative's 'levelling up' or Labour's recently heralded ideas of changing or rebuilding Britain perceived in these communities. Are these initiatives met with hope or apathy reflecting the perceived marginalisation often attributed to those living in poorer areas?

By adopting a grassroots perspective on the marginalisation of post-industrial milieus, this paper – and the DFG-/AHRC-funded project "Voices from the Periphery" on which it is based – challenges attempts to speak for and about deindustrialised communities by speaking to those who have lived through and experienced industrial decline and its socio-political ramifications in three cities in the North of England. Drawing on data from storytelling salons which explore the experiences of long-term residents in these communities, we will develop an understanding of their feelings towards their political under- or misrepresentation in political debates and media communications as well as the instrumentalization of their communities in the English/British socio-political system and will draw conclusions as to the discursive and policy change they desire.

Framing Food Poverty and Insecurity in German Media (March 2018 – 2024)

Tina Bartelmess

(University of Bayreuth)

In recent years, food poverty and insecurity have emerged as significant public health and political issues in Germany. This study examines how these issues are framed in German media discourse from March 2018 to 2024, drawing on a corpus of 84 articles collected from newspapers and online platforms via NexisUni. Using Entman's framing theory, the research analyzes how media narratives define food poverty and insecurity, pinpoint their causes, propose solutions, and convey moral judgments. It also explores how media representations create distinctions between the food practices of individuals affected by poverty and those of other social groups, revealing how notions of "otherness" are constructed around food consumption in different social contexts.

The findings reveal a nuanced interplay of discursive strategies that highlight the ways in which certain dietary practices are linked to poverty, influencing social inclusion and exclusion. This study contributes to a broader understanding of how media framing shapes public perceptions and policy responses to food poverty and insecurity in Germany. By critically engaging with these representations, the research emphasizes the need for inclusive media narratives that address the structural causes of food poverty and promote equitable, cohesive policy solutions.

Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 3.211

Modes of Production of Opinion among Ordinary Citizens in Norway

Gunnar Bugge Helle

(University of Oslo)

Inequality in democratic participation remains a challenge all over the west, also in Norway, usually considered a high-quality democracy. This paper draws on repeated interviews with 23 individuals of different class positions, providing a uniquely in-depth scrutinization of how ordinary citizens orients themselves towards politics. It shows how inequalities in economic and cultural capital transposes into widely unequal dispositions toward "politics proper" – the way political questions are conceptualized and categorized internally in the political field.

The paper empirically demonstrates how social inequality is related to three key aspects of ordinary political reasoning, mediated by class inequalities in political interest. First, class structures the propensity to produce opinion across a wide variety of topics, as well as the mode by which opinion is produced, f.i. the difference between the general moral outlooks of the "class ethos", as opposed to more "specifically political" categories of understanding. Secondly, the unequal mastery of specifically political categorizations, such as that between the political "left" and the "right". Finally, how citizens relate to the "institutional event" of electoral choice – the act of choosing a party to vote for. Here we observe similar inequalities as outlined above, adding the observation of interesting discordances between general dispositions and vote choice, as well as the social conditionings of being a non-voter.

This paper contributes to the increased interest in qualitative perspectives on political participation and reasoning among ordinary citizens, and also provides an in-depth approach to "cultural class analysis", especially in the Bourdieusian vein.

Political Attitudes and Working Class Areas in Northern Ireland: Neither Unionist, Nationalist, nor "Neither/Nor"

Théo Leschevin

(Université Paris Cité)

Since the end of the Troubles in 1998, liberal peacemakers have often attributed peace's setbacks to the fact that working classes perpetuate radical forms of British unionism and Irish nationalism. Based on ethnography, this presentation will argue that, on the contrary, the inhabitants of working-class areas are developing a more detached relationship with their respective national identities, and with the common tensions which undermine them. They share new political attitudes, which fit neither unionism, nationalism, nor the liberal notion of 'Neither/Nor'. Due to a lack of support and political crises, these joint efforts to develop a common and detached political attitude regularly fail, leading to a return of community-based opposition or a rejection of political life. This presentation will outline the various stages of this ongoing process, featuring practical examples from urban communities in North Belfast.

The Transformation and Evolution of Class Politics: Social Space and the Divergence of Political Position-Takings 1999-2023

Magne Flemmen

(University of Oslo)

Social groups often display distinct preferences, attitudes, and opinions—a well-established finding in the social sciences. With rising inequalities over recent decades, inter-group differences in political opinions may have similarly intensified. This paper leverages a unique, longitudinal dataset spanning 1999 to 2023 to explore these dynamics. We introduce a novel approach by constructing a social space defined by economic and cultural capital across the entire period. This framework allows us, for the first time, to trace how a wide range of sociopolitical issues shift—or remain static—within social space over

time. Our findings reveal that particularly contentious issues, such as immigration and taxation, have not only declined in overall popularity but have also become more sharply divided along capital lines, especially cultural capital. Conversely, environmental protection, though stable in popularity, has become more strongly associated with high cultural capital. These growing divisions are mirrored in support for political parties where these issues are central. However, an analysis of musical genre preferences suggests that these shifts may reflect a broader fragmentation of class-based lifestyles and position-takings.

Sociology of Education - Room 4.204

The School Meals Service: Negotiating the Classed, Gendered and Racialised Nature of School Food

Ellen Bishop

(University of Wolverhampton)

This paper explores present day experiences of the School Meals Service, specifically examining ideas around how school food policy is classed, gendered and racialised (Lalli, 2023). The research involved a set of targeted ethnographic case studies (Hammersley and Atkinson, 2019) involving four partner schools in London, Cardiff, Glasgow, and West Yorkshire. The methods of data collection included observations across the partner schools in gardens, dining spaces and classrooms and 'hanging out' sessions designed to capture the informal conversations and social interactions of participants. I also conducted interviews with teachers, catering staff, pupils and parents to learn more about the cultural makeup of the school and the place of food within it amongst families from different backgrounds. In this paper, I examine how experiences of school meals and food education in schools differ amongst pupils with different intersectional identities and are shaped by classed, gendered, and racialised school food policies, before concluding by considering how more equitable food education and school meals policies could have the potential to transform young people's lives and reduce social inequalities.

Hammersley, M. and Atkinson, P. (2019) Ethnography: Principles in Practice, 4th edn. London: Routledge.

Lalli, G. (2023) Schools, Space and Culinary Capital, London: Routledge.

British Army Supporting Education (BASE): Affective Militarism and (In)Security in UK Schools

Emma Huddlestone, Natalie Jester

(University of East Anglia)

This paper traces discourses of (in)security through the critical analysis of lesson plans and teaching resources created by the British Army for use in schools. Specifically, we focus on the 33 documents (as of the 2nd October 2024) on the British Army website in the BASE "Lesson Library". Lesson plans are aimed at pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4, covering subjects including STEM, History, Geography, Music, Citizenship, and PSHE. These lessons differ, but each incorporates a military-flavour into school subjects, e.g. a mathematics class invites pupils to imagine they have been kidnapped by smugglers and need to escape their captors, tackling difficult terrain and guards. This plan resonates with the British military's "Survive, Evade, Resist and Extract" training courses, where personnel are taught survival, capture evasion, and interrogation resistance techniques.

We have examined these teaching resources using the discursive concepts of articulation (asking how ideas are attached to subjects and objects) and interpellation (asking how people are "called into" particular subject positions). This paper shares some initial observations from our analysis. We contend that the materials are an example of affective militarism, as students and teachers are invited to "act out" the military according to the script of the lesson. Furthermore, these materials should be seen in the broadest terms as recruitment materials, attempting to increase future personnel numbers, or at the very least, produce a public which is supportive of the British Armed Forces.

Democratic Citizenship Education: Fostering a Critical Democratic School Culture and Habitus

Soon How Loh

(Nanyang Technological University)

Citizenship education has developed through the years in the context of evolving local and global challenges. In the face of increasing challenges that are becoming more complex and dynamic, the idea of inculcating active citizenship in democratic societies is a desirable way forward in harnessing the citizenry's capabilities in addressing social issues. However, there is a need to depart from solely teaching citizenship education within a psychological developmental framing, primarily in terms of character and moral education, which has contributed to the individualisation of society and citizenship practice. This does not mean students' personal values and ethics are unimportant but that there is arguably a need for a greater emphasis in developing a democratic culture that can support the deliberative and participatory aspects of citizenship in students to nurture an approach to citizenship as an intersubjective practice that is critically social. At the same time, we have to be mindful not to overvalue conflict and adversarial contestation to the detriment of social solidarity. A democratic citizenship education with its inclusive ethos can prepare and enable young people to be socially aware, collaborative, and active citizens in society. This paper is a conceptual attempt to reconcile a deliberative and participatory democratic citizenship education with a critical notion of harmony. The idea is to advance a transformative democratic citizenship education to cultivate a critical democratic school culture and habitus in which teachers and students can interact with and draw from.

Breaking the Bank: The Cost of Living Crisis, Student Inequality, and the Real Price of Maintenance Loans

Vicki Dabrowski, Natalija Atas

(Liverpool Hope University)

Despite the growing financial pressures on university students due to the cost-of-living crisis, there is a notable gap in the literature regarding the role of maintenance loans in shaping their experiences. While existing research acknowledges students' financial struggles (JRF, 2023), little attention has been given to the adequacy of maintenance loans in addressing these challenges, particularly for disadvantaged students. This paper addresses this gap by drawing on focus group research with university students in Liverpool during 2024, exploring how maintenance loans, in the context of the cost-of-living crisis, affect their financial stability, academic performance, and overall well-being. Findings reveal that while loans provide essential support, they are often insufficient, leaving students to rely on part-time jobs, family support, or debt, further exacerbating inequalities. By focusing on this understudied aspect of student finance, the paper contributes critical insights into the current challenges of educational equity and financial sustainability in higher education, calling for policy reform to better support students in the context of the cost-of-living crisis.

Theory - Room 2.217

Disciplinary Enclosure and Neoliberal Free Action: Bridging the Gap through Societies of Control and Modulation

Krzysztof Jankowski

(Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

In this seminar I discuss the significance of Deleuze's manuscript 'Postscript on Societies of Control' on post-structuralism and how it can be used to balance structure and agency in sociological analysis. Sometimes there can be a tension in social analysis between categorical and definitive analysis versus theories of opening and becoming. Theories of categories give a lot of clarity and a definite answer. They however can be too definite, imposing an external worldview or leaving no room for the nuances of social reality and everyday action. In turn, many researchers have been drawn to theories of becoming or flux that stress the circumstantial emergence of fluid categories. These however can lack palpable authenticity and place too much emphasis on the individual when much larger 'rigid' structures

are at play. Much of these tensions are reflected in disciplinary and neoliberal governmental power which pertain to either categorical enclosure (such as in a school) or the unbounded emergence of the entire neoliberal subject free to pursue their own interests. In this regard, theories of control and modulation that originated from Deleuze, but have been developed by Gerald Raunig and Isabel Lorey speak to a melding of these. I propose 'modulated capitalism' to describe structures that are impactful on individuals, but lack the external affect to enhance their own durability.

Bridging Revolutions and Social Movements: The Concept of Mass Social Unrest and Its Global Dynamics in the Global South (2011-2023)

Cesar Guzman-Concha, Sarah Elmasry

(Scuola Normale Superiore)

The literature on revolutions and social movements has developed largely in silos, creating distinct knowledge communities that consider these phenomena as fundamentally different, with unique properties and dynamics. This article challenges this assumption by proposing the term "mass social unrest" as a grey-zone area of overlap between the two. We conduct a systematic review of the literature on mass mobilizations, uprisings, revolts, and revolutions from 2011 to 2023, published in high-ranked and widely reputed journals in political science, sociology, social movements and area studies (SWANA and Latin America), for a total of almost 200 articles. We find that many articles lack theoretical precision in defining their subject matter, yet a notable number provide nuanced characterizations of mass unrest, employing varied terminologies such as "revolutionary situation" and local concepts like "social outbursts", which substantiate our concept of mass social unrest as a zone of overlap. We also notice theoretical engagements that bring theory up to speed with contemporary episodes by mapping their properties and reframing them, informed by intra-national and cross-national comparisons across the Global South, Eastern Europe, China, and Russia. The article contributes to contentious politics literature by bridging isolated bodies of scholarship that are not usually considered simultaneously, such as those focusing on the SWANA region and Latin America. Furthermore, it offers a new conceptualization that enriches our understanding of phenomena of mass social unrest by challenging conventional definitions of revolutions and social movements.

Theorising Struggle in Everyday Life: Mundane Resistance in a Neoliberal Neo-Authoritarian City

Alexandrina Vanke

(Institute of Sociology of the Federal Centre of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences)

This paper theorises everyday struggle as a multifaceted phenomenon and extends its sociological understanding drawing on a sensory ethnography of mundane resistance in a neoliberal neoauthoritarian city. It is argued that the creative forms of mundane resistance are manifested in corporally embodied moral-symbolic counter-hegemonic acts characterised by multiplicity, decentration and sometimes anonymity. Producing affective cumulative effects these counter-hegemonic acts, help ordinary city dwellers constitute themselves as moral subjects, create temporary sites of counter-power and re-shape the fabric of everyday life in a long-term perspective. Exploring everyday struggle in the example of Moscow, Russia, this research has found that peaceful mundane resistance is doubly framed and embedded in the urban life of ordinary city dwellers sharing anti-authoritarian and antineoliberal views. It shows that peaceful mundane resistance allows using the everyday as a terrain of symbolic re-signification of urban space and less risky expression of disagreement with the hegemonic agenda. The paper develops the arguments and ideas from my book 'The urban life of workers in post-Soviet Russia: Engaging in everyday struggle' (Manchester University Press, 2024).

Confronting Adversity in Precarious Times

John Bone

(University of Aberdeen)

This paper explores some key aspects of how we understand late modern selves, particularly with respect to the capacity to adapt to the multidimensional transformation of society currently underway

during what is widely regarded as being a period of unprecedented socio-economic and political instability. It is argued that this period of epochal societal upheaval is presenting us with challenges that we are ill-prepared to deal with, both in terms of our tolerance of complexity and flux and as we occupy societies already fracturing under the weight of burgeoning inequalities, injustices, insecurities and conflict. Across the UK and elsewhere many communities have been buffeted by a range of destabilising currents, from increasingly precarious work, incomes - housing and cost of living crises - and growing social divisions, while recognising that some, of course, are enduring much more dramatic challenges. As we now also face the prospect of further turbulence precipitated by the impact of AI and climate change, how a sense of social cohesion, stability and wellbeing might be recovered, and further crises averted, is perhaps the most pressing issue of the current era. Despite this, policymakers appear to offer platforms that appear inadequate, piecemeal or even destructive, failing to recognise or actively exacerbating the underlying drivers of our predicament. This paper, within the limitations of the format, will attempt to flag up the key premises of a novel theoretical approach to understanding how we confront and are impacted by rapid and disorientating social transformation and its attendant tribulations.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 -Room 3.204

From Flames to Fame: The Social Transformation of Bhati Rajput Community of Rajasthan through the Festive Economy

Neelam C Dey

(Global Center for Social Dynamic Research)

This study explores the social transformation of the Bhati Rajput Community of Rajasthan, who engage in the crafting and sale of Ravana effigies during the Dussehra festival. Traditionally rooted in rural and agricultural lifestyles, the Bhatis have adapted to changing socio-economic conditions by participating in the festive economy. Through a qualitative analysis, this paper examines how the community's involvement in the production of effigies reflects a shift from artisan-based labor to entrepreneurial ventures, enabling both economic diversification and upward mobility. The research highlights the symbolic duality of their role-while contributing to the burning of Ravana as a cultural ritual, the Bhatis simultaneously reconstruct their identity through craftsmanship and market participation. It will also explore whether the community generates significant profits during the Dussehra season and how they sustain their livelihood throughout the rest of the year. The findings reveal that festival economies serve as platforms for marginalized communities to gain social visibility and economic stability, with the Bhatis emerging as both cultural custodians and commercial agents in the Dussehra celebrations. However, challenges such as competition from mass-produced effigies and the tension between traditional values and commercialization remain. This study provides new insights into the intersection of culture, economy, and social mobility, emphasizing the role of festivals in shaping contemporary community identities and livelihoods.

Situational Identity Work in Times of Crisis

Jenny Rodriguez, Stephen Procter

(University of Manchester)

This paper explores how professionals perform their work identities in a shifting context of crisis. Drawing on Hartmut Rosa's ideas about social acceleration and situational identity, the article explores how professional identity was performed by a group of frontline healthcare professionals during the pandemic. The paper uses qualitative data generated by interviews with kinesiologists working in the frontline of an accidents and emergency (A&E) Hospital in Chile. The article theorizes the actions of these healthcare professionals as situational identity work and locates them within the social and historical positioning of their profession and its future outlook. Findings suggest that situational identity work is deployed in the form of efforts within three domains: adopting expected behaviors and actions associated with a distinct professional identity, adjusting behaviors and actions in order to maintain the

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coherence of a distinct professional identity and asserting a generalized understanding of behaviors/actions needed to articulate the spatial and temporal boundaries of a distinct professional identity. The article theoretically advances discussions about the situatedness of identity work in uncertain and changing conditions and work settings, distilling the underlying meaning attributed to the actions individuals take to maintain self-coherence in the face of disruption. Insights from the article allow offering identity intensification as a more nuanced process through which individuals navigate the performance of professional identity in a context in crisis. In addition, the focus on an under-researched context, enables presenting an empirical understanding of the relationship between context and identity work from a perspective that considers contextual diversity.

Responsible Work in the Anthropocene: Certifying Good Work as a Response to Global Inequality, Climate Emergency and the Need for Social Transformation

Jill Timms

(University of Surrey)

This paper examines the rise of certification as a way of communicating indicators of responsible or green work and working conditions, within the Anthropocene. The twin crises of global capitalism - ecological disaster and class polarisation (Sklair, 2002) – require social transformation of the way production and work is organised. Sociology has a key role to play in understanding these challenges from a historical and evidence-based perspective. On one hand, just transition addresses the need to acknowledge power imbalances that have caused structural inequalities and the need to develop strategies so those more responsible for environmental crisis make reparation. On the other hand, the pressing need to transform carbon emissions to achieve net zero, necessitates new ways of structuring networks of production and supply to ensure workers, materials and goods are more locally based and move around the world less. Myriad private regulation and certification schemes have been developed for an ever-increasing range of products and services. The logo-era for standards has been well-established and although often associated with environmental impacts, this paper draws together research on how the certifying of employment practices is developing, such as Certified B Corporation, Living Wage and Fairtrade, and considers how this relates to employment laws, industry and cultural norms, as well as who benefits and loses from this trend.

The Voluntary Servitude of Elite Workers: How Normative Diversion Inhibit Resistance in Investment Banking

Francois Schoenberger

(University of Fribourg)

Why do harmful working conditions persist in elite professions without provoking significant resistance? Existing theories on worker consent primarily emphasise mechanisms that obscure exploitation, overlooking how workers may consent to extreme labour demands even when fully aware of their subordination. Drawing on 126 in-depth interviews with junior investment bankers and professionals in corporate transactions, this study closely examines the working conditions they endure and the mechanisms that sustain their compliance I begin by providing a detailed description of the working conditions in investment banking, highlighting how these conditions lead to adverse health outcomes and diminished well-being. This examination underscores the need to explore why junior bankers offer little resistance despite the toll of their work environment. Then, to address this, I introduce the concept of normative diversion to describe the social processes that prevent individuals from perceiving their exploitation as unjust. I argue that the workplace adaptations of junior investment bankers function as a form of normative diversion. By mitigating the harmful effects of their work environment, these adaptations preserve the belief that extreme work demands are normal, thereby legitimising their own subordination. This mechanism challenges the assumption that consent relies on obscured exploitation and offers new insights into how workplace dynamics perpetuate harmful working conditions. This research advances our understanding of worker consent in high-status occupations and opens new avenues for exploring labour control mechanisms across various contexts.

Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 -Room 3.205

Queer Social Workers in a Queering Childcare Institution

Rex Tsung-Wei Lin

(National Taiwan University)

In 2019, Taiwan legalized same-sex marriage, yet LGBTQ+ youth in child welfare institutions, often placed there due to family dysfunction or deviant behavior, remain marginalized. While existing literature on queer social work primarily focuses on providing services to LGBTQ+ individuals, it often overlooks the experiences of queer social workers themselves who work within highly gendered institutional settings. This study explores how the interaction between social workers and youth in these institutions is influenced by the workers' own gender and sexual identities. Through participant observation and interviews with social workers and caregivers, this study finds that within the broader national trend of deinstitutionalization, child welfare institutions in Taiwan are moving towards more nuclear-family-like and individualized care. However, a worker's "cultural toolkit" is differentially configured by the presence or absence of a queer identity. Queer social workers may be more attuned to the potential same-sex desires of the youth in their care and may adopt a sibling-like role rather than a traditional, heterosexual parental one. This paper argues that this institution (and the adolescents they care for) and queer workers, both as marginalized groups that are difficult for the general public to access or understand, share a practice and perspective that challenges the imagination of family per se and questions what is considered "normal" in the context of "queering" social work.

Reversals in Occupational Mobility: A Longitudinal Analysis

John Jacobs, Sara Gomez

(Southern Connecticut State University)

There has been substantial concern about decreasing rates of upward social mobility, however the discussion has overlooked "reverse" mobility: those who achieve upward mobility at some point in adulthood, but later experience marked reductions in occupational status. Longitudinal studies that assess occupational mobility typically collect data at only two points in time, however additional data points are needed to determine if occupational gains remain secure. The author hypothesis that occupational gains for individuals from economically disadvantaged and lower socio-economic groups are particularly vulnerable to "reversals".

This study focused on a subset of 220 participants from the National Child Development Study who participated in a life history interview. These histories were examined for reversals in occupational status such as loss of employment, greatly reduced working hours, downward changes in occupation, or otherwise aversive changes in occupational status.

Twelve participants of the 52 individuals from lower SES origins who initially achieved upward mobility reported those gains reversed. In contrast, only 1 of the 20 participants from middle-class backgrounds who had moved up the occupational ladder, experienced a reversal. Although the number of cases is small, this pattern suggests that individuals from lower SES backgrounds who achieved upward mobility were more vulnerable to subsequent occupational setbacks compared to their middle-class counterparts. Factors such as lower education, poor health, and declining social networks are explored.

Navigating Gender Inequality: The Workplace Experiences of Transgender Men in China

Yidan Bi

(Chinese University of Hong Kong)

This article examines the maintenance, negotiation, and resistance of gendered workplace inequalities by studying the experiences of transmen in China. Drawing on in-depth interviews with 35 transmen employees from various social locations, the findings show that despite the structural and interactional

restrictions, China's transmen are working in various industries and have developed creative strategies to navigate gender inequality and enhance workplace incorporation. I categorized the strategies as stealth, open, and strategical stealth. The strategies make visible the social process where workplace discrimination against women and sexual minority is not only produced and maintained by institutional structures and interactions, but also negotiated and actively resisted by transmen through their everyday efforts. By examining the transgender experiences beyond an Anglo-American lens, this research contributes to "decolonizing" queer studies with indigenous knowledge grounded in China's specific context.

Is Community Work in China Really a 'Women's' Job? A Case Study from Gansu Province, China

Heli Xu, Wei Zhao

(Beijing Normal University)

The significant contributions of Chinese female community workers sharply contrast with the marginalization they face in terms of career development. This paper examines the gendered dimensions of community work—commonly perceived as "women's work"—within the broader framework of bureaucratic structures and socio-cultural gender norms. It traces the impact and changes of the state, market and organizational systems on the development of this profession from China's market transformation in 1979 to the present day from a gender perspective.

In China, it's important to recognize that community organizations, while officially classified as autonomous and not formal bureaucratic entities, function as critical front-line institutions connecting the state and society. These organizations are responsible for implementing policies and addressing social issues. During the COVID-19 pandemic, female community workers played an essential role in managing residents' emotions and coordinating isolation measures. However, the disproportionate work pressure they experienced during the pandemic has persisted in its aftermath. This continued strain, coupled with limited career growth opportunities—such as pay, stability, and career advancement—reinforces the perception of community work as "women's work".

This study is currently conducting fieldwork in several communities in northwest China. Preliminary findings from interviews with community workers suggest that the nature of community work itself isn't inherently tied to gender; nonetheless, women seem to "choose" this profession in greater numbers. This study will also explore how global gender labor trends affect Chinese society, with the aim of clarifying the challenges and constraints female community workers face within a broader, global context of gendered labor dynamics.

PLENARY 17:15-18:45 Lecture Theatre B

Aaron Winter

WHAT CAN SOCIOLOGY SAY ABOUT RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM AND THE MAINSTREAMING OF RACISM AND THE FAR RIGHT?

In recent years, we have witnessed a resurgence of an increasingly emboldened and mainstreamed far right in Britain and globally. In response, there has been a groundswell of academic interest and analysis. Despite obvious relevance, sociology has not played a significant role in a field that is dominated by political science, terrorism studies, and preventing/countering violent extremism (P/CVE), as well as their often normative, system-supportive 'problem solving' frameworks and assumptions. In this academic context, as in wider society and politics, the far right is often exceptionalised, treated as a proxy for both racism and class inequality, and represented as a primary threat to social relations, the political mainstream, the state and democracy. The far right is rarely treated as part of the mainstream or linked to wider structural and systemic issues and inequalities, notably racism, with which sociology engages, while a focus on the exceptional and extreme distract from and even reinforce these. In this talk, Aaron Winter will examine what sociology in general, and sociology of race and racism in particular, can offer to help us understand the far right and its place and function within white supremacy and racial capitalism, as well as point a way forward to more critical scholarship and radical responses that address not only the far right, but the system that underpins it.



Dr Aaron Winter is Senior Lecturer in Sociology (Race and Anti-Racism) and Director of the Centre for Alternatives to Social and Economic Inequalities (CASEI) at Lancaster University. He researches the far right with a focus on racism, historical change, mainstreaming, and state responses to right-wing extremism and terrorism. He is co-editor of Reflexivity in Criminological Research (Palgrave 2014), Historical Perspectives on Organised Crime and Terrorism (Routledge 2018) and Researching the Far Right: Theory, Method and Practice (Routledge 2020), and co-author, with Aurelien Mondon, of Reactionary Democracy: How Racism and the Populist Far Right Became Mainstream (Verso 2020). He has published in many academic journals as well as OpenDemocracy, The Independent, Discover Society, Novara Media and Jacobin, and appears frequently in the media, including the BBC, LBC, Times Radio, France 24, AI Jazeera, NewStatesman, The Times, Washington Post, HuffPost, Kathimerini, der Freitag and le Temps. He is coeditor of Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power and

the Manchester University Press series Racism, Resistance and Social Change; a Trustee of the Sociological Review Foundation; on the editorial board of *Ethnic and Racial Studies;* and on the organising committee of the Reactionary Politics Research Network (RPRN). He previously served as a BSA Trustee, co-convenor of the Race & Ethnicity Study Group and coordinator of both the Social Divisions/Social Identities and Race, Ethnicity & Migration BSA Annual Conference streams.

Chair: Paul Ian Campbell, University of Leicester, BSA Membership Trustee



ANNUAL CONFERENCE DINNER

Thursday 24 April 2025 19:00-23:00 Manchester Museum

Pre-drinks served from 19:00 Awards ceremony 19:45 Dinner served 20:00

2025 Awards Ceremony

BSA Philip Abrams Memorial Prize & BSA Distinguished Service Award