



2024 VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday 3 to Friday 5 April

# Crisis, Continuity and Change



## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Ruha Benjamin  
- Princeton University

Lynne Segal  
- Birkbeck, University of London

## PLENARY PANEL

### AI Panel:

Jenny Davis - Vanderbilt University  
Vassilis Galanos - University of Edinburgh  
Susan Halford - University of Bristol  
Dan McQuillan - Goldsmiths, University of London  
Lucy Suchman - Lancaster University

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# **BSA Annual Conference 2024 Crisis, Continuity and Change**

## **Abstract Book Wednesday 3 April 2024**

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Accurate as of 28 March 2024. Any further changes to the programme will be  
made periodically in the lead up to the conference.

# Paper Session 1

## 09:00 - 10:30

### Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

#### **Floating Habitus and Capital: Female Rural-to-Urban Migrant Workers' Living Strategies in Contemporary China**

*Yuqi Sun*  
(University College London)

Adopting Bourdieu's "field-habitus-capital" theoretical framework, this research explores the habitus re-adjustment and capital transformation of eight Chinese young rural migrant women during their rural-urban migration process by conducting in-depth interviews and comprehensive observations. With the transformative urbanisation and modernisation in China, rural-to-urban migrants are not merely essential for national development initiatives; they are also consistently shaped by unwavering institutional structures in their day-to-day existence. This phenomenon holds particularly true for female labourers, whose city-based gender identity practices and survival tactics become deeply ingrained in individual lives and the narrative of Chinese societal evolution. This study demonstrates the fluidity of habitus and the diversification of capital transformation within the context of the interaction between urban-rural divides, gender, power dynamics, and broader social and neoliberal discourses.

The research findings indicate that the habitus transformation of young rural female labourers is not a simple linear process. Instead, they actively combine traditional Confucian values with a desire for modern independence and form a habitual pattern blending traditional and modern traits, displaying a tendency to resist patriarchal frameworks. In the process of adapting to urban and rural fields, migrants' socioeconomic capabilities determine their cultural capital and become crucial for their integration into the city. They reshape their communities through own cultural tastes, education, and class levels, creating new spaces for different social practices. This study concludes that this ongoing process cannot be simply attributed to individual agency; broader historical, institutional, social, and political factors play significant shaping roles.

#### **The Socio-spatial Effects of Later-life Migration on Peripheral Villages of China's Major Cities**

*Yadi Zhang*  
(University of Sheffield)

Population ageing is poised to become one of the most significant social crises of the twenty-first century. Rural development is also considered a critical issue for many developing countries. Later-life urban-rural migration has been seen as a new approach to 'positive ageing' for older people and rural development. For example, in China, there are two later-life migrant groups in rural areas, namely lifestyle migrants, and return migrants.

Contemporary research has highlighted that later-life migrants enjoy rural life while meeting with some difficulties, such as isolation. However, how the later-life migrants navigate and impact local norms and social networks in rural China with strong social networks and strict hierarchy, remains further explored. Direct residential displacement has not been observed in urban-rural migration in China, which is worth further exploring in the long run.

Therefore, this research aims to explore the decision-making process, resettlement, and the socio-spatial effects of both lifestyle- and return- migration on peripheral villages from the life-course perspective, and compare the differences between these two migrant groups.

To achieve this, 20 semi-structured interviews with later-life migrants aged over 50 in two case villages were conducted. The findings highlight the significant roles of both later-life migrant groups in local norms, social networks and living habits, and the positive impacts of later-life migration on both migrant groups and local villagers. This paper contributes to enriching life courses and migration theory

employed in developing countries and guiding older care and migration policy-making to alleviate the ageing problem and rural development problems.

### **The Scheme of Migrant Social Classes: The Structural Inequalities in Contemporary China**

*Aaron Hsu*  
(University of Manchester)

The Chinese household registration system (hukou) established in 1958 created a stark urban-rural divide, often likened to a dichotomy between “heaven and earth.” This genuine dual structure has increasingly become a more complex and stratified social structure with China’s economic progress. Factors such as economic opening, the rise of township and village enterprises, the establishment of special economic zones, and accelerated urbanisation have prompted millions from rural areas to migrate in pursuit of improved opportunities for themselves and future generations. This ongoing rural-to-urban mobility has transformed the social landscape and given rise to new social groupings.

This study introduces a novel research framework categorising six distinct social groups based on hukou status, migration history, and employment circumstances. From a rural-to-urban perspective, these groups encompass “outright peasants”, “local migrant workers,” “return migrant workers,” “outgoing migrant workers,” “new urbanites,” and “outright urbanites.” These migration-related classifications offer a comprehensive lens through which to comprehend the shifts in social structure witnessed in contemporary Chinese society over recent decades.

This scheme of migrant social classes, intertwiningly driven by the rural-urban institutional divide since the 1950s and the industrialisation and urbanisation accelerated over the recent years, have evidently served as the bedrock of heterogeneity and inequalities in a series of life chances (e.g. educational opportunities, economic opportunities, and even mental states) in contemporary Chinese society.

### **Discrimination’s Changing Faces: How Cosmopolitan China Keeps its Rural Migrants ‘Floating’**

*Xiaorong Gu*  
(University of Suffolk)

Across the world, a celebratory narrative in the wake of legal and political progress in the past decades towards more inclusive civil rights to social minorities seems to suggest a new era of ‘contested prejudice’. As a result, discrimination studies are often framed in an individualist, economic and simultaneously depoliticized lens at the expense of a deeper engagement in the institutional, and structural roots of discrimination which is experienced at the personal and individual level. In this article, using the case of urban governance of the rural migrant population in contemporary China, I re-center a critical institutional perspective in understanding the evolving mechanisms of social discrimination in a rapidly urbanizing and modernizing society. I draw on a case study of four decades of social policy in Shenzhen, a cosmopolitan city which models ‘modernity with Chinese characteristics’, to illustrate the ways in which institutional discrimination is reconfigured and maintained despite a rhetoric of ‘openness and equality’. It is found that through various techniques, in a neoliberal fashion, of quantifying and categorizing migrants’ and their families’ ‘quality’ vis-à-vis their more privileged urban counterparts, the municipal government renders its work in sustaining, reaffirming and perpetuating rural migrants’ marginality and non-citizen status as outsider floaters in cosmopolitan China across time. This study contributes new empirical evidence and theoretical perspectives to the scholarship of urban governance, mobilities and social discrimination.

## **Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2**

### **Reading a Classical Text in Greece: Reading Experience, Reading Formations, and the School in Crisis**

*Damianos Tzoupis*  
(University of Edinburgh)

Reading ancient texts in Greece has always been mediated by reading formations established by school. From this perspective, investigating lay reading might always uncover people’s experiences and

reflections regarding scholastic frameworks and practices. My project studies, from a qualitative perspective, how Greek university students read a specific classical text of the antiquity, the allegory of the Cave, and what meanings they attach to it. The findings showed that learning experiences and critiques of education constitute significant part of participants' interpretations and have influenced the ways they engage and forge attachments with the text.

Thematic and discursive analysis of participants' readings revealed a complex relationship between individuals and the institution of education. On the one hand, readers express more or less explicit criticisms of scholastic approaches to antiquity's textual production, underscoring its flawed, strict, unimaginative, and unappealing characteristics. Therefore, education is presented as an institution of learning in deep crisis, failing to do justice to resources of cultural heritage. On the other hand, readers' critiques are accompanied with reading attitudes and ideological "prejudice" which show that the reading formations education promotes (e.g., ways of approaching and interacting with the text, ideological positions that inform the frameworks of interpretation/reception) might be contested but not overthrown or cancelled. Readers inhabit a state of ambivalence which disrupts and also undercuts disruption. Education does experience a crisis in Greece, regarding its approach to cultural hierarchies and inheritance; yet this crisis is not followed by deep reconfigurations in how social actors engage with consecrated cultural products.

### **Reflections on Chinese social trends behind "Kong Yiji Literature"**

*Jiani Yang, Mengjie Ma, Jiawei Tian*  
(Guangzhou Xinhua Universtiy)

Kong Yiji was originally a literary character written by the Chinese writer Lu Xun. In 2023, a large number of young people on the Internet imitated Kong Yiji's way of speaking to express their anxiety and uneasiness in the current severe employment situation. This phenomenon is called "Kong Yiji Literature." This kind of literature uses sentence patterns such as "If I hadn't attended university" to show that when looking for a job, Chinese young people feel that a high degree of higher education has become a psychological burden on them. "Kong Yiji Literature" is a kind of self-decompression by young people through self-deprecation.

As of the end of May 2023, topics related to the "Kong Yiji Literature" phenomenon on Weibo have attracted more than 600 million people to read and triggered more than 120,000 discussions. Subsequently, China's state media CCTV and the WeChat account of the Communist Youth League Central Committee successively commented on the "Kong Yiji Literature" phenomenon, triggering heated discussions among netizens on Sina Weibo, Zhihu, TikTok, and other platforms. Researchers believe that "Kong Yiji Literature" has distinctive symbolic features. Young people use "long shirts" (the clothes worn by Kong Yiji, which refers to "educated people") to express China's severe employment dilemma. There is widespread skepticism among groups about the value of higher education; young people are confused about the high expenses involved in higher education and the low income of actual employment.

### **Culture in Crisis: Changes in Structures and Workplaces in the Greek Creative Industry**

*Christina Botsou, Martha Michailidou*  
(Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)

With its numerous socioeconomic turbulences and migratory flows, Greece seems a particularly pertinent study of crisis on a national scale. With a series of consecutive crises that have been observed in the recent decades, including the great recession, refugee crisis and Covid-19 health crisis, greek society has faced multiple challenges in the field of labour and employment. The case study of the greek creative sector, an industry already challenged due to the size of the local market, raises an indicative example of the major changes in work structures. The expansion of the spatial boundaries of the workplace, affected by the transformations observed during the pandemic, with remote work and work from home, as well as the impact of the financial crisis on residential property and the so-called housing crisis, raise serious questions about the work-life balance of cultural workers. At the same time, in the context of the growing demand for the integration of women into the international labour market, a new workforce of women working in freelance, work-from-home, precarious conditions has emerged in the greek creative sector. How does the social upheaval affect cultural workers, and especially women, as they navigate their personal and professional lives? How do the multi-faceted crises affect phenomena

such as project-based work and moonlighting in the creative sector? Interviewing female cultural workers in the greek art scene, we investigate the interconnections between social transformations and creative labour, shedding light into the precarious working conditions of cultural workers, dictated by contemporary social and productive circumstances.

## Environment & Society - Room 3

### **Environmental Subjectivity, Tribal Livelihoods and Challenges of Coexistence: Human-Elephant Conflicts in the Eastern Ghats, Odisha, India**

*Lalatendu Keshari Das*

*(Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, India)*

What do tribals and other traditional forest dwellers (OTFD) do when confronted by increasing cases of human-animal conflicts in the forested areas of India? While loss of a human life is compensated by the state, vulnerabilities created by loss of livelihood is still outside the sphere of statist consideration. Drawing from a qualitative fieldwork conducted among the Odia Kandha tribes in Odisha on human-elephant conflicts, this article shows that the tribals and OTFD communities take recourse to three strategies to adapt themselves to the emerging uncertainties: (a) adapt to different livelihood practices; (b) migrate to other areas in search of a livelihood; and (c) get the concerned animal(s) killed. While the first and second recourses are more frequently adopted, the third way is rare. The rarity of this recourse is owing to severe penalties associated with killing protected animals in India and global outrage against such actions. A discursive analysis of field data shows that in the course of tribal-elephant conflicts, middle-class conservationists, forest department officers, television and print media pose more sympathy for the elephants than the tribals and OTFDs of the region. However, tribals have started asserting themselves by providing evidence-based narratives to not only speak about the inconvenient truth of human-animal conflicts but also to challenge the dominant narratives of city-based conservationists.

### **Acceptance and Resistance in Encountering Mortality: Decolonising 'Bereavement' Studies in the Face of Planetary Crisis**

*Jane Mccarthy, Sukhbinder Hamilton, Berenice Golding*

*(Open University)*

"Western civilization shaped culture to primarily value the conscious thinking mind... oriented to categorizing and controlling static things while detached from relational attunement.... [which] will make death seem like 'the end' rather than a transition to a new beginning." (Narvaez, 2022, pp. 47-8)

The existential threat arising from the common mortality of all life on earth is now significantly amplified by the potentially catastrophic climate and ecological emergency (CEE), placing great demands on people's capacity to engage. Yet, while people across time and space vary greatly in how they respond to this existential challenge of the human condition, current dominant models of 'bereavement' and 'grief' are heavily based in Eurocentric and Anglophone worldviews of white people based in affluent countries (Hamilton et al, 2022). Further, these models have laid claim to universality and been exported to the rest of the world (Klass and Chow, 2011), creating significant epistemic and racial injustice in both Minority and Majority worlds. In the face of the existential threat of the CEE, decolonising death and its aftermath offers the potential for nourishing new learning to the benefit of all in the capacity to contemplate death, change and loss in the context of planetary polycrisis. In this presentation, drawing on our collaborative auto-ethnographic conversations (Golding et al, in press), we will explore this challenge and potential through a decolonising focus on the concepts of 'acceptance' and 'resistance/denial' (of mortality, of the CEE) as understood in different contexts of meaning, in relation to existential threat and suffering.

## **Rising Tides, Shifting Minds: The Influence of the 2021 European Flooding on Pro-Environmental Attitudes and Partial Behaviour Transition**

*Hamid Bulut, Robin Samuel  
(University of Luxembourg)*

One of the reasons why people do not act pro-environmentally might be a lack of experience with the consequences of climate change. Studies have shown that higher levels of environmental attitudes and more environmentally friendly behaviours have been observed among people affected by extreme weather events. It is unclear, however, whether the events caused the changes or whether the affected people simply differed in their characteristics from those who were unaffected. We draw on a natural experiment to examine the causal link between flooding experiences, pro-environmental attitudes and pro-environmental behaviour using national survey data collected from 2058 individuals across Luxembourg. After people experienced the 2021 European flooding, their pro-environmental attitudes increased significantly. The effect was stronger in regions that were more affected by floods. Higher levels of environmental attitudes partly translated into greater willingness to act in a pro-environmental way. The results have important implications for advancing efforts to address climate change by demonstrating links between extreme weather events attributed to climate change and higher levels of environmental attitudes.

## **Families & Relationships - Room 4**

### **Abuse, Justice or Love? A Relational Framework to Understand How University Students in Beijing, Taipei and Hong Kong Interpret Cyber Dating Abuse**

*Susanne YP Choi, Tangi Yip, Xiyang Wang, Hsiu-Hua Shen, Lynne  
(Chinese University of Hong Kong)*

Advances in technology have provided new venues for young people to develop and consolidate romantic relationships, but the venues also create nascent risks including cyber dating abuse (CDA). This is defined as the use of technology to harass, bully, stalk, or intimidate a current or former dating/romantic partner. The emergent literature on CDA is mostly Western-based, leaving culturally specific relational contexts unexamined. It is quantitative, e.g. using pre-given categories of CDA to elicit individual responses. While providing useful information on the prevalence of abusive behaviors, quantitative research has left questions of how individuals understand and interpret CDA unexamined. Drawing on the sociology of relation, this paper employs a culturally sensitive relational framework and adopts the method of focus groups (26 groups) with university students (118 students) in three Chinese cities. It shows that young people generally have limited knowledge of CAD and they disagree about what constitutes abusive online behaviors in a relationship. Some abusive behaviors are conceived as a means to justice, a necessary evil to public good, or an expression of love and care. This is because young people situate abusive behaviors within relationship attributes, including its stage and prospects in intimate relationship formation and development; culturally specific expectations of obligations and rights in dating and romantic relationships; and the blurred boundaries of the public and the private in the virtual world. We discuss the implications of these findings for further CDA research and propose a model of relational empowerment for future intervention for prevention and with victims.

### **Between Crisis and Connection: Examining Intimacy Transformations in Dating Apps Before, During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Neta Yodovich, Brian Heaphy, Jaime Garcia Iglesias  
(University of Manchester)*

The COVID-19 and its following lockdown and restrictions was a critical historic moment not only for the risks it presents for illness and death, but also to the ways in which it profoundly disrupted practices and norms of intimacy and social connectedness. While COVID-19 emphasized our vulnerability to viruses, it coincided with the increasing uptake of 'new' virtual possibilities for relating and social connections offered by dating apps. In this paper, we provide a brief overview of existing studies of intimacy, the sociology of health, and science and technology studies to discuss how apps mediate people's practices of intimacy before and during COVID-19 and how these changes persist (or not) in the aftermath of the pandemic. We then turn to an initial analysis of data from an ESRC funded nation-

wide survey (n=835) and in-depth interviews (n=48) to suggest that COVID-19 illuminates how dating apps operate at the intersection of the promise of facilitating 'new' intimate practices while reinforcing normative coupling - leading to diminished users' satisfaction. Overall, we both situate dating apps in the complex interface of intimacy and crisis, and examine the implications for app users' experiences.

### **Sexing India: Dating Apps, Love and Violence amongst Urban Youth in a Digital Age**

*Shannon Philip*  
(University of East Anglia)

Indian feminists have long argued that families in India seek to control the sexualities of children in order to sustain the institution of arranged marriages as well as caste, classed and gendered inequalities. However digital technology, social media and mobile phones have given young people in India new tools and platforms to meet, interact, socialise and have sexual relationships with a range of partners without their parents' knowledge. More and more Indian youth engage in 'sexting', 'virtual dating' as well as 'real dating' (in-person dating) through these platforms. Yet at the same time, the inequalities of gender and the heteropatriarchal social order means that women and queer subjects remain more vulnerable and unequally placed within these apps. In this paper I seek to explore the ways in which young people in urban India circumvent families and their surveillance through the use of dating apps and social media platforms to form agentic and sexually active relationships with other people, and the many consequences these have on the everyday lives of young men, women and queer people. Through qualitative interviews with straight and queer young men and women in New Delhi, combined with insights from a digital ethnography of dating platforms used by these young people, the paper provides unique insights into mediated intimacies amongst young people in the Global South. This paper furthers several themes of love, violence, inequalities, race and gendered identities within Global Sociology and Digital Sociology by shedding light on young people from a Global South context.

### **Social Relationships and Mental Health among LGBT Aging Adults**

*Ella Cohn-Schwartz, Yaacov Bachner, Sigal Gooldin, Lian Meiry*  
(Ben-Gurion University)

This study joins a growing body of research on the unique families of aging individuals in sexual minorities. We explore the "families of choice" (who are close enough to be considered as family) and biological families of LGBT adults and their associations with mental health. Data for this study was collected via an online survey with self-identified LGBT adults aged 50+ in Israel (n=483). The participants were asked about characteristics of the relationship with their families of choice and biological families and about experiencing depressive symptoms. Descriptive results indicated that most participants had a family of choice, numbering five people on average. These families of choice were mostly composed of partners and friends, but also of the family members of one's partner, and of ex-partners and colleagues. They reported having about four close biological family members, mostly children, parents, siblings, and nieces. Several differences emerged when comparing the two types of families: The relationships with biological families were more stable and their biological family members were contacted more often. On the other hand, families of choice were more likely to accept their sexual orientation and the relationship with them had fewer negative aspects. Regression analyses showed that individuals had more depressive symptoms if the relationship with their families of choice was less stable and if there were more negative relationships with both types of families. These findings shed light on the unique sources of support among LGBT adults and their associations with mental health.

## **Lifecourse - Room 6**

### **A Roof over Your Head is not a Home: Youth Homelessness in Canada**

*Carrie Traher, Cora Macdonald, Jacqueline Sohn, Ahmad Bonakdar*  
(Canadian Observatory on Homelessness and King's University College)

The Canadian Observatory on Homelessness (COH) reports that between 150,000 and 300,000 people are homeless each year. The number of youth who are unhoused is estimated to be between 30,000 and 40,000 (Gaetz, Gulliver-Garcia, & Richter, 2014). The experiences of unhoused youth are



repeatedly characterized by loss, both death and non-death related. Youth homelessness is associated with greater incidences of mortality rates among homeless youth compared to housed youth in Canada (Hwang, 2001; Kulic et al., 2011; Kidd et al., 2017), with the primary causes of death as suicide and overdose (Roy et al., 2004). Additionally, they are at increased risk of disenfranchised losses associated with experiences of poverty, racism, homophobia, transphobia, involvement in child welfare services, and food insecurity. Research data report Indigenous, LGBTQ+, and newcomer youth to be at increased risk for homelessness yet despite this reality, they are rarely the focus of policy responses. The COH conducts and mobilizes research that impacts policy and program interventions in an effort to reduce homelessness through informed, prevention-based strategies. Our presentation would provide an overview of youth experiencing homelessness in Canada, the contributing factors and structural deficiencies, and the associated grief and loss that is often hidden. Combining research data, examples of youth's lived experiences, policy interventions, and supportive strategies, this presentation offers insight into the profound connection between homelessness and loss, as well as ways to offer support and prevention initiatives.

### **Arrhythmic Life-Worlds and the Risks to Sustainable and Inclusive Youth Futures**

*Rebecca Collins*  
(University of Chester)

Misaligned temporal rhythms of younger and older adult lives present significant barriers to the meaningful engagement of youth in action for to address pressing socio-environmental crises, including the climate emergency. Whilst the rigid time-space structures that often characterise youth (school, college, university) frequently define the contexts of and opportunities for young people to respond to such crises, enabling mechanisms outside of academic systems (e.g. grant funding systems) rarely map neatly onto young people's lived time-space. I argue that this is profoundly and doubly limiting: young people's opportunities to participate in meaningful, sustained and impactful crisis response are hampered by lack of timely resource and support; and institutions' ability to capitalise on young people's knowledge, expertise and commitment to inform their own action is constrained by lack of timely engagement. Framing my arguments with reference to initiatives in the North-West of England to connect young people's environmentalism with the regional 'net zero' agenda, I employ notions of arrhythmia, timeliness and 'temporal opportunity structures' (Nilsen, 2023) to examine the implications of this disjuncture. I suggest that discourses of youth empowerment in times of crisis are undermined by poor institutional planning and lip service to sustainable and inclusive youth futures, and offer thoughts around how more mutually beneficial temporal alignments might be encouraged.

### **"It's like getting someone who's been hit by a car to run a speed awareness course": Exploring How Young Activists in the UK Make Sense of Personal, Collective and Institutional Agency**

*Silvia Behrens*  
(Glasgow Caledonian University)

Political uncertainties, climate change and increased economic precarity following a global pandemic: young people are growing up in an environment of flux and uncertainty. Current research into youth activism places emphasis on agency, but few empirical studies have produced specific findings on how the perception of agency impacts young people's engagement (and non-engagement) with political activities. This paper reports on a study which first contextualises young people's political participation in the UK before presenting a specific approach to examine the impact of perception of agency on their participatory behaviour.

Using an online survey (N = 948) and focus group discussions (30 participants), the study investigated how 16 to 24 year-olds perceive agency, differentiating between three different types of agency. These types included the capacity to act young people ascribed to themselves (personal agency), to others (collective agency) and to political decisionmakers (institutional agency). The central outcome was that young people generally held positive beliefs about collective agency, with the majority of young activists understanding collective agency as important for effecting change by using collective action. In contrast, young people expressed varying perceptions about their own capacity to act and effect change, as personal agency was often tied to their personal trajectories and identities. Both survey respondents and focus group participants placed significant responsibility on political institutions, yet they felt these institutions often fell short in exercising the entrusted agency.

These results indicate that agency, while important in and for young people's political participation, needs to be regarded with greater nuance.

## Medicine, Health & Illness - Room 7

### **Structures of Stigma at Sites of Surveillance: Women who Substances during the Perinatal Period and Their Experiences of Accessing Health and Social**

*Louise Honeybul, Dr Lynne Gilmour, Dr Emma Smith, Dr Shirley Lewis, Professor Helen Cheyne, Dr Polly Radcliffe  
(University of Stirling)*

Recent work by Susanne Fraser and colleagues has interrogated the biopolitical processes through which stigma operates as a technique of government. Women who use drugs in the perinatal period are a highly marginalised group, often experiencing multiple disadvantages and intensively surveilled. This paper explores the structuration of stigma for women who use drugs pre and post-natally by drawing on longitudinal interview accounts of 36 women from four sites in England and Scotland who used or were receiving treatment for opioids, stimulants or benzodiazepines in the perinatal period.

Our analysis highlights how addiction stigma is embedded in the health care system so that women who are criminalized by illicit drug use, are already subjects of felt and enacted stigma when they enter and engage with antenatal care. While some women were determined to counter doubts concerning their ability to care for their unborn babies via performative self-regulation, e.g. taking satisfaction in providing 'clean' urine samples; their legitimacy as parents was not necessarily assured. For others, previous experience of enacted stigma, led to a reluctance to engage with health services, further calling into question their capacity to parent and making the removal of babies to the care system more likely. Fraser and colleagues have argued that addiction stigma operates in the services of normative social relations. Our data suggests that although stigmatization is not inevitable and may be challenged, disrupted and undermined, the task of addressing the inequality and drug prohibition on which such stigmatisation is based, is a larger one.

### **"Doing good in a grey area": Moral Worlds around the Market of Prohibited Assisted Reproductive Technologies in China**

*Xiaomin Cai  
(The Chinese University of Hong Kong)*

Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) add to forms of "contested commodities" by commodifying human reproduction and sex cells, blurring the distinction between medical and nonmedical practices, and challenging conventional understanding of parenthood and kinship ties, among other things. In regions where a contested ART market, such as commercial surrogacy, is legalized or unregulated, scholars have looked into the discursive and socio-psychological processes of moral framing through which providers and users address the unsettled feelings towards ART commodification. This paper explores such processes in the market of prohibited ARTs in China, where the illegality, the absence of bioethical guidelines, and the online backlash against egg donation and surrogacy add to ambivalences and flexibility of market actors' perception and interpretation of the technologies and the market. It draws on an ethnography in two commercial agencies that sell ART services with gestational surrogacy, donor gamete, and sex selection against the regulations in China. Building on the social worlds theory, the paper brings in the concepts of morality agendas and moral-world distance to explain how the ART agents construct what is moral differently from other implicated actors. The agents highlight the state's substantive roles in making the market, varied extents of honesty and transparency among ART companies, and the importance of having a (not necessarily biologically-related) child for intended parents. The paper adds to the literature on the interaction between market, culture, and morality.

## **LBT Women's Fertility Experience in the UK**

*Dandan Wu*  
(University of Birmingham)

The purpose of this study was to investigate how LBT women (lesbian, bisexual, and transgender women) experienced assisted reproductive technologies healthcare service from 2016 to 2021 in the UK. A qualitative semi-structured individual interview study was carried out in the summer of 2021, data was analysed through the use of Gale et al. (2013)'s Framework method for analysis of qualitative data in multi-disciplinary health research and Fredman (2016)'s four-dimensional Approach to substantive equality. Six LBT women participated. Although the legal system protects the accessibility of LBT women's fertility, this research showed that LBT women have negative experiences with services during this decision-making stage. The LBT women who participated described LBT women as an invisible minority in some circumstances and that it was not easy to access fertility healthcare services. The participants felt that funding and accessibility of information were the main hurdles for accessing fertility healthcare services and that heteronormativity governed different structures in primary care (i.e., General practice, midwifery, and national policy).

The paper suggests that the fertility healthcare system requires broad, transformational goals in order to achieve substantive equality of human rights for LBT women in the UK during their decision-making about fertility. Findings from this study suggest that one powerful way to start to transform the exclusive practices of fertility welfare in the UK is to open the current funding provisions of assisted reproductive technologies to LBT women.

## **Fertility Apps, Datafication and Knowledge Production in Reproductive Health**

*Alina Geampana*  
(Durham University)

Despite being the target of much criticism, commercialised digital technologies have proliferated in reproductive health arenas. Period and fertility tracking applications (apps) are now some of the most popular and ubiquitous digital health technologies, with millions of downloads and users. Scholarship on reproductive self-tracking apps have underlined the problematic nature of their design and surveillance practices. However, less attention has been paid to the data infrastructures and knowledge practices that such technologies facilitate on a broad scale. This sociological study bridges social studies of reproduction with critical data studies by looking at knowledge production practices and networks facilitated by the proliferation of fertility apps. Drawing on an analysis of key sources, the findings underscore how reproductive health apps act as mediators between stakeholders, data and datafied outputs, thus shaping knowledge about fertility in particular ways. Notably, apps produce datafied knowledge about fertility used in various professional and lay arenas and facilitate new scientific knowledge production networks. This presentation will also provide contextual links to wider power imbalances and trends in reproductive health.

# **Methodological Innovations - Room 16**

## **Visual Politics of Mutual Aid: Community Pantry PH Initiative as Temporally Visible under Duterte's Pandemic Securitisation**

*Jamievee Bautista*  
(Scuola Normale Superiore (Italy))

Why did mutual aid initiatives become politicised during the pandemic, particularly in the Philippines? How is mutual aid, often non-contentious, understood in this context? What does the hypervisibility of Community Pantry PH Initiative (CPI) imply about the temporality of direct social actions (DSA) in the pandemic context? Given its extensive history of relief activities, particularly in the aftermath of major disasters, the Philippines is no stranger to mutual aid. Typically, the state extends mostly immediate material reliefs, portraying citizens as seemingly passive. As an example of DSA or acts that address social issues through the action itself (Bosi and Zamponi 2015,2020), the CPI altered this hierarchical setting. Using visual content analysis of online images and complementing this with digital ethnography of the initiative's official Facebook page, I show that Duterte's punitive pandemic approach contradicts

the CPI's notion and practise of mutual aid, emphasising the critical values of non-hierarchy and reciprocity. To unpack this, I propose treating CPI as temporally visible: establishing a sizable constituency among activists at times of crisis, thus increasing its hypervisibility. The CPI's hypervisibility suddenly becomes an outright act of resistance viewed through the lens of symbolic visibility (Mateus 2017), creatively evading the Philippines' already limited space for dissent. The findings are consistent with DSA research, such as community pantries' effectiveness as a lever for transformation in crises. However, adding an elaboration as temporally visible also helps us understand that DSAs ensure a visually powerful social critique of authoritarian tendencies, particularly in vulnerable democracies.

### **A Geometric Approach to Quantitative Intersectional Analysis**

*Adrian Leguina*  
(*Loughborough University*)

This paper is motivated by the methodological challenge set by intersectional analysis to accommodate the multidimensionality of class, gender and ethnicity into a quantitative sociological analysis of social inequalities. Specifically, it develops the conceptual foundations and offers the first methodological solution for a unified quantitative analysis inspired by Bourdieusian class analysis. Multiple disciplines of the social sciences are quantifying the impact of intersecting inequalities on health, economic and educational outcomes. Others have focused on developing scales that measure intersectional identities and perceptions of discrimination or via the critical race theory lenses are challenging the neutrality of numbers and their interpretations. While such advancements are welcomed, they struggle to account for the interdependences among the systems of power established by class, gender and ethnicity. This paper argues that methods from the geometric data analysis family (GDA), and particularly multiple correspondence analysis (MCA) and multiple factor analysis (MFA) are well equipped to produce an analysis of social inequalities that truly benefits from combining intersectional and class analysis. This presentation aims to conceptually develop what could be considered ethnonational and gendered spaces and to illustrate the usefulness of the proposed approach. British data from the Cultural Capital and Social Exclusion Survey (2003) is used to show the extent ethnonational and gendered spaces are related to the social space and to moral and political values. Finally, the value of a combined representation is discussed.

### **The Methodological Challenge of Researching Complex Interwoven Crises**

*Emma Uprichard, David Byrne*  
(*University of Warwick*)

We are presently facing a tapestry of interlinked global challenges, spanning from climate change, urbanization, economic dynamics, healthcare, education, to deeper epistemological and methodological quandaries. But as social researchers, how are we to effectively address this situation methodologically? In this presentation, we advocate for a complex realist methodology, which is inherently interdisciplinary and multi-methodological and, importantly, is highly sensitive to temporal phenomena. The focus on such a programme of research to empirically describe change and continuity specifically in a way that captures what Donella Meadows calls 'leverage points' in a time-space manner. Whereas Meadows argued that leverage points are places to intervene in complex systems, here we extend that to paying attention to where and when to intervene in systems. That is to say, we argue for the importance of capturing where temporal phenomena become empirically visible. This means paying attention to where and when temporal phenomena such as events, duration, sequence, trajectory, trends and so on, take place in and across systems. In doing so, our quest is to take history and narratives of the future, as scenarios, seriously, and to do so in a way that allows us to potentially tap into parts of systems where and when individual and collective agency are possible.

## Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9

### **'Stuck in (Live) Time'?: Live Method and Public Sociologies of Race and Racism**

*Anna Numa Hopkins*  
(University of Warwick)

In this paper I outline some of the knowledge-political problems that form part of discussions on 'live method' in public sociologies of race and racism. I ask what dilemmas are generated for how sociological research engages with racialisation in method and practice. Drawing on my ongoing doctoral research, the paper begins from methodological considerations that emerged when interviewing academics and organisers about anti-racist work, racialisation and knowledge production.

Addressing the theme of accountability, I bring critical sociologies of race, racialisation and anti-racism into dialogue with feminist science studies and the sociology of knowledge. Reflecting on methods literature and on conversations with experts, the paper asks what accountability to sociological 'publics' might (and might not) involve – from accounting for the self, forms of disciplinary accountability, to accountability in material, epistemic and ontological terms.

I aim to propose a more direct consideration of the politics of 'live' knowledge practices, and ask how sociology that seeks to contribute to social change can be rendered accountable. In particular, the paper argues for a re-worked understanding of 'liveliness to the present'.

### **Agency and Mobilisation in Times of Crisis: London's Latin American Community Navigating the Impact of COVID-19**

*Jasmin Rostron, Domiziana Turcatti*  
(The National Institute of Economic and Social Research)

This paper contributes to the understanding of how migrants collectively organise to cope with new crises by examining how London's Latin American community mobilised to address the impact of COVID-19. Research often focuses on the vulnerabilities that crises (re)produce for migrants and their individual coping responses, including new mobilities (e.g., return, onward migration). Less attention is typically devoted to how migrants collectively cope in crisis situations.

Framed by theories on the role of civil society organisations in promoting integration and social protection, this paper draws from fieldwork conducted between June 2020 and June 2023 for three projects: (1) a qualitative research exploring the experiences of 51 Colombian parents; (2) a participatory research project on the impact of COVID-19 and Brexit on 73 Latin Americans in London; and (3) the evaluation of an initiative aimed at reducing barriers Latin Americans face when accessing healthcare.

For our research participants, the pandemic exacerbated and made visible the health, socio-political, and economic inequalities they were experiencing prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, while creating new ones. We identified three main types of responses from the Latin American community: (1) the formation of new informal, voluntary groups; (2) the re-adaptation of existing services; and (3) political mobilisation.

Ultimately, this paper demonstrates that new crises (re)produce both vulnerability and agency among migrant communities and highlights the key role that migrant-led community groups play in supporting migrants access their rights in crisis situations.

### **The Continuing Crisis of Modern Racism and Evolving Anti-Racist Strategies of Opposition**

*Syra Shakir, Sean Walton, Ricardo Barker*  
(Leeds Trinity University)

Racism is a deep-rooted and pernicious problem in Western, advanced industrial nations. In recent years, the problem of racism has re-asserted itself at crisis levels. This renewal and re-assertion of racism has been driven by a plethora of local and global events including the financial crash of 2008, the rise of Donald Trump, Brexit, and the policies of successive Tory governments. As a group of multi-

disciplinary academics, we reflect upon this crisis of racism and consider the need for effective education policies and interventions to counter, as part of a package of wider anti-racist action, these worrying developments. We consider the manifestations of racism from a number of sociological perspectives (some established and some newly emerging), including through the lenses of Critical Race Theory, the Black Radical Tradition, Critical Theory, and we propose a new direction for Critical Pedagogy, which foregrounds the structural elements of racism. Employing, in part, an auto-ethnographic approach, we reflect upon the nature of anti-racist educational interventions, discussing how these impact higher education staff, teachers, and senior managers. We outline resistance to anti-racist work, and how these might be approached and overcome. Finally, we reflect upon the scope and limits of anti-racist educational interventions and discuss what has and has not changed over the last 20 years or so of inclusive educational policy and practice and offer some thoughts on why this is.

## **Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11**

### **Framing 'Public Interest' Crisis and Opportunities in Developing Digital Technologies Regulations**

*Sarah Cheung*  
(University of Edinburgh)

The UK government has made growing its tech sector a key 'Grand Challenge' goal. This growth is predicated on developing and expanding uses of new digital technologies, such as AI. Such technologies are already widely used to collect, process, and analyze data; they increasingly underpin social functions and operate as 'public utilities'. However, these tech goals are being pursued in an uncertain regulatory backdrop, and it is widely recognized internationally that appropriate regulation and public standards for using these technologies is needed. This paper suggests that competing presentations connecting crisis and social change to ideas of 'the public interest' have a key role to play in regulatory frameworks being developed around high-profile government initiatives to expand the UK's tech sector and public sector uses of digital technologies. It uses frame analysis to explore presentations of the 'public interest' concept in public policy literature produced by actors in the UK policymaking landscape on digital technologies.

This paper's core claim is that the formulation of distinctive formulations ('frames') of 'public interest' – by key actors – within the policymaking domain is emerging as a basis of power in current efforts to develop appropriate and effective regulation around digital technologies. Since certain frames will justify and support specific policy activities, whoever gets to develop distinct frames of public interest – and is then able to promote these frames in policymaking arenas – subsequently holds a distinct power to affect the development of the digital technologies sector and their widespread uses throughout social functions.

### **Investigating Privacy Violations Using Gendered Digital Surveillance: Public Perceptions Using a Canada-Wide Survey**

*Celina Van De Kamp*  
(University of Saskatchewan)

Would you trade your personal data, including constant GPS tracking, for a "free" coffee and doughnut? Tim Horton's, among numerous other smartphone apps, extensively collects customer metadata, often without explicit consent or our full awareness. Despite the private sector dismissing this data collection as non-invasive due to its lack of communication content, academic research reveals its invasiveness and capacity to expose sensitive individual information. Currently, the Canadian government does not protect metadata. This study uses a nationwide survey on privacy and metadata collection to explore how varying contexts shape surveillance experiences and privacy preferences. It addresses the inconsistency in public opinion survey results when asking generalized questions about data collection and privacy, and the scarcity of empirical data examining how demographics influence public opinion on data collection and privacy concerns. Using a demographically representative Canada-wide survey, this work demonstrates the necessity of context-specific questions in public opinion surveys, revealing

demographic variations in perceptions and the desire for legal privacy protections. The study finds that while surveillance and privacy experiences are gender-dependent, there are contexts where surveillance highlights the universal desire for legal privacy protections. This research emphasizes the need to bridge demographic disparities and involve marginalized communities in shaping Canadian privacy legislation. These findings advocate for updated privacy legislation and inclusive consultation with diverse groups of Canadians in shaping future policies. Ultimately, it serves as a crucial step toward safeguarding privacy rights in an era of increasing data collection and surveillance.

### **The Crisis of Human Knowledge Formation in AI Society: Algorithmic Probability and Human Abductive Hypotheses**

*Tomoko Tamari*  
(Goldsmiths, University of London)

The emergence of ChatGPT, an artificial intelligence with a large language model (LLM), has become a central topic for those concerned with the potential risks to human creativity and imagination. Comparing human language acquisition processes with algorithmic machine language systems, the paper analyses both their differences and similarities to explore potential risks of human-machine symbiotic knowledge formation. Whereas ChatGPT needs an LLM with an algorithm that has been trained on a massive amount of text-based data, human babies start to learn words one by one to expand their language capacity through bodily and sensory experience. This is a vital process for humans to make a link between an object's name and its meaning in the complex language system of the real world. In this process, abductive inferences which generate and verify explanatory hypotheses, help inductively generalize language concepts. Although LLM's algorithm can also be seen as using inductive reasoning, it is based on a probabilistic statistical data model, which is different from abduction in human intelligence. Human abduction inferences cannot be based on mathematical 'rational' calculation, rather they rely on flexible, inspirational, even irrational, or novel conceptualization (and generalization) through embodied experience. This is a key process in the expansion of human language systems and knowledge formation. ChatGPT generates huge volumes of 'text-based' knowledge without involving the intrinsic traits of the human language ontogenetic processes. Machine generated knowledge recursively integrates and becomes part of the meta-data for LLMs. This can distort human abduction inferences, conceptual creativity, and knowledge formation mechanisms.

### **Patterns of Continuity and Change: How Artificial Intelligence Constructs Gender**

*Elisabeth Kelan*  
(University of Essex)

How does a machine know if a person is a woman, a man, or non-binary? Artificial intelligence (AI) is perceived as a central shaping force of the future. Yet how gender is constructed and reconstructed through AI is rarely considered in those debates. Notable exceptions include research on why digital voice assistants often have a default female-sounding voice (Wagman and Parks, 2021) or why Black women are more likely to be mis-gendered in facial recognition (Buolamwini and Gebru, 2018). AI systems are reading patterns that exist in society and are repeating these patterns in predictions often leading to issues such as algorithmic bias (Kelan, 2023). Drawing on interviews with those who design AI, the paper shows how gender is constituted in AI systems through processes such as data annotation (also called data labelling). For example in computer vision labels have to be assigned to people and objects to establish ground truth (Jaton, 2021). It is people, often working in the Global South, who regularly have to assign those labels. These individuals make subjective decisions when annotating data (Gebru et al., 2021) which are then through various processes of moderation turned into ground truth or the objective reality used for machine learning. Thereby subjective ways of seeing gender can become objectivised and perpetuated in AI predictions. While many of those predictions reflect existing gender patterns, the paper suggests that alternative gender patterns can be created that hold the promise for change in how gender is conceptualised and operationalised in AI systems.

## **Sociology of Education - Room 13**

### **Unveiling the Structure and Dynamics of Senior High Schools in Taiwan: A Geometric Data Analysis**

*Ting-Huang Tai*  
(ENS Paris-Saclay)

This article employs geometric data analysis to investigate the national field of senior high schools in Taiwan from 2008 to 2020. While most existing education market studies focus on local dynamics, a national-level analysis can reveal the entire structure of educational offerings and grasp the relative positions of each school within the field. We examine the Ministry of Education's Secondary School Database, which encompasses all Taiwanese senior high school offerings from 2008 to 2020. Geometric data analysis is applied to relationally explore the diverse patterns of educational offerings. Our analysis, focusing on schools offering at least one special, selective program, reveals three key differentiation principles within the field. These principles involve the gender composition of academic class students, the contrast between gifted education and comprehensive education, and the opposition between affiliated junior high schools and art classes. Our following cluster analysis identifies three prominent clusters: a dominated cluster of comprehensive education, an intermediate female-academic cluster, and the most dominant male-intellectual cluster. Furthermore, our analysis highlights two structural shifts occurring around the 2010s. First, there is a discernible movement toward the pole of gifted education, despite its somewhat timid reversal. Second, the significance of art classes is steadily increasing. Consequently, this article provides an empirical examination of the evolution of the field's structure. This relational and holistic understanding serves as an objective foundation for analyzing school perception, judgment, and the strategies of educational stakeholders.

### **Are Internal Migrants in China Additionally Disadvantaged in Terms of School Outcomes?**

*Guanyu Huo*  
(Durham University)

The education of internal migrants in China has received long-term research attention, with previous studies often highlighting such migration as a key factor contributing to academic disadvantage for this group. In the Chinese context, migrant students are defined as those who relocate with their parents from their hometown to another province or city. The purpose of this study is to examine the characteristics of migrant students in four Chinese provinces and cities using the 2018 PISA dataset and to investigate which characteristics differentially affect their academic performance in comparison to their non-migrant peers. Following descriptive analyses of key variables, two OLS multiple linear regression models were developed to help explain differences in attainment. The findings indicate that migrant students tend to exhibit lower academic performance and are more likely to be disadvantaged in terms of background factors, particularly those related to family socio-economic and cultural status. However, the results of the models used to predict academic performance indicated that there was no residual correlation between migrant status and academic achievement, once their background characteristics have been taken into account. The academic gap between migrant students and their peers was largely explained by differences in background factors, while migration itself is not portrayed as a further disadvantage. This is somewhat surprising and may be partly due to the nature of the data available via PISA. Nevertheless, this study suggests that the evidence for attributing academic differences to migration is unclear and that more caution is necessary when making relevant claims.

### **Understanding the Disparity of Educational Attainment in Northern Ireland: The Role of Socio-Demographic and School-Level Factors on GCSE Attainment.**

*Erin Early, Sarah Miller, Laura Dunne*  
(Queen's University Belfast)

Educational attainment disparities across social groups remain at the forefront of contemporary UK society. Despite this, Northern Ireland reflects a somewhat different context to the rest of the UK due to its transition to a post-conflict society and its dually selective education system (academically and religiously). In Northern Ireland, post-primary attainment differences are often reported according to gender, religious affiliation and socio-economic background. However, due to the lack of available



education data that encompasses a wide range of pupil- and school-level factors, discourse informed by the statistical testing has been limited. This study aims to overcome this current gap by examining the effects of socio-demographics, namely gender, religious affiliation and socio-economic background (through eight measures), and school-level factors on GCSE attainment, using the first linked administrative dataset for education in Northern Ireland. The data combined the household Census (2011) with the School Census (2010-2014) and School Leavers Survey (2010-2014) for the first time. To this end, this study conducted multilevel models to understand the nested effects of pupil-, household- and school-level factors on GCSE attainment outcomes. Interaction models were also executed to examine the multiplicative effects of a pupil's sex, religious affiliation and socio-economic background on their educational attainment. The findings of this study highlighted the multidimensional impact of socio-economic status, with some measures having a greater impact on GCSE attainment than others. The importance of interaction terms to gain an in-depth understanding of the multiplicative effect of factors on attainment outcomes was also highlighted in the analysis.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 - Room 14**

### **Navigating Subtle Discrimination in the Contemporary UK Workplace: Working Mothers' Experiences and Response Strategies**

*Yvonne Ehrstein  
(Aberystwyth University)*

A growing body of scholarship suggests that there has been a shift from overt to subtle forms of discrimination in the contemporary UK workplace, indicating that the latter is more pervasive and potentially more deleterious than the former. In today's workplace many manifestations of overt discrimination are considered socially unacceptable and can be challenged on legal grounds, and in particular the discriminatory experiences of pregnant and breastfeeding women at work are well documented. However, how subtle discrimination against non-pregnant mothers manifests and is experienced in everyday work contexts is not well understood. Through analysis of 27 in-depth interviews with mothers working in both the private and public sector in the UK, and anchored in the sociologies of work and gender as well as organisation studies, the presentation will focus on employed mothers' experiences of subtle discrimination by exploring what shape these less visible and often ambiguous forms of discrimination take. I outline different response strategies that participants employ to navigate such subtly discriminatory events and interactions: concealing motherhood; individualising discriminatory experiences; and challenging discriminatory acts. To understand these experiences and responses, and the implications for women's careers, I argue that they need to be contextualised within hegemonic workplace cultures which continue to foreground mothers' perceived competence and commitment to paid work as lower than of those who more closely resemble the wholly committed 'ideal worker'. The findings of this project contribute to extending our understanding of the nature and persistence of discrimination faced by mothers in work settings.

### **Walking a Tightrope: Experiences of Navigating Crisis and Precarity in Low-Income Urban Neighbourhoods in Bangladesh**

*Saklain Al Mamun, Keetie Roelen, Maheen Sultan  
(BRAC Institute of Governance and Development)*

Residents in low-income neighborhoods in Bangladesh regularly face multiple crises and shocks. COVID-19 pandemic increased poverty across the country, especially urban. While social protection expanded, high inflation rates and increases in living costs have compounded pressures. There is now substantial research considering the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic but little on experiences in the post-pandemic recovery period. This study provides unique insights into lived experiences of residents of low-income urban neighborhoods, how they continue to navigate intersecting crises at micro, meso- and macro-levels and deal with growing precarity.

Adopting a mixed method approach, it focuses on people's experiences of transitioning in and out poverty but unable to rebuild livelihoods to pre-pandemic levels. It combines earlier secondary

longitudinal quantitative data with primary quantitative and qualitative data collected in 2023. Findings show that since the COVID-19 pandemic, lives in low-income neighborhoods have become more precarious. Economic uncertainty and poverty are associated with stress and poor mental health, especially for women. Residents experience systematic stigmatization and discrimination. Although emergency relief was available during the pandemic, government-implemented social protection was difficult to access.

This study extends literature on the impact of intersecting crises and continued change on urban lives, foregrounding psychosocial effects and the role of area-based discrimination in reproducing crises. These findings allow providing evidence-based recommendations.

IDS and BIGD collaborated on this study under the COVID-19 Learning, Evidence, and Research (CLEAR) Program supported by FCDO Bangladesh.

### **More Insecure or More Flexible? Gender Discrepancies in the Interaction Effects between Childbirth and Precarious Work on Job Loss: The Moderating Role of Occupational Status.**

*Jiachen Zhu*  
(*East China Normal University*)

Fertility adversely affects women's labor force participation, whereas the effects on men are mixed, mostly attributed to childbirth exclusively experienced by women and asymmetrical breadwinning and caring roles. Simultaneously, precarious work, characterized by uncertain, unpredictable, and insecure employment, emerged as a contemporary social concern, increasing the risk of job loss among employees. However, limited research exists on the interaction effects between fertility and precarious work on job loss, particularly regarding gender differences. Drawing on life course theory, we utilize pooled cross-sectional data from multiple waves of the China Family Panel Studies (2014-2020) to investigate this association and its heterogeneity across occupational status. Specifically, we examine how first childbirth, pre-childbirth precarious conditions (contract, work insurance and organizational type), and their interaction influence the likelihood of job loss after having a child for mothers and fathers. We find that engaging in precarious work (contract absence, low work insurance, and employment in non-state-owned organizations) before childbirth amplifies the likelihood of job loss for women after giving birth, with variations observed across occupational status. Generally, mothers in higher-level occupations experience a compounded negative impact from the interaction between childbirth and precarity. On the other hand, for fathers, lacking a contract is associated with a reduced likelihood of job loss only in high-level occupations, while low work insurance or employment in non-state-owned organizations do not significantly moderate the likelihood of job loss after having a child. This research highlights the significance of considering gender dynamics within the context of job security and parenthood.

### **Precarious Migrant Entrepreneurship: Gendered In-Work Poverty for Migrants in the UK**

*Maria Villares-Varela, Carolyn Low*  
(*University of Southampton*)

This paper analyses the lived experiences of precarious migrant entrepreneurs and their intersection with gender and family dynamics. It does so by critically engaging with previous research on precarious work and providing a framework to analyse how the organisation of production and reproduction work is at the core of strategies for entrepreneurs in precarious contexts. Immigrant entrepreneurship scholarship has explored how becoming an entrepreneur is the alternative to unemployment, escaping precarious paid employment, fulfilling professional aspirations, and controlling daily work-life. Despite all these advantages associated with becoming an entrepreneur, research has shown that migrant entrepreneurs make paltry returns on their businesses, which may lead to experiencing 'in-work' poverty as entrepreneurs. Whilst in-work poverty has been studied in terms of paid employment, there is little research on this area linked to business activity and less on migrant entrepreneurship. Amongst these, the work of family members can be utilised to cushion some aspects of the precarity of migrant businesses. Our findings show that migrant entrepreneurs resist their precarious working conditions by reworking family dynamics and embedding an alternative share of resources in their reproductive lives to alleviate pressures on the business. We use the framework of 'cooperative conflicts' (Sen, 1989) to consider the complexities of household negotiations as both harmonious and divergent. Our paper

contributes to ongoing debates on in-work poverty by looking at entrepreneurship as one under-researched form of labour market incorporation for marginalised workers.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 - Room 15**

### **“You don’t hurt whilst moving; it’s when you stop you feel it”: Cultural Negotiations of the Body in a Contemporary Industrial Workplace.**

*Thomas Wilson  
(University of Kent)*

The industrial workplace is identified as a site that shapes, contorts and manipulates the body as an effect of its labour process. However, this relationship is not unilateral. An agency on the part of workers is evidenced in how they are able to curate a sense of virtue and pride within their labour through tough engagement of their corporal self (Ashford and Kreiner, 1999). Consequently, workers are also occupied in constant negotiations of their body surrounding rest, fighting fatigue, and maintaining status.

During a workplace ethnography undertaken over the past year, these negotiations were seen to be laden in cultural understandings that extended well beyond a rational framework, often embedded within a rich industrial heritage. Despite rest being understood as a time of increased freedoms within work, self-administered discipline, born and validated through cultural legacies of industrial work, were regularly apparent.

Drawing on theories of the body within work, this writing looks to advance an understanding of industrial workplace culture, by exploring how worker’s value their body and rest, whilst maintaining core features of their industrial identity. This shall develop theory around Simpson and Simson’s (2018) embodiment of dirty work, and Strangleman’s (2017) discussion around embeddedness, by offering a cultural insight into the social causes and implications around negotiating the needs and expectations of a contemporary industrial working body. This writing will conclude that workers manage their bodies in accordance with shared agreed cultural practices.

### **Designing Inclusive Remote and Hybrid Working to Support Disabled Workers**

*Calum Carson, Calum Carson, Alison Collins, Jacqueline Winstanley, Rebecca Florisson  
(Lancaster University)*

The pandemic instigated widespread change to working practices: three years on, remote and hybrid working is still available to many desk-based workers and job-seekers. One-fifth of working-age people are disabled yet their working preferences, and their experiences of remote or hybrid working, are largely unexplored. The disability employment gap stands at 29.8 percentage points and is largely driven by organisational inflexibility and non-inclusive workplace policies and practice. Remote working offers flexibility to schedule work around fatigue or pain, and to reallocate energy used for commuting, yet prior to the pandemic employers were often reluctant to allow disabled staff to work remotely, even as a reasonable adjustment.

Our previous research found that remote working was positive for disabled workers’ physical and mental health, productivity and employment (Taylor et al, 2022). It was particularly valued by disabled women, younger disabled people, people with multiple impairments and disabled carers. Our larger-scale mixed-methods study funded by the Nuffield Foundation builds on this, exploring how remote and hybrid working can be designed to be inclusive of disabled workers’ needs and preferences to promote their job retention, recruitment and progression. Underpinned by the Job Demands-Resources model and an intersectional framework, we explore, through a national survey and in-depth interviews, disabled workers’ perspectives on the benefits and challenges of remote and hybrid working in relation to their employment, health/wellbeing, productivity and work-life balance, and factors they perceive as enabling inclusive remote/hybrid working. Through organisational case studies, we identify whether and how employers are implementing inclusive remote/hybrid working.

## **Self-Maintenance or Addictive Use? Repeat Purchase in Non-Surgical Cosmetic Market**

*Sai Zhang*  
(*University of Hong Kong*)

Literature on moralized markets has examined varying relations between moral values and economic activities. This study follows this line by examining one recent transformation in cosmetic surgery market, i.e. the rise of “non-surgical” cosmetic procedures, termed as non-surgical due to minimal invasion compared with traditional cosmetic “surgeries”. The cosmetic surgery market has long grappled with two moral controversies, addiction and the unnatural effects (fake faces). As the non-surgical market expands, repeat purchase characterizes the mainstream business model in beauty salons. A key moral question arises: is it a means of self-maintenance or does it foster addictive behavior? This study aims to disentangle the varying relations between moral values and non-surgical markets, and the causes and consequences of such variations on beauty practices. Drawing on ethnographic case study, this study reveals that compared with surgeries, the promise on natural beauty in marketing discourses have partly legitimized “non-surgical” procedures, thus fueling the expansion of the non-surgical market. Nevertheless, under the repurchase-featured business model, profit-driven sellers employ selling strategies to cultivate sticky users, potentially resulting in unnatural outcomes after excessive procedures. Aware of the stigma of unnaturalness, most users expressed a self-controlled attitude and distance themselves from addicts; a few users reject the label of addiction, but they still value natural beauty. This study develops a processualist perspective to examine the understanding of moral/immoral categories and moral work conducted by both sellers and users. This study contributes to economic sociology by revealing co-constitutive dynamic of moral order and market.

# Paper Session 2

## 10:45 - 12:15

### Culture, Media, Sport & Food - Room 2

#### **The Continuing Crisis of Scottish Food Insecurity and Changes required to address it at Local Level**

*John Mckenzie, David Watts*  
(University of Aberdeen)

This paper presents findings from a qualitative study with food support workers who provide services to food insecure people in Scotland. Interviews explored participants' perceptions of disruptions across the food system that can result in increasing levels of food insecurity, and responses that could mitigate them.

Participants reported that, during recent large-scale disruptions (such as the COVID-19 pandemic), they saw significant increases in food insecurity. However, they felt that these disruptions simply exacerbated existing problems and revealed that there is a significant proportion of the Scottish population who become vulnerable to food insecurity should there be even small-scale increases in the price of food or decreases in the amount of money they can afford to spend on it.

To promote food security in Scotland, participants felt that the government should adopt a cash-first approach, provide food and financial education, and improve access to low-cost food. However, many said that government should not provide these services directly but should instead enable existing frontline food support organisations to deliver them. It was suggested that one model of organisation to deliver the goods and services required to promote food security is the 'community hub'. These could provide a range of community relevant support services along with access to low-cost food, either through a community shop or by providing easy access to low-cost supermarkets.

#### **How Food Banks Are Mitigating the Hostile Environment for Migrants in the UK: Exploring the Redistribution of Food as a Way of Helping People be 'Seen'**

*Claire Thompson, Laura Hamilton, Wendy Wills*  
(University of Hertfordshire)

In the UK, restrictive immigration regimes can create a hostile environment for migrants, excluding certain groups from services, rights and protections and effectively rendering them 'invisible'. The No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) rule can deny access to most social security benefits and, in some cases, even the labour market, leaving people dependent on third sector organisations like food banks for support. This qualitative study explores how food banks and other food aid services help migrants to be 'seen'. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups were collected with 17 third sector services supporting NRPF families across the four nations of the UK; and a cohort of 12 London-based Nigerian migrants with lived experience of NRPF. Data were collected between January and June 2022 and analysed thematically.

Our findings illustrate how migrants, particularly those with NRPF, occupy ambiguous subjectivities, caught between citizenship and migration. Food banks actively intervene in this liminality; between visible and invisible, helping migrants to secure the conditions of (aspiring) citizenship that the technologies of migration governance have denied them. This is achieved through food (re) distribution practices, specifically: food as welcome and acculturation; feeding migrant children to support migrant parents; and long-term food aid provision for migrant households. Food banks are an inadequate substitute for state support. But, with their remit expanding beyond emergency food aid and into areas such as debt advice and crisis payments, they are part of an alternative safety net helping marginalised groups – like migrants – to navigate welfare state retreat.

## **Of Meat and Men: An Exploration of Food and Masculinity in a Working-Class Community**

*Norman Riley*  
(University of Essex)

There is a long association between the consumption of animal-derived foods and notions of masculinity. Research argues that men deem the consumption of the bodies and secretions of Nonhuman Animals as necessary to consider themselves, and to be considered by peers, as 'real' men. Vegan men, in breaking gender expectations, are stigmatized as effeminate and not considered to be real men. Norms of hegemonic masculinity are thus positioned as barriers to men, and in particular working-class men, choosing veganism.

Drawing on analysis of semi-structured interviews in a working-class community in the Northeast of England, I contend that while the idea that the consumption of Nonhuman Animals for physical strength lingers, this does not entail veganism being positioned as a way of living incompatible with notions of masculinity. I highlight the contradictions that consuming Nonhuman Animals engenders. The imagined need to eat Nonhuman Animals to meet masculine expectations of physical strength and muscular physiques conflicts with the desire to do them no harm. I propose that veganism has the potential to disrupt ideals of hegemonic masculinity, and inform an inclusive working-class masculinity built on care for and solidarity with both human and Nonhuman animal.

My work adds new knowledge to vegan sociology, a nascent field of inquiry demanding the inclusion of Nonhuman Animals within the discipline. Such knowledge can help inform efforts to improve public health, combat climate change, and end the oppression of those human and Nonhuman Animals entangled in the necrocapitalistic practices of the animal industrial complex.

## **Continuity and Change in Narratives of Pub Crisis and Pub Closure**

*Thomas Thurnell-Read, Robert Deakin*  
(Loughborough University)

Stories about pub closures have been a common feature of media coverage in recent years. For several decades, the pub sector has been depicted as being 'in crisis' and various key events, including the economic recession and the Covid pandemic, have been cast as the harbinger of a final precipitous decline in pub going. While varied accounts emphasise different causes for pubs to be struggling and/or closing, newspaper coverage also positions pub closures as a symptom of important wider social trends, such as the decline in community or a turn away from intoxication towards abstinence and moderation by a youth cohort dubbed 'generation sensible'. Narrative devices serve to link the travails of specific businesses, and the sector more generally, with a wider set of cultural changes and social problems. This has the result of re-emphasising pubs as repositories of 'traditional British values', often through nostalgic tropes that overplay continuity in a supposed golden era of pub going. This paper presenting findings from a qualitative narrative analysis of two data sets: a sample of national newspaper content from 2000 onwards and a complementary analysis of social media content relating to pub nostalgia and pub closure. The paper contributes to understandings about how particular stories frame pub culture in relation to social and cultural change.

# **Environment & Society - Room 3**

## **What Does the Climate Crisis Ask of Academia? Reflexivity, Activist-Scholarship and Dissonance**

*Helen Traill*  
(University Of Glasgow)

Climate breakdown becomes more apparent year on year, and the path towards a liveable future seems at times bleak. Yet addressing it, among the many other crises rearing their heads, seems intractable and out of reach to the individual, despite an increasing burdening of our decisions with the need to be 'eco-friendly'. What role academia – and particularly sociology – can play in this context can seem difficult: we are both mere individuals, and members of large, influential organisations, who can be intractable and difficult to move. Has sociology failed, as Klinenberg et al (2022) argued, if we don't work with states and societies to illuminate low-carbon, high-equity futures? And how do we do that

work of illumination? Reflecting on working in an array of more and less activist modes with community organisations, food policy councils and campaigning NGOs, this paper draws reflexively on a series of projects to unfold engagement as a practice replete with role dissonances. It thus opens up a series of conflicts around how we negotiate academic life with the requirements of conscience and crisis, in order perhaps to fail better.

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

*Nabila 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 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 research intends to analyse how South Asian groups' perspectives of the natural environment are impacted by generational experiences and shared (or not) through dialogue and outdoor interactions. Using participatory methods with intergenerational South Asian families, located in Northwest England, this research intends to promote interdisciplinary learning and collaborative knowledge. Walking interviews, participatory outdoor activities, and biographical narratives will be used to study intergenerational social research and human culture's link to nature. The findings of this study have the potential to demonstrate the value of the natural environment to UK migrant-background communities, and the ability for these communities to promote sustainable well-being, as well as contribute towards the future development/conservation of the natural environment.

## **Families & Relationships - Room 4**

### **Reciprocity vs. (In)Equality: Economic Arrangements Among Young Upper-Middle-Class Cohabiting Couples**

*Yiwen Wu*  
(University of Oxford)

The pursuit of individualised egalitarian partnerships rises alongside persistent intrahousehold gender and wealth inequality underpinned by within-household economic arrangements. Extending the concept of relational work, this paper examines the economic arrangements among young cohabiting upper-middle class couples from China. Specifically, I explore the patterns of economic arrangements developed, how they make sense of the partnership ideal and how inequality can be inscribed through daily economic activities.

Informed by results from structural topic modelling (STM) on social media data, 5 upper-middle-class, young cohabiting couples (as a group shown to have a higher tendency to pursue gender egalitarianism) are interviewed, where two partners are interviewed both jointly and separately. While couples show pursuit of autonomous, egalitarian relationships, gender conventions around economic arrangements such as spending patterns and housework still persist. However, by prioritizing reciprocity over equality, the conflict is justified through choice and consensus narratives. Moreover, gendered patterns in spending are seen as countering rather than reproducing patriarchal arrangements as they compensate women's sacrifices at the individual level in a structurally unequal environment. Additionally, with generous financial support from parents, monetary contribution is seen more as a symbolic manifestation of commitment over its potential material consequences of gender power imbalance.

This paper provides insights into the concrete processes of the reconciliation between gender roles and egalitarianism, and it also offers potential cultural explanation of the formation of intrahousehold economic inequality and the stalled gender revolution from the earlier stage of intimate partnerships.

### **Surnames and Surnaming In Families Formed through Adoption**

*Jane Pilcher, Jan Flaherty, Hannah Deakin-Smith, Amanda Coffey, Eve Makis  
(Nottingham Trent University)*

In sociology, names are increasingly recognised as important routes for understanding family relationships, as well as familial and individual identities. In this presentation, we examine the significance of surnames in families formed through adoption. We draw on data from our qualitative study which used innovative life-story interviewing and creative life-writing methods to capture 'name stories' through which adults impacted by adoption described and made sense of their adoption-related naming and identity experiences.

Our findings suggest that adoptees and adopters can feel differently about family names and how these link them – or otherwise – to familial identities and to their own individual identities. Some adoptees feel that their adoptive family surname does not link them authentically to that genealogical familial line, or at least is disruptive for their sense of family identity. For adoptees who had become parents themselves, sharing a surname with their child (and so across another generation) had made their adoptive surname meaningful to them in a way that it had not previously been. For participants who were adopters, sharing a surname with their child(ren) was also a key part of their 'family making' and their family identity, including in terms of extending the family name to a new generation. Through examining these types of experiences and feelings about surnames amongst adult adoptees and amongst adopters, we highlight the complexities of surname praxis in adoptive family life.

## **Lifecourse - Room 6**

### **Research with Children: Deciphering Meaning-Making and Agency through an Intersectional Approach**

*Swayamshree Mishra, Charumita Vasudev, Ankita Rathi, Jasmine Fledderjohann, Sukumar Vellakkal  
(Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India)*

This paper uses an intersectional perspective to problematize extant understandings of agency in the context of childhood studies. We draw on experiences and data from fieldwork in the Indian states of Goa and Uttar Pradesh in December 2022-March 2023 to illustrate the ethical nuances and methodological challenges of conducting participatory research with children. We argue that in order to delve into the intricate implications of children's agency, it is essential to acknowledge and theorize their differential social positioning. Not taking into account the heterogeneity of experiences and socio-cultural contexts that shapes children's meaning-making of their everyday grossly undermines the lived realities of children, particularly belonging to the marginalised sections. We use an intersectional lens to delve into the lives of children from diverse backgrounds (shaped by multiple axis of social power), as they shared bits and pieces of their lives, while answering questions on food, hunger, labour, education, and aspirations.

### **Child Rights Monitoring: Navigating Past Crises and Building Resilience**

*Peace Tetteh  
(Department of Sociology, University of Ghana)*

Child rights monitoring (CRM) in the Global South is one area that has not been spared the impact of Covid-19 as well as the many emerging crises resulting from conflicts and other emergencies in the region. In Ghana, the already relatively challenged process of monitoring children's rights was further threatened and challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic, exacerbating the conditions, rights, and wellbeing of many children. Though efforts are being made by institutions working with children to gain some lost grounds in relation to children's rights, the gains being made, seem to consistently be under threat by the emerging and fluid conflict situations in many parts of the country. This presentation



interrogates the ways in which fluid security situations consistently undermine CRM efforts. It explores pathways to building resilience to navigate past crises, to building robust institutions to ensure child safety and protection in these times of persistent fluidity. Drawing on key informants' interviews and participants feedback forms at training sessions held for officers of some institutions responsible for CRM in Ghana, this presentation posits that institutions responsible for CRM need capacity training and enhancement, resources, and inter-agency collaboration to build the resilience needed to protect and ensure children's rights through monitoring into the future.

### **Exploring the Potential of Worldviews in Researching Childhoods and Families: A Case of Sufism as a Research Framework**

*Hamide Elif Uzumcu*  
(University of Padua, Italy)

This paper seeks to explore an innovative use of Sufism as a research procedure in the context of childhood and family studies. As scholars continue to seek holistic and culturally sensitive approaches to understanding the heterogeneous experiences of children, young people and parents, Sufism may be revisited as a promising framework that offers a relational approach and a set of concepts that can coherently guide the research process. The study aims to investigate how Sufism's core principles can be harnessed as a research procedure to engage children and families in meaningful dialogue about their experiences, values and viewpoints. Drawing on a preliminary and exploratory review of literature, it examines how Sufi-inspired practices, such as storytelling, and exchange of reflections (sohbat), contemplation (tafakkur) can create inclusive spaces for children and parents to express themselves as agents and to navigate power hierarchies. It particularly raises the notion of tawhid to study interdependencies in human and non-human relationships, making use of Sufism's approach to dualities and pluralities and developing an inclusive perspective towards generalisations and particularisations in the study of global childhoods. This paper aims to contribute to interbelief dialogues as a response to an anti-Islamic climate in Northern Europe, highlighting the transformative potential of Sufism as a research procedure/framework in interdisciplinary childhood and family studies. Moreover, it invites to think of further indigenous worldviews in terms of what we can learn from them in developing research with children and families, particularly in contemporary times of environmental crises and unprecedentedly swift social changes.

### **A Disruption to Poverty Paradigms: 'Emotionalism' and the Shaping of Women's Lives**

*Suzanne Butler*  
(Newcastle University)

This study amplifies the voices of women who have grown up poor, to legitimise their experiences in the context of a profusion of literature, research, and rhetoric which endeavours to speak on their behalf. It was developed as a conceptual framework that situates women as emotional and agentic decision-makers within the overwhelmingly structural and causal context of extant poverty literature, and in opposition to pathologised and blame-laden popular discourse. Through life-history narrative interviews and journaling, I have worked with a small group of women who have childhood histories of poverty.

These women have encountered the structural, material, and discursive actualities of poverty; however, the way they have experienced these differ. Moreover, as agentic but marginalised human beings, the nuances of these experiences should be foregrounded to develop understandings of how their encounters with poverty contribute to, or conflict with, poverty as a wider structural phenomenon beyond the narratives of blame and responsabilisation. Through this study I have developed the concept of what I term Emotionalism, which I propose as a practice, or praxis, and the act of emotional decision-making that shapes women's lives. By understanding the ways in which women are limited by, or leverage, their internal and external resources through emotional decision-making, we can move beyond current understandings of poverty as a constraining force and put policies and infrastructure in place to support this often-difficult struggle.

## Medicine, Health & Illness - Room 7

### **Statistically Oriented Practice: The Impact of China's Healthcare Payment Reform on Professional Practice**

*Xinjing Tan*  
(*Minzu University of China*)

The raging of COVID-19 pandemic has led to a rapid reduction in the amount of China Healthcare Security funds. Thus DIP (Big Data Diagnosis-Intervention Packet) payment aimed at controlling expense has replaced fee-for-service payment which prevailed in the past to become the main direction of healthcare security reform. Based on ethnographic researches on two hospitals in China, this article believes that the behaviors and relationships around the diagnosis-treatment process are reshaped by DIP payment supported by the logic of sample mean. Firstly, the clinical autonomy of physicians was supervised by DIP payment more stringently, and the logic of their diagnosis changed from professional logic to mathematical logic. Secondly, the authority of diagnostic decision was decentralized from older physicians with high title to middle-level physicians with lower title who were proficient in information technology and accumulated a wealth of clinical experience. Thirdly, the interaction between departments is not standardized, on the contrary, the vigilance between each other is further increasing, and physicians are more conservative when treating transfer patients. The reform of payment attempts to use rational tools to break down and simplify the diagnosis-treatment process, and in this context while indetermination in professional practices is more closely monitored, doctors can adjust colleague network to adapt to new work setting.

### **The Crisis after China's Elimination of Zero-COVID Policy: Struggling for Knowing the Emerging Outbreaks**

*Xu Liu*  
(*Goldsmiths, University of London*)

In light of a resurgence of the COVID-19 outbreak following China's cessation of the stringent 'Zero-COVID' policy (清零政策) at the close of 2022, this paper casts a spotlight on the ensuing infectious crisis and the corresponding societal navigation at the individual level. This research delves into the notable surge in COVID-19-related narrations across major Chinese social media platforms during this period, underlining digital platforms' pivotal role in shaping public understanding and response amidst the pervasive uncertainty and palpable fear. I conducted a detailed case study scrutinising the 'outbreak index' (疫情指数) of dominant internet platforms, exploring how the individuals' collective approach to perceiving the outbreak had constituted the struggle of producing the knowledge of infectious risks on their own. Concurrently, through interviews with residents from major cities—epicentres of the December 2022 peak—I analyse individual perceptions, coping mechanisms, and navigation strategies amidst the abrupt policy shift and the absence of government-led infection surveillance and restrictions. With the National Health Committee (国家卫健委) discontinuing regular PCR tests and ceasing the reporting of novel cases, the online narrations have become crucibles of the collective struggle, reflecting the public's desperate quest for credible transmission data and trustworthy prevention information. This investigation reveals that contrasting the 'Zero-COVID' epoch, the transmission of COVID-19 and the sudden shift of the government's control strategy have pitted individual 'self-care' strategies against a backdrop of widespread anxiety. In this context, individuals' narrations of symptoms, infectious risks, and treatment disseminated the struggle of reshaping the subjectivity of knowing the outbreak.

### **"Just simple little things": New Illness Worlds and Everyday Life with Long COVID**

*Sarah Akhtar Baz, Chao Fang, Jd Carpentieri, Laura Sheard*  
(*University of York, Health Sciences*)

There is an emerging wealth of studies into Long Covid (LC), a patient defined illness emerging during the COVID-19 pandemic, covering a range of topics including, barriers to accessing healthcare support, biographical disruption, existential crisis and strategies used to manage LC symptoms. Yet there is a lack of critical analysis of LC from a sociology of everyday life perspective. LC symptoms impact

people's everyday functioning, disrupt their daily activities, routines and taken-for-granted aspects of mundane everyday life. People have to adapt to and understand an unfamiliar uncertain reality and new illness worlds. This warrants further exploration. To understand the everyday realities of LC this paper will draw on findings from an ongoing qualitative longitudinal study where 80 people with LC were interviewed over three points in time (Autumn 2021-Spring 2023) (there was some attrition over time). The paper draws on interviews from the first two time points. The sample is diverse in regard to ethnicity, socio-economic status, age and health literacy. The paper employs James' (2014) conceptualisation of children understanding their social worlds by building a jigsaw puzzle to understand these everyday LC worlds and experiences. Interpretative themes which will be presented are 1) constructing new illness worlds, 2) disrupted worlds, 3) uncertain worlds. How can an exploration of the everyday help us understand the health crisis and continuing impacts of LC and COVID-19, and its wider implications?

### **Competing Candidacies during COVID-19 and the Paradoxical Place of Alcohol in Managing Risk and Pleasure during Crisis for Australian Women in Midlife**

*Kristen Foley, Belinda Lunnay, Paul R. Ward*

*(Centre for Public Health, Equity and Human Flourishing (Torrens University Australia))*

Modern knowledge about health and illness has provided fertile terrain for applying a sociological imagination to explore what populations (do not) think and do to 'stay well' in the midst of knowledge about health risks. Pandemic uncertainty has provided us further scope to examine how layers of crisis disrupt and re/constitute these processes.

Our work uses qualitative data collected during 2020 lockdowns to examine how new candidacies of health and risk emerged for SARS-COV-2 and the pandemic more broadly; as well as how these grazed against already-established candidacies around wellness/illness. The scaffold for this work was derived by collating 49 interview transcripts with Australian women aged 25-64 and positioned in different social classes per Bourdieusian logic.

Initially exploring the role/s of alcohol in daily life vis a vis riskiness for breast cancer, the pandemic opened a unique and incisive theoretical window to illuminate how sociological thinking about candidacy of health, illness and survival 'works' for women in different sociomaterial hierarchies - and during times of crisis. Our analytical attention to the texture of crisis in women's lives enabled us to: (1) sketch out the emotional timbre of pandemic uncertainty in which COVID-candidacy emerged; (2) elucidate the paradoxical role alcohol holds in different candidacies (i.e. wellness/survival or risk/pleasure); which in turn (3) enables exploration of how these candidacies competed with each other during COVID-19 living and (4) a relational theorisation of inter/dependencies between feeling at-risk and well during uncertain times.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 1 - Room 5**

### **Conceptualization of Integration about the Urban Migrants in China**

*Zihan Chen*

*(Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology, School of Social Policy, College of Social Science, University of Birmingham)*

In China, there is a unique population registration system- hukou system. It distinguishes Chinese individuals as "urban hukou" or "rural hukou" based on their family's work and birthplace (SCC, 2022; Cheng and Selden, 1994; Colas and Ge, 2019). There are number of internal migrants who are Chinese from one place in China towards to other Chinese cities and towns, becoming the urban migrants, referring to the internal migrants whose destinations are urban and hukou does not belong to their destinations. However, the hukou system and rapid urbanization also bring differentiation between local people and the outsider such as the unbalanced security system, biased employment policies and lack of acceptance by locals. (Cai and Chan, 2009; Fan, 2007; Wong, Li and Song., 2007). These become the barrier for the integration of urban migrants.

However, the meaning and usage of the terminology "integration" are different between western Europe and China because of the translation and introduction as well as national conditions and localization.

More debate is whether this term “integration” can be used in the context of Chinese urban migrants to express their desire to be part of their destination’s urban community. And some scholars argue that “inclusion” is more appropriate. In order to reduce misunderstandings in the application of terminology, it has necessity to explain and argue why uses this term “integration” in the context of China.

As a result, the author will tend to have the justification about the usage of integration and construct the conceptual framework in this article.

### **"Runology": Digital Community and Marginalized Lifestyle of Young Would-be Migrants in China**

*Jin Tian, Dai Xiaozhen*  
(Zhejiang University)

In 2022, at the most severe times of China's epidemic lockdown, an Internet meme called "Runology" (The Chinese pronunciation of the English word run which refers to the study of how to leave China and migrate to developed countries.) attracted public attention. Through cyberethnography of a non-public large-scale Runology digital community and year-long interviews with 26 community members with a high proportion of sexual minorities, this article elaborates a new variant of “would-be migrants” (Xiang, 2014).

On the one hand, young would-be migrants cannot easily choose their nationality as wealthy people do due to their low socioeconomic capital. Being dormant, staying low-key and leading a marginalized life discrete from mainstream values for years, they prepare for migrating overseas to the extent that their present lifestyles are significantly changed.

On the other hand, being well-educated and having high cultural capital, the new would-be migrants are driven mainly by indignation against the covert and pervasive capillary power invasion of the current regime, and the pursuit of a more democratic and inclusive society. They are willing to learn new skills like programming or downgrade academic qualifications to ensure a successful migration, during which a digital community was formed to actively seek information and share experience. In the absence of free speech on the Internet in China, would-be migrants also gather to share negative news covered up by officials with each other, which continues to strengthen their willingness to exit and suppress the possibility of voice.

### **“It’s not that simple”: Black Christian Migrant Women and Intimate Partner Violence**

*Gabriella Mwedzi*  
(Newcastle University)

This paper aims to share the initial findings of my PhD study and offer a critical analysis of the multiple forms of oppression that Black Christian migrant women experience that create spaces where intimate partner violence can go undetected and unchallenged. Black Christian migrant women demonstrated high levels of knowledge regarding the impact of migration on their everyday lives and their role as the ‘other’ both in private and public spheres; this understanding often led to them sympathising with perpetrators of intimate partner violence and discouraging what they considered secular interventions. Yet, this paper suggests that this finding is just the tip of the iceberg and does in no way suggest that migrant Christian communities are closed off to secular and government organisations, but rather race, migration and Christianity play a crucial role in fostering a culture of silence – a culture of silence that benefits racist, anti-black, and anti-migrant political agendas.

Yet, researching the crisis of violence against women in intimate relationships has sometimes failed to acknowledge the lived experience of women from migrant and religious communities. The experiences of these women are vital as recent developments in British politics have seen the demonisation of migrants and those with strong religious affiliations. Research that does exist on the experience of migrant women and intimate partner violence has primarily focused on the South Asian community, and much less is known about the experiences of Black Christian migrant women.

## **Unveiling Migration Push Factors in MENA: Religious Identity and Freedom Perceptions**

*Ayse Perihan Kirkic, Qing Lai*  
(Florida International University)

This research focuses on the push factors in the decision-making processes of citizens who want to migrate from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Existing literature predominantly focuses on political and economic inconsistencies within MENA countries as the primary push factors. However, this study investigates the role of religious identity and participants' opinions on home countries' safeguarding of freedoms (freedom of expression and elections) in migration decision-making. We conducted an analysis using data from the Arab Opinion Index between 2019 to 2020. This dataset covers nine countries in the MENA region and takes into account a range of factors, including gender, education level, household economic status, age, residential area, religious affiliation, and individuals' perspectives on how their home country upholds social and political freedoms. We argue that individuals' religious identity and their perceptions of safeguarding the freedoms of their home country significantly influence their migration decision-making process. Our findings show that individuals who identify as being less religious, have fewer religious contacts in their social circle, and believe that their freedoms are not safeguarded by their home country are more inclined to consider migration as an option. This study offers a thorough comprehension of the complex dynamics driving migration decisions in the MENA region by expanding the scope of push factors to include the impact of religious identity and the protection of freedoms within the home country. These findings contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of migration dynamics from the Global South and offer policymakers and stakeholders crucial insights for formulating evidence-based strategies to address the intricate push factors that drive migration.

## **Race, Ethnicity & Migration 2 - Room 9**

### **Comparing Putin's Russia to Late Stalin's USSR: Lessons for Modern Relocants from Post-World War II Voluntary Resettlers**

*Aleksandra Salatova*  
(Sakhalin State University)

Since February 2022, Russia has experienced a significant and yet unquantified increase in migration. However, it is worth noting that historical instances of migration within Russia occurred during previous decades, including the 1920s, 1940s, and 1990s. In my research, which utilizes archival data on voluntary internal migration during the Late Stalinist era in the USSR, as well as contemporary migration data post-February 2022, I explore the salient lessons that can be derived from historical migration experiences, benefiting modern resettles.

By answering my own question, I focus on the following points:

1. **Social and Living Conditions:** The experience of voluntary resettles from historical contexts underscore the significance of analyzing social and living conditions in the context of migration. Modern resettles can draw pertinent lessons from the past to navigate analogous challenges, including access to healthcare, education, and basic services within their new residential environments.
2. **Policy and Advocacy:** A comprehensive understanding of the challenges faced by past resettles can serve as a foundation for shaping policy discussions on contemporary resettlement. This historical perspective can inform initiatives aimed at enhancing living conditions and support systems for modern resettles.
3. **Return Migration:** The recognition of elevated rates of return migration among post-war resettles accentuates the pivotal role played by social and living conditions in influencing migration decisions. This knowledge can empower modern resettles to make informed choices regarding their own migration endeavors, considering the impact of living conditions on their long-term settlement plans.

## **Echoes of Inception: The Lingering Impact of Historical Mobilising Structures on Diaspora Mobilisation**

*Juliette Saetre*  
(*European University Institute*)

This paper investigates the influence of diaspora formation characteristics on diaspora mobilisation. While previous research has studied diaspora mobilisation through a synchronic approach, looking at the impact of political opportunities and mobilising structures on readiness to mobilise at a given point in time, I argue for the value of a diachronic approach, emphasising the enduring influence of initial diaspora formation characteristics on mobilisation propensities. I develop this argument through a comparative study of the Argentine, Chilean and Peruvian diasporas, highlighting the unique mobilisation of the Chilean diaspora on a transnational scale amidst the analogous historical backdrop of dictatorships during the 1970s. This distinctive mobilisation is attributed to the creation of transnational activist networks and a unifying frame during the diaspora's formation—elements lacking in the Argentinean and Peruvian cases. Focusing on the Chilean diaspora, I then show how the established networks and cohesive frames were crucial to remobilisation in 2019, underscoring the lingering impact of initial mobilisation disparities on diaspora mobilisation opportunities today. In essence, this paper contributes to our understanding of diaspora mobilisation by emphasising the need to consider the long-lasting impacts of mobilising structures formed during diaspora inception. By adopting a diachronic approach, it departs from prevailing studies that focus primarily on ongoing or isolated mobilisation efforts—and offers new insights into the dynamics that drive transnational political action.

## **"I know that story- but it feels like a remix!" BBC Radio News and the Language of Race in Post-WWII Britain**

*Sylvie Carlos*  
(*Birkbeck, University of London*)

This presentation offers a preliminary glimpse into the British Academy-funded research project, which delves into the fascinating evolution of language used in reporting on post-war Black and Black-British migration experiences within the BBC Home Service and its successor, Radio Four. The project takes a multifaceted approach by not only examining historical narratives but also actively involving generations of the public from African and Caribbean backgrounds in shaping contemporary perspectives through the medium of podcasting.

Central to our research is the invaluable resource of the recently digitized collection of 165,000 radio news scripts from the BBC Home Service/Radio Four.

The presentation will primarily focus on one critical aspect of the research:

Exploring Linguistic Evolution: I will delve into the linguistic changes and shifts in terminology used by the BBC to report on post-war Black migration. This linguistic analysis will offer insights into how language has evolved, reflecting changes in societal attitudes and norms over the decades.

By shedding light on the evolving language of migration reporting and involving diverse voices, our project contributes to understanding how media shapes perceptions of identity, belonging, and migration experiences in post-war Britain.

## **Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10**

### **Intelligence Gathering System and Community Policing in Nigeria**

*Aminu Musa Audu*  
(*University of Liverpool UK*)

Nigeria is a country with a population of over two hundred million people of diverse ethnic and religious practices and persuasions. Although security of lives and property of citizens remains one of the most desired commodities, there is however a high perception of crime problems such as kidnappings, armed robbery, inter-communal crises, insurgency, terrorism, corruption, and rape in Nigeria. Whilst

intelligence gathering is considered an important tool to collect information and build knowledge of potential threats to the country, the security providers are largely perceived by the public as engaging in various forms of brutality and the abuse of fundamental human rights. Consequently, the security agents are believed to have lost the required trust, credibility, public image, and intelligence communications mechanism to meet up their constitutional functions of crime prevention and the maintenance of social order.

In that context, the Nigerian government announced the adoption of community policing with inaugural funding of 13.3 billion Naira (£26 million) in 2020 to promote robust police relationship with the public. However, whilst community policing is central to intelligence gathering system, the desired goal cannot be achieved without building the underlining socio-cultural environment. This paper suggests promotion of Community Policing doctrine through enabling socialisation patterns in Nigeria.

This paper derived its source from Ochamalienwu Theory proposed in my recent book *Police Corruption and Community Policing in Nigeria a Sociological Case Study*.

### **Unpacking Risk: Exploring s.810 Peace Bonds**

*Devin Pratchler*  
(University of Saskatchewan)

Section 810 peace bonds have come to supplant other forms of community supervision (i.e. parole) for high-risk offenders in Canada. A peace bond is, quite simply, an agreement to keep the peace in the community. This agreement is often accompanied by release conditions intended to curb future harm caused by those deemed likely to (re)offend—even if they have not committed a substantive offence. Through peace bonds, local police have become deputized to screen and surveil people released from prison who would otherwise be unmonitored in the community. Although peace bonds are central to the lived experiences of justice-involved peoples in Canada; only a handful of studies have taken them up within the literature, predominantly through a socio-legal or psychological lens.

This study, through a discourse analysis of a 10-year dataset from a local police service, contributes to the literature on peace bonds by providing an analysis of the 810 process that is grounded in cutting-edge data. This analysis demonstrates how institutional norms and technologies shape the work of officers. Additionally, a series of semi-structured interviews are to be conducted with officers at the Saskatoon Police Service. Preliminary research suggests that, despite the centrality of 810s, the screening process is far from standardized throughout Canada. This fragmentation calls into question the objectivity of the “risks” and “fears” that underpin peace bonds. This work addresses the gap in the literature by spotlighting the use of peace bonds on a local level and, consequently, prompting community discussions about their use.

### **Coercive Rehabilitation or Therapeutic Control: Reproducing Social Disadvantages in Policing People who use drugs**

*Apei Song*  
(University of New South Wales)

The recent shift in Chinese drug governance towards rehabilitation has authorized the police with the discretionary power of diverting drug users to therapeutic programs. While extant research has probed how this policy change affects drug recidivism rates, little attention has been directed to the way in which the police’s drug enforcement practices shape drug users’ experience and the meaning-making of their interactions with police officers. Drawing on interview data from Xiamen, we examine how police officers exercise their discretionary power in addressing drug users and how their practices further reinforce the disadvantages of drug users in China. The analysis shows that when implementing rehabilitative programs, police officers face the dilemma between benevolent treatment and coercive control, necessitating a braiding and reconciliation of the two competing logics in their daily drug enforcement practices. This infusion of two action logics emerges as what we term “coercive rehabilitation” or “therapeutic control” within policing drug users. In addition, we demonstrate that the processes of drug policing, along with their organizational and political contexts, exacerbate drug users’ disadvantageous conditions. We conclude with policy suggestions for truly accomplishing rehabilitative goals in contemporary Chinese drug governance.

## Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8

### **Coloured Classes: Analysing Limeños' Representations of Class and Race**

*Mauricio Renteria Gonzales*  
(University of Manchester)

This article focuses on the interrelationships of Limeños' understandings of class and race: how they shape one another in the imaginary and within broader social narratives of difference. Drawing from the comments, qualifications, and judgements on privilege and disadvantage of a sample of respondents from Lima, this article accounts for how class and racial boundaries are routinely established and contested. Furthermore, this shows that to understand how these divisions intersect, we must scrutinise how their hierarchical and oppositional structure manifests and combines in different domains. These range from markers of physicality and embodied dispositions to economic, educational, and territorial inequalities. Additionally, this article shows how this classed and racial imaginary order is continually contested by competing narratives around racial and ethnic difference and homogeneity: 'Peruvian authenticity', 'Progress', 'Mestizaje', and 'Diversity'. The central argument of this article is that far from considering them discrete forms of inequalities, Limeños' understandings of class and race continually intersect and shape one another in a way that makes it virtually impossible to isolate their mutual connotations within discourse.

### **Hidden in Plain Sight: The Social Distribution of Differences in Environmental Risk Perception from the Perspective of Risk Society Theory**

*Shidong Yang*  
(School of Sociology and Population Studies, Renmin University of China)

Risk and risk perception are essential entry points for the discussion of modernity; both objective risk exposure and subjective risk perception are closely related to social inequalities. Based on CGSS (Chinese General Social Survey) 2013 data using multiple correspondence analysis and multiple regression analysis methods, this study examines how occupational stratification, one dimension less explored by existing scholarship, shapes the distribution of environmental risk perception among social classes in contemporary China, where the logic of wealth distribution is undergoing a shift towards the logic of risk distribution according to Beck's theory of Risk Society. The results indicate that individuals with higher occupational status tend to display a higher level of environmental risk perception compared to those with lower occupational status, which confirms the interweaving and homophily of environmental inequality and social inequalities. However, the results of multiple correspondence analysis and regression models illustrate that the relationship between social class and environmental risk perception is not a simple linear one, with the highest level of risk perception shared among the middle class, who possess a higher level of both environmental knowledge and concern compared to lower classes but fewer resources to resist the negative environmental impact compared to higher classes, indicating that environmental risk is to some extent a projection of societal risk. This study reveals that in contemporary China, while the logic of wealth distribution still affects and dominates the logic of risk distribution, the logic of risk distribution has its own particularity irreducible to that of wealth distribution.

## Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 12

### **Food, Education and Aspirations: An Intra-Household Narrative Analysis of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in India**

*Swayamshree Mishra, Ankita Rathi, Charumita Vasudev, Jasmine Fledderjohann, Sukumar Vellakkal*  
(Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India)

This paper uses narrative analysis to capture the perspectives of children and their families regarding the mid-day meal scheme (MDMS) in India, a program set to complete three decades in 2025. We reflect on the narratives of children and their families on food, nutrition, education, aspirations, and social mobility (with a particular focus on MDMS) to highlight the complicated interaction of individuals



and households with social protection schemes. We base our findings on primary semi-structured interview data with multiple members of 87 households in two states of India, Uttar Pradesh and Goa, conducted between December 2022 and March 2023. Observations from the field indicate that public perceptions of the MDMS extends beyond its role in achieving health and educational outcomes for its intended beneficiaries (in this case children). These perceptions are intricately entwined with household aspirations, identities, and the desire for social mobility varying across contexts, influenced by unique standpoints.

### **“You’re kicking a family out who have nowhere to go”: The Human Impact of Cornwall’s Housing Crisis**

*Mike Sheaff*  
(University of Plymouth)

With twenty thousand people on the waiting list for social housing in Cornwall, its Council spent £18.4 million on temporary accommodation for homeless people in 2022/23 – nearly double the £9.5 million paid two years previously.

This paper draws on a research project on the impact of freezing Local Housing Allowance in Cornwall, Plymouth and South Devon, funded by the University of Plymouth and conducted in collaboration with Citizens Advice. Here the focus is on one aspect: the housing crisis in Cornwall.

Experiences described by renters of private accommodation demonstrate its human impact: from a young single man who went from being homeless to living in a small caravan; a middle-aged couple who experienced an s21 (“no fault”) eviction; and a couple with two teenage children who fear this prospect for themselves.

In the words of two interviewees:

“They’re just landlords, they’re property people who are jumping on the bandwagon... They’re thinking, this is a better option to invest in at the moment, and once the rents start flattening out, and they start thinking, oh where’s the next opportunity?”

“You’ll go into places like Mousehole; lucky to see two or three lights on in the winter, ‘cos they’re all holiday homes, or AirBnB. AirBnB’s gone through the roof. Where we are... one, two, three... three houses opposite, all AirBnB’s.”

With a focus on giving expression to these experiences, comments are included on responses to this crisis, from local authorities, charities and protest groups.

### **Relegated to a Forgotten Status? Exploring University Students' Lived Realities in the Cost-of-Living Crisis**

*Vicki Dabrowski, Natalija Atas*  
(Liverpool Hope University)

The cost-of-living crisis is causing immense stress and hardship for families, individuals and communities. University students, notably affected, face a precarious position as support measures remain limited, potentially relegating them to a 'forgotten' status. Recent survey data details how the effects of the crisis are being felt across the student population (JRF, 2023) - experienced most strongly by students from marginalised and disadvantaged backgrounds. Since existing Government support packages tend to exclude students, it has been stated that students are turning to alternative means in an attempt to weather the storm.

While acknowledging the negative experiences of this group, there is a lack of data on their lived realities. To address this gap, this paper draws on empirical research conducted with university students in Liverpool during 2023. The study explores the diverse ways in which students navigate the crisis and the resultant impact on their educational experience. Interviews highlight that students' perspectives on the crisis are shaped by their lifelong experiences and the unique challenges that come with living in one of the most deprived regions of the UK. For these students, current hardship is not understood as a 'crisis' but a routine set of challenges habitual to their life experiences. The paper advocates for a more nuanced understanding of student experiences, considering the diverse realities they face amidst

this ongoing crisis. Ultimately, it concludes that while students constitute one of the groups most severely impacted by the crisis, their struggles are often overlooked and inadequately represented in political discourse.

## **Sociology of Education - Room 13**

### **Capturing the Real Costs of Care in the Classroom**

*Jenny Hewitt, Sarah-Jane Phelan, Dinah Rajak  
(University of Sussex)*

This paper offers a teacher-centred perspective on how teachers have navigated the tumultuous landscape of the pandemic, lockdowns, tier systems, and the complexities of the (post) Covid classroom, amid chaotic government policy, failures of governance and dwindling resources. With children's wellbeing a priority, the role of teaching staff and their own wellbeing and working conditions had taken second place, with any attempts to raise issues side-lined. We present findings from an HEIF1-funded research project conducted by the authors with teachers and heads in schools across East Sussex between May and November 2022. The project involved audio diaries recorded by teaching staff (combined with in-depth interviews) to capture first-hand their 'real-time' experiences and perspectives into in-class dynamics. We chronicle how the pressures of the pandemic shredded the moral economy of labour and care that make schools work, and highlight how primary places of education and nurture, became spaces of alienation and exploitation for those who work in them.

We reflect on what this tells us about the expectations for 'care' within the school environment, as funding and resources dwindle. We interrogate how teaching staff are expected to be arbiters of public health, social welfare, physical and psychological well-being, all the while shouldering all the risks of their new roles. What becomes clear is that this fusion of ever-growing responsibility with ever-greater constraint (even paralysis) is produced by the intensification of managerialist forms of audit and surveillance ushered in on the back of the pandemic.

### **Education in Times of Pandemic: From Contextualising to Positioning**

*Pallavi Sanil  
(Central University of Punjab, India)*

The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in educational access and attainment and has even made them more visible. Online learning during the pandemic did not compensate for a large number of children, especially among the socially and educationally disadvantaged. While many such children eventually fell behind their counterparts in regular study and reading ability due to online education, some also ended up dropping out of school to take up jobs to support their families to mitigate their pandemic-induced crisis. This paper explores the different nuances of educational inequality suffered by Dalits, a group that has historically faced severe social, economic, political and cultural discrimination. Data and information are collected from various reports prepared by the national and international agencies on the COVID-19 pandemic, journals and e-contents relating to the impact of COVID-19 on the educational system. Too much reliance on digital education creates new means of social exclusion, thus making space for a new class. While the provision of infrastructure and digital connectivity is important, digital inequality is an intersectional problem. Weberian Cultural Perspective focuses on how ownership and use of digital assets define an elite lifestyle thereby excluding others. The highest adult education in a household, caste, and also the primary source of income of household differentiates the digital ownership and use. Overall, digital ownership and usage are significantly different for different socio-economic groups in India.

## **Crisis, Continuity and Change: A Case Study on Taiwanese Community-based Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Education during the Pandemic-impacted Period**

*Tsung-Hung Su*

*(Department of Education Studies, University of Warwick)*

This qualitative research is assessment of equality, diversity, inclusion education to assist migrant workers' settling in Taiwan. Through an empirical analysis of a community-based adult education undertaken by a sample of non-naturalised migrant worker students, it critically engages with a Mandarin-based Confucius discourse pedagogy for equality, diversity, and inclusion. By doing so, it mainly explores the gaps between the expectations and realities of students attending the course. It also takes account of the impact of the pandemic, which shaped the nature of the education received by the students in fieldwork.

The research incorporates interviews with and observation of the course participants in assessing this education through curriculum design appraisal, classroom dynamics evaluation, and outcome-based feedback review, especially during the Covid-19 impacted period. The curriculum design appraisal doubts the pandemic-affected modules of local rituals without ethno-cultural and sexuality/gender equality, diversity, and inclusion. The classroom dynamics evaluation doubts the pandemic-impacted face-to-face or virtual classroom without equality, diversity, and inclusion amongst interpersonal communication. The outcome-based feedback review doubts the overall changing knowledge delivering without equality, diversity, and inclusion for Mandarin-based employability in economic migration.

This assessment of Mandarin-based equality, diversity, and inclusion education for a diverse group of migrant workers in Taiwan explores whether its practice brought a fair, varied, and welcoming experience for the course participants. It thus analyses the applied pedagogical development and constraints. Indeed, it sheds new light upon cultural/ritual differences experienced by the migratory students which, in turn, prompt new testimonies to equity, multiculturalism, and all-inclusion rather than marginalisation.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 - Room 14**

### **Healthcare Professionals' Ethical Challenges when Practising in a Digital Age**

*Tracey Adams, Kathleen Leslie, Sophia Myles*

*(Western University)*

The work of health professionals is changing; the pace of change has been accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, technological and workplace developments, shifting consumer demands, and workforce shortages. This context creates challenges for healthcare professionals, who can face demands for which their training has not entirely prepared them. Regulatory bodies find it difficult to keep codes of ethics and practice guidance sufficiently up-to-date in order to guide practitioners as they navigate this shifting terrain. This paper explores the ethical dilemmas experienced by health professionals in Ontario, Canada in response to changing workplace demands and new technology. Data come from focus groups with practitioners in regulated health professions, and interviews with a small sample of regulatory leaders, augmented by content analyses of codes of ethics, court cases, and practice guidance documents. The research is guided by neo-Weberian and new institutionalist frameworks to explore how professionals' decision-making is shaped by organizational logics and technical, formal, and value rationality. Findings suggest that some regulators are have had more success than others in providing guidance and altering codes of ethics to help workers navigate changes; however, as the implications of some workplace and technological changes (for example, expanding use of artificial intelligence) are hard to predict, there are gaps in the supports provided to practitioners. Participants voiced concerns about these gaps and resulting ethical dilemmas that had implications for their ability to meet their fiduciary obligations. Employers may provide some guidance, but at times they can exacerbate ethical dilemmas rather than alleviating them.

## **An Exploration of Nurses' Perceptions and Experience of Engagement with the Nursing and Midwifery Council Revalidation Approach of Professional Regulation during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Joanne Harrison  
(University of Nottingham)*

Research objectives:

- To highlight nurses' understanding of professional regulation.
- To gain understanding of nurse's perceptions and experiences of the current United Kingdom (UK) Nursing Midwifery Council (NMC) revalidation process, in relation to the neo-Weberian concepts of social closure and power.
- To understand how nurses engaged in revalidation during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Summary of background and rationale:

NMC revalidation was explored in comparison to medicines more mature system. Limited studies on the NMC revalidation approach have been undertaken when compared to medicine. Therefore, there was merit in exploring nurses' views and experiences of revalidation as a regulatory process in relation to effects on professional work. Data collection was undertaken during the COVID-19 pandemic and nurses described their experiences in meeting their revalidation requirements during this time of global challenge.

Proposed research design and proposed methodology:

Research design incorporated an interpretivist philosophical standpoint, utilising social constructionism methodology. A neo-Weberian lens from the sociology of the professions provided the study's framework. Twitter promotion sought participants and with purposive sampling, the inclusion criteria was noted as nurses registered with the NMC and have undergone at least one cycle of revalidation. Data collection used semi structured Microsoft Teams interviews.

Early findings:

Nurses engaged with revalidation as a professional project (Larson, 1977) activity in order to maintain their licence to practice (Hughes, 1958). In the absence of organisational support, nurses used their agency to create permissive spaces for revalidation evidence preparation.

## **Workforce Crisis in Social Care: Stakeholder Views on Policy Reforms**

*Erika Kispeter  
(London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)*

Staff shortages in the social care sector are often described as a workforce crisis. As the workforce shortages were exacerbated by the shocks of the UK leaving the European Union and the Covid-19 pandemic, the social care workforce became more 'visible' in public debates. However, the body of sociological research that is focused specifically on the social care workforce is still emerging.

This paper discusses findings from a study on how stakeholders view policy reforms as drivers of social care workforce change and the implications of these reforms for the care workforce.

Following a review of the academic and grey literature, the research team organised a series of events to engage with a wide range of stakeholders from the UK's four nations, representing local authority social services, social care employers, trade unions, people drawing on social care and informal carers. At the roundtable discussions and prioritisation workshop participants analysed the impact of past and present policy reforms on the workforce, while at the innovative foresight exercise they outlined possible future scenarios.

We found that while the literature was focused on specific social care policy reforms, e.g., professionalisation and the integration of health and social care, study participants argued that legislation on employment and international migration were more important in shaping the paid work of social care. Stakeholders also emphasised that reforms to ensure long-term and sustainable funding of social care would be the most important to the workforce and the social care sector as a whole.

## **Can Workforce Innovation Contribute to the Resilience of the Social Care System in Crisis Times? Evidence from the UK**

*Serena Vicario, Nadia Brookes*

*(University of Kent, Centre for Health Services Studies; ESCR Centre for Care)*

Innovation is often considered as a means to solve the pressing problems public services face. Recently the contemporary crisis faced by the social care system has increased interest in innovation in this area. Social care is a labour-intensive sector, and having an effective and efficient workforce is essential to supporting people to have choice, control and independence. Therefore, the workforce is a key player in whether the system can express resilience and deliver its objectives. Resilience is the capacity of people, practices and processes to persist, adapt or transform, to sustain themselves and cope with the challenges they face (Hall & Lamont, 2013; Haider et al., 2023). This paper addresses the questions: to what extent does workforce innovation contribute to the resilience of the social care system? What is the nature of that contribution? Data were collected through interviews and documentary review to formulate four case studies of workforce innovations. These innovations were selected through a bibliographic indicator, internet search and consultation. The innovations focused on workforce training, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, care work promotion, new job profiles. Preliminary data analysis examines contextual challenges and innovation objectives, elements of persistence, adaptation or transformation involved in innovation. Presenting our findings, we will discuss whether there is and should be a future for innovation in social care, and the role that workforce plays in system resilience. We will also present our argument that innovation needs to align with new ideas that most likely contribute to system persistence and adaptation, rather than transformation.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 - Room 15**

### **Negotiating Power through Gift-Giving: Labor Control and Resistance in Informal Trade Brokerage in China**

*Man Xu*

*(University of Toronto)*

Research on interactive service work contends that the triangular power relations between workers, employers, and clients shape labor control strategies and workers' discretion and resistance. However, much of this research focuses on labor processes within formal work settings. Very few studies examine how the service triangle is configured in informal work, where the accomplishment of labor activities relies on personal ties forged beyond a stable workplace. As such, extant literature neglects how the negotiation of boundaries between, and the meanings of work/personal relationships serves as a crucial mechanism that shapes labor control and resistance, and how power may be exerted not only through surveillance and ideological control, but also through the cultivation of reciprocal relationships. This research fills this gap by examining the labor process in the informal trade brokerage business in China which assists international wholesalers in the importing of small commodities from China. In trade companies, employers control access to clients, yet this control is threatened by employees, who develop close relationships with clients through frequent interactions at work. Drawing on the theory of relational work, I show how employers obfuscate labor control by cultivating mentorship relations with workers, and how workers utilize the rhetoric of learning to negotiate their relationship with clients and bosses. Moreover, I investigate how employees deploy relational work to establish moral bases for two labor resistance strategies - taking kickbacks from suppliers, and poaching clients.

### **Resistance through Bargaining: The Case of Dalit Women Agricultural Labourers in Rural North India**

*Komal Chauhan*

*(London School of Economics and Political Science)*

This paper investigates the evolving caste dynamics in Western Uttar Pradesh, with a specific focus on the heightened political consciousness among Dalits and the altering economic structure. Despite

traditional authority structures waning, Dalits, especially Dalit women, continue to grapple with socio-economic disadvantages. Drawing upon ethnographic research conducted in Muzaffarnagar district, this study delves into the daily political manoeuvres of Dalit women working in agriculture within the framework of a capitalist agrarian system deeply rooted in caste and patriarchy. In contrast to overt and conspicuous forms of resistance, this research scrutinizes the subtler strategies of resistance, characterizing them as a 'politics of bargaining.' Dalit women engage in ongoing negotiations with upper-caste landowners to assert their rights and challenge the prevailing oppressive norms. Given the limited opportunities for migration and the constraints imposed by patriarchal norms on their participation in the labor market, these negotiations become a crucial avenue for them to confront oppression on a day-to-day basis. The non-confrontational nature of this bargaining process, primarily centered on labor relations intricately linked with caste, poses a challenge to established norms. While it may not completely upend the existing power dynamics, it subtly reshapes them, facilitating incremental and progressive social change. Despite not heralding revolutionary upheaval, these negotiations entail a persistent struggle for access to material resources and a quest for social recognition, making them inherently political in nature

### **Politicizing Social Enterprise Practice: More than Neoliberal Explanations of the Crisis of Postcolonial Development**

*Vrinda Chopra*  
(Ashoka University)

Critical scholarship sees social enterprises as neoliberal entities responsible for the crisis of depoliticization of development and social change. Resorting to arguments of neoliberalism and depoliticization of development, however, hides the contradictions of social enterprises. In this paper, responding to the crisis of depoliticization of development, I aim to politicize social enterprises to analyze their limits and possibilities in addressing postcolonial development challenges of inequality and marginalization. To politicize social enterprises, I map their location within the political economy of India and South Africa, focusing on their emergence and growth in discourse and practice as catalysts of social change. In doing so, the paper considers the current conjuncture of rising unemployment in the informal economy and deepening inequalities in India and South Africa between the formal and informal economy, questioning whether explanations of neoliberal hegemony and depoliticization are adequate responses to issues of unemployment and inequality.

The paper relies on ethnographic research on social enterprises functioning as intermediaries for addressing unemployment in the informal economy in India and South Africa. Based on the empirical evidence, the paper argues that universalizing social enterprises as neoliberal entities oversimplifies the understanding of such interventions and reifies the depoliticization discourse. It shows that contemporary development challenges are part of significantly distinct spatial and temporal contexts, and critical frames of neoliberal hegemony and depoliticization are no longer adequate to explain the crises of social change in postcolonial economies.

### **The Anatomy of Power: A Bourdieusian Perspective on the Role of Leaders in Managing Capital Flows in Firm-Stakeholder Relationships**

*Karina Pavlisa, Karina Pavlisa, Will Harvey*  
(University of Bristol)

The crisis of capitalism and the neoliberal models of leadership, with their key focus on shareholder value, led to growing inequality gaps and increasingly unequal distribution of risk in the global society. Stemming from the organizational level, the persistent challenges of managing stakeholder relationships in a fair, reciprocal manner inspired the public statements on stakeholder capitalism made by influential business groups such as the Business Roundtable and the World Economic Forum. These challenges call for new paradigms in value co-creation, better models based on fairness and a new view of leadership. Recognizing the vast potential of sociology in offering powerful analytical tools and the theoretical renderings of the process to discuss change, we rely on Pierre Bourdieu's theory to conceptualize the reciprocal relationships in the firm-stakeholder nexus. Employing the idea of multiple forms of capital, the concepts of habitus and field as well as the homology principle, we develop a process model to conceptualize the objective reality in the firm-stakeholder nexus and envision the role of a leader in managing the flows of capital, in the multiplicity of its forms. Building upon the ideas of Bourdieu's Principles of Economic Anthropology that envisions the social space of the economic field,

we develop an intuitive and practical analytical instrument in stakeholder management that captures the complexity of the firm-stakeholder nexus at a suitable level of abstraction and offers a sound theory-informed basis for reflexive analysis for leaders. Our work offers a theoretical contribution to organizational sociology with implications for understanding responsible leadership.

# BSA Publishing Special Event

## 13:15 - 14:15

### **Publishing your Work: Insights from BSA Journal Editors**

#### **Sociology and Work, Employment & Society Journals**

*Laurie Cohen, Vicki Harman, Marek Korczynski, Robert Meadows*

*(Editors in Chief of Sociology and Work, Employment & Society)*

BSA Editors from our flagship journals **Sociology** and **Work, Employment and Society** will give an overview of their journals and insights into the publishing process. We'll discuss key elements distinguishing papers that are accepted for publication from papers that are rejected. There will be plenty of space for questions and observations from people attending.

Join Vicki Harman and Rob Meadows from Sociology and Laurie Cohen and Marek Korczynski from WES for details on getting your work published.



# Paper Session 3

## 14:30 - 16:00

### Cities, Mobilities, Place and Space - Room 1

#### Urban Crises in the Era of the Capitalocene

*David Byrne*  
(Durham University)

Urban systems globally are facing a set of interwoven crises - the plural is important. Front and centre is impending climate catastrophe but that is interwoven with other systems in a crisis state. These include urban fiscal systems, urban inequality especially in relation to housing, health and care systems including public health without which urban life is not possible, and the dominance of planning systems by real estate capital. Alongside these is a crisis in democratic legitimacy in the governance of urban systems. The world is now majority urbanized, a change of kind in terms of the global socio-ecological system. This presentation will draw on how a complex realist framework approach can inform our understanding of these issues AND enable us to develop scenarios for good future states of urban systems. The presentation will draw on empirical descriptions and accounts of urban crisis from both high and high middle income countries and on material relating to cities in low and low middle income states in Africa. The focus will be on how a complex realist framework for understanding the potential trajectories available in the possibility space for urban systems in the 21st Century can help us to develop scenarios with both key governance actors and elements in civil society in order to achieve good system states. Reference will be made to the value of near future Science Fiction in doing this.

#### Urban-Rural Divide in the Life Course Trajectory of Left-Behind Children in China

*Melody Zhang*  
(University of Manchester)

This research concerns the social and cultural challenges for left-behind children (LBC) in China. The prevailing economic growth and urbanisation since 1980s have served as direct catalysts for the persistent and widening disparities between urban and rural areas, consequently giving rise to LBC-related issues. In this study, we collected interview data with 15 rural LBC and 18 urban LBC. All participants were atypical and 'successful' LBC because they all went to university, while the overall HE participation rate was only 17.8% in 2020 in China (OECD, 2020). Despite the fact that all our sample of LBC went to university, rural LBC framed their university path as the payoff of "hard work", whereas urban LBC benefited from more information about university and ranking at urban schools. This means that it is necessary to consider the cultural dimension of space and mobility when exploring LBC's educational trajectories.

We argue that Bourdieu's field theory – focusing on different cultural logics in various social spaces – is useful to explain the cultural differences between urban and rural LBC. The differentiation of educational trajectories between urban and rural LBC lies in the family value on education. Rural families followed the cultural logic of the accomplishment of growth, whereas urban parents followed the cultural logic of concerted cultivation, actively involving their children's educational choices (Lareau, 2003). We conclude that the urban-rural divide of LBC is not only material differences, but also the invisible cultural barriers in the social space between urban and rural areas.

## Culture, Media, Sport & Food- Room 2

### **Using a Feminism Paradigm to Understand the Domestic Food Consumption in the Neoliberal Context**

*Junyi Wang*  
(University of Sheffield)

With a feminist intersectionality analytical framework, this study focuses on mundane food grocery shopping experiences to understand precarious everyday life in the neoliberal context. Specifically, this study examines the workings of femininity and masculinity and how they interact with racism, class exploitation, and neoliberalism to shape the lived experience of domestic food consumption. To inform the research on food poverty and domestic consumption practices in austere cities, this paper makes a comparative study of the lived experience of Chinese middle-class groups in two different contexts, the UK and China. With a narrative approach, this study also creates space for the storytelling of ordinary households to highlight the mundane and routine aspects of living with neoliberalism. The research findings uncover two interrelated aspects of neoliberalism: the practice of individualization in everyday life and the urban food system built on neoliberalism's agricultural revolution. Based on practice theory, individualization could be explained by the doing, feeling, and knowledge of household food provision practices. With a gender lens, I will focus on the gendered pattern of daily eating routine, the decision-making process, the management of food grocery shopping and other routine practices, the emotional aspects of engaging in eating and shopping, and the influence of social media in daily food shopping choices. Drawing upon the intersectionality concept, I will examine the individualisation process of food risks such as food safety issues and food shortages encountered in daily food consumption and relate it to neoliberalism practices such as the deregulation of the agriculture sector.

### **A Grain of Wheat: Changes in the Social Function of Food and the Reality of Encounters, Using a Field Observation in a Co-operative in China as an Example**

*Siyu Kang*  
(College of Humanities and Development Studies, China Agricultural University)

A tiny grain of food implicitly affects a country's national history and social reality. In China, the people who suffered from war and famine in the last century endlessly asked the question of "what to eat", and the lack of food accelerated the unnatural deaths of members; in this century, the people are faced with the question of "how to eat", that is, how to achieve a stable supply of food and profit from food production and food trading; however, there is a clear new shift - extreme weather and instability have led to a reflection on the "why we eat", i.e., on the ultimate purpose and social significance of food. The author will focus on the Guanzhong region of Shaanxi Province. Using a co-operative in Guanzhong, Shaanxi Province as a case study, the author will write about how food is produced and traded based on personal experience and observation, and use food narratives and food trading as a framework for outlining the changes in food prices, markets, etc. under climate change, while at the same time sharing two practices of food in the shift from "tool" to "meaning" to complete the mission-like outline of a grain of food. At the same time, the author will share two practices of food, which will complete the mission-like outline of a grain.

## Environment & Society - Room 3

### **Carnism Feeds the Crisis: Vegansexuality, Creating a Climate for Change**

*Megan Todd*  
(University of Central Lancashire)

The Covid-19 pandemic has driven many to consider our relationship with the planet and the other sentient beings we share it with. Many are of the opinion that we are in the midst of the Anthropocene and Sixth Mass Extinction (Moore, 2016; Wagner et al., 2021), meaning that finding a way to mitigate against, or lessen the impact of, future crises, meeting our political and economic needs without harming the environment, has never been more urgent. The case for climate veganism has been made convincingly, with various studies showing that adopting a plant-based diet is the single biggest way to

reduce our environmental impact. Vegan feminists have argued that there is a link between eating meat and gender inequality; that the exploitation and objectification of animals as 'meat', parallels the oppression of women by men (Adams, 2010). Less has, to date, been made of the ways in which meat-free sex or intimate relationships can combat environmental devastation. This paper, therefore, looks at the ways in which challenges to normative gendered sexualities, in particular vegan intimacies, are an essential counter to violent suppression and climate devastation.

### **Reimagining Vulnerability: How Repeated Disasters and Existing Gender Dynamics Shape the Lives of Flood Affected Riverine Communities**

*Ranjita Dilraj*  
(National University of Singapore)

This research aims to explore the impact of repeated disasters, specifically annual monsoon flooding, on riverine communities. Repetitive disasters challenge the notion of disasters as sudden, one-time events and expose the underlying structural issues that affect communities. Building on existing literature that view disasters as "revelatory crises" that exposes societal practices and socio-cultural aspects, this study analyses how scale of disasters, temporal variations and socio-cultural factors like gender dynamics intersect to influence community experiences and responses to annual floods allowing us to reimagine vulnerability.

While flood affected riverine communities are identified as vulnerable by the local government and policy makers due to their exposure to floods, the communities' continuous response and adaptive mechanisms allows us to explore the coexistence of both vulnerability and resilience within communities.

Based on ethnographic research looking at repetitive annual floods, the study highlights that communities are dynamic entities shaped by the interactions within and outside households. Particularly noteworthy are the coping mechanisms of women from riverine communities, who actively participate in local self-groups. These women demonstrate both short and long-term strategies, showcasing their efforts to sustain resistance beyond the flood season. This research illuminates how the very existence of riverine communities in flood affected areas and their negotiations with daily life is an act of defiance indicating the intricate coexistence of vulnerability and resilience in the face of repetitive disasters.

## **Lifecourse - Room 6**

### **Intergenerational Relations in an Ageing Society: Observations of Higher Education Students' Understandings of 'Old Age' Under the COVID-19 Pandemic in Hong Kong**

*Beatrice Lam, Druid Cheuk-Ki Fung, Stephen Cheong-Yu Chan*  
(Hong Kong Metropolitan University)

This paper draws upon findings of a study on higher education students' understandings of 'old age' in Hong Kong. Findings suggest that older adults are seen in terms of their vulnerability and mortality under the Covid-19 pandemic, wherein their decline and dependence were considered problematic to young adults and society in the context of the extant healthcare policy and measures under the pandemic. Population ageing as a 'crisis' can be said to have crystallized in the aforementioned sentiments. Less attention has been drawn to the needs of an ageing population in social welfare and care provision in the wider institutional and societal context, however; awareness of what this means for these young adults as they transition from higher education to a workplace serving an ageing population appears to be low. With this, the paper discusses the discontents of the active ageing paradigm and positive ageing ideals that celebrate older adults as productive and independent: It appears difficult for young adults to appreciate how they and older adults are both grappling with the weight of expectations as 'self-enterprizing citizens' in a neoliberal flexible economy which champions the negotiation of individualized risks in an increasingly contingent lifecourse. How sociological thinking contributes our understanding of prevailing structural inequalities of class and age in an ageing society, intergenerational relations, and support for health and wellbeing at old age will be explored.

## **Grief and Loss among Youth in Global Contexts**

*Carrie Traher, Lauren Breen*  
(King's University College)

When conceptualizing childhood or adolescent bereavement there is a universal reluctance to recognize youth as legitimate grievers (Doka, 1989; 2002), resulting in a sense of confusion and efforts to comprehend the resulting absence and loss trajectory alone. Globally, youth are exposed to not only bereavement-related mourning but countless threats such as political upheaval, civil wars, racism, sexual trafficking and exploitation, environmental destruction, youth homicide and suicide, intergenerational trauma following genocide, oppression of racialized youth and LGBTQ+ communities, as well as the global pandemic. The overwhelming amount of local and global information that youth easily access may be disorienting, yet can also inspire coping, adaptation, and advocacy in response to grief and loss. Our presentation will provide an overview of theory, research, and praxis regarding various global issues that are affecting youth today, such as forced displacement, suicide, oppression, discrimination, and racism. This perspective will provide a comprehensive foundation and advanced expansion of current research for those attempting to understand and address the complexity of lived experiences of loss for today's young people. Not only are youth experiencing grief, but their increasing awareness is motivating them to participate in societal change as they recognize the implications of what is at stake. Today's youth need their adults to be better informed so that they may offer not only guidance, but assist youth in their ability to cope, adapt, and thrive in an increasingly complex global community.

## **A Preliminary Study on Aging Anxiety: Crisis and Coping Strategies**

*Siqi Liang, Noor Eshah Tom Abdul Wahab*  
(Faculty of Arts And Social Sciences, Universiti Malaya)

The rate of the global aging population is gradually increasing. According to the data from the WHO, the number of people aged 60 years and older will increase to 1.4 billion by 2030 and 2.1 billion by 2050. This demographic shift is occurring rapidly, particularly in developing countries.

Aging is a gradual and continuous process of natural changes that occur throughout life, however, it can also cause anxiety provoking for some individuals. In a youth-oriented culture, the increase in age is often associated with negative changes, such as physical changes (such as wrinkles, graying or thinning of hair, and decreased skin elasticity), declines in health, economic situation, cognitive ability, changes in physical appearance, and social loss. Consequently, individuals are fearful and worried about aging.

Aging anxiety, distinct from other kinds of anxiety, is defined as the concerns and fears about getting older. It may lead to numerous harmful effects on individuals, such as poor quality of life and lower self-esteem, decreased well-being, and mental health problems. Studying aging anxiety will contribute to helping individuals alleviate anxiety, enhance their overall well-being, live better lives.

Given its prevalence in many countries and areas, this paper aims to analyze 10-year existing studies on crisis and coping strategies related to aging anxiety, provide a preliminary exploration into aging anxiety, and cover various aspects, including its definition, theoretical perspectives, and a cross-cultural view. Moreover, it will try to answer "Do these coping strategies effectively alleviate aging anxiety?"

# **Medicine, Health & Illness - Room 7**

## **How the Other Half 'Healths': Looking After Oneself and Others While Unstably Housed**

*Stefanie Plage*  
(University of Queensland)

Socio-cultural narratives often position people experiencing housing instability as individually responsible for their (poorer) health, for example due to lifestyle choices, more urgent priorities, or because they are assumed to not know how to engage in salutogenic behaviour. Instead of taking lifestyle, health-seeking, or health literacy as concepts to explore self-care, this analysis based on ethnographic research conducted over 12 months including narrative interviews, observations of care

encounters and participant-produced photography with people who experienced housing instability, presents an expose of what health and care mean to this cohort. Interrogating visual stories about health and care, the insights add nuance to and challenge individual responsabilisation. I attend to the care people experiencing housing instability extend towards others, including other people and living things. Almost all participants narrated experiences of sharing scarce resources at some point with others, while desperately vying for the same resources on other occasions. They told stories about daily struggles to provide for their basic needs of food and shelter, while giving away some of what they have to wildlife or to grow plants. I attempt to make sense of these stories within a conceptual framework outlining relations of care that transcend binaries. In conclusion, I synthesise how everyday practices of looking after oneself and others are an expression of how people experiencing housing instability are part of a care assemblage. Here possibilities for good health are contingent on and realised with others, crucially accounting for both human and more-than-human capacities to affect other bodies.

### **Intra-Outsider Conflicts and Physical Activity Inequalities of British Chinese Communities in the UK**

*Ximing Fan*  
(*Loughborough University*)

To what extent do social identities impact the physical activity participation of ethnic minorities? With the increasing trend of migration and ever-changing dynamics in society, health and physical activity inequalities remain a socially relevant challenge for migrants and marginalised communities. As 'the most unknown' ethnic minority in the UK, this ethnographic research investigates the social processes that impact the physical activity behaviour of British Chinese communities. At a cursory glance, the ethnicity of the Chinese communities in the UK seems to share a homogenous identity, but a closer look reveals diverse differences in culture, generation, language and so forth. Thus, the research takes a figurational approach and is particularly guided by the theory of established-outsider. As a community largely consisting of immigrants and descendants, there remains an overlapping identity for the British Chinese, who simultaneously play the role of 'the established' and 'the outsider' due to their interdependent network within the society. The ethnographic fieldwork conducted in a Chinese community centre in a large-sized city in England has revealed preliminary findings that the we-image of the Chinese themselves creates 'group disgrace' that affects their self-identity and prevents them from engaging in physical activity with the established British society. The findings of this research contribute to the policy-making and well-being of ethnic minorities in general and seek to discover the social processes behind health inequalities.

### **Co-visioning a Transformed Society through Precariously Employed Subjects of Disablement's Elicited Critiques of Productivity**

*Ioana Cerasella Chis*  
(*University of Birmingham*)

This talk explores the critiques and vantage points of twenty-seven UK-based gig economy workers subjected to disablement oppression and exploitation, in relation to what it means to be a 'productive member of society'. It also presents participants' critiques of the principle of 'productivity', what they would replace this principle with, and what they would do if money were no object. The reflections shared by participants as co-visionaries in this project offer insight into how to struggle collectively (through trade unions, Disabled People's Organisations, and other collectives) towards the new horizons of a transformed society. The horizons are based, concretely, on alternative social relations prefigured against and beyond the capitalist wage system and its productivist and disabling dogma of work. Centring participants' political aspirations in the way adopted in this project (through the ethico-political praxis of seeking and amplifying under-represented vantage points) goes against the mainstream individual model of disability's narrow search for the subjects of disablement's pathologised 'needs' that ignores questions of their desires and collective struggles for flourishing. Indeed, as hooks put it, 'imagination is one of the most powerful modes of resistance that oppressed and exploited folks can do and use' – and put into practice (2010:61). Rather than seek to reveal deeper meanings behind participants' perspectives or selectively rescue the limited usefulness of work undertaken for a wage, this talk points to the contradictions that the participants have faced in their everyday lives and what they regard as the way out of such contradictions.

## Methodological Innovations - Room 16

### **Holding Ourselves to Account: The Precarity Dividend and the Ethics of Researching Academic Precarity**

*Theresa O' Keefe, Aline Courtois*  
(*University College Cork and University of Bath*)

This paper uses critical reflexivity as a method to document and analyse the ethical dilemmas that emerge when researching academic precarity across the permanent/precarious divide. With our project on long-term academic precarity as a case study, and as people who experienced long-term academic precarity, we take as the starting point other researchers' silences about their positionality and about who does the work in the production of research on academic precarity. What is striking is that, although our small, unfunded project was driven by feminist ethics and transformative feminist praxis, there were some ethical issues we did not foresee, nor could we resolve. By engaging in critical reflection on our own research project, the main risk that we identify is the exploitation of precarious academics, as participants and as workers, which we have mostly avoided. Four main issues arise in relation to authenticity and subjectivity, disclosure of employment history and status, methods/techniques used, and how research benefits from the labour of precarious academics, or what we call the 'precarity dividend'. The paper seeks to push the boundaries around how researchers hold themselves to account in the process of knowledge production. We suggest that precarity and especially the precarity dividend must become an inherent ethical consideration in all social scientific research design. It is a call for social researchers to make explicit – in writing, in ethics reviews and in presentations of their work – the labour process and labour conditions of all those involved.

### **Do We Prepare Sociologists to Make a Difference? Professional Identity Development of Sociologists**

*Catherine Mobley, Chloe Bird*  
(*Clemson University, Clemson, SC USA and Tufts Medical Center/Tufts School of Medicine, Boston, MA USA*)

We investigated the identity development of sociologists and to what extent students are being trained for employment across diverse settings. We also examined whether students and practicing sociologists come to see themselves as part of the enterprise that engages with pressing social issues, such as COVID-19 such as climate change. Historically, in the U.S. the discipline has focused on the production of academic sociologists. Moreover, until recent years, the American Sociological Association has focused almost exclusively on supporting the careers of academic sociologists in departments of sociology or associated research groups in universities. A combination of demographic changes and a reduction in the number of tenure-track positions in top research sociology programs relative to the number of PhD's being trained necessitates an expanded view of the profession and increased efforts to prepare students for research in a diverse range of organizations and settings.

We present initial results from interviews of 20 practicing sociologists to highlight their career decision making and professional identity. During our interviews, we used an innovative approach to assess identity. We used an identity circle to elicit conversations about how individuals see themselves and discuss how they communicate their identity to others and whether significant others see them as sociologists and as scientists. Our study results can inform efforts to train sociologists to contribute to the development of policy and practices aimed at addressing the crises of our times.

## Race, Ethnicity & Migration - Room 9

### **A Strong Structuration Analysis of Stressors, Coping and Mental Health Status amongst Ukrainian Refugees in England**

*Maureen Seguin, Tina Deinekhovska, Olha Fokaf, Katya Iemelianchuk, Aaron Poppleton, Bayard Roberts, Caroline Sanders, Matt Egan*

*(The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine)*

**Background:** The existing evidence base on mental health of refugees tends to frame stressors, coping, and perceptions of mental health in an individualistic way. Yet these phenomena are irrevocably social in nature; stressors and coping strategies depend on the resources available in social environments. With a specific focus on Ukrainian refugee women in England, this qualitative paper draws on Strong Structuration Theory (SST) to examine the interplay between stressors, coping and mental health and the wider social environment.

**Methods:** We draw on 53 semi-structured interviews: 37 Ukrainian refugee women, 11 stakeholders (council staff, mental health professionals, staff/volunteers at charities), and 5 refugee stakeholders. We conducted deductive thematic analysis informed by SST concepts (external/internal structures, agency, and outcomes).

**Results:** Stressors focused on housing access barriers, exacerbating further stressors relating to (un)employment and children's educational arrangements. These stressors arise from the external structure of the housing environment in England, characterised by a lack of social housing and a hostile private rental sector. Attitudes of hopelessness and pessimism for the future were evident, alongside determination. These internal structures shaped subsequent action, conceived as coping approaches: problem-solving, seeking support, and engaging in distraction or avoidance. Some directly challenged the housing environment, indicating an SST outcome.

**Conclusions:** This paper shows the recursive loop characterised by external structures (housing environment), internal structures (attitudes toward housing environment), agency (coping strategies) and outcomes (contesting the housing environment). Resources to support Ukrainian refugees to secure long-term housing is necessary to better safeguard their mental health from further harm.

### **Evictions and Racial Gaps in Homelessness**

*Vijaya Tamla Rai*

*(Montana State University)*

Homelessness is undoubtedly an affordable housing problem, but race is an important factor because racial disparities in both evictions and homelessness across U.S. communities are tangible. Despite the logical association between evictions and homelessness, a handful of studies examine the empirical association between the two. Furthermore, racial disparities in evictions may lead to racial differences in the consequences of evictions for homelessness. However, research on the correlates of eviction and racial gaps in rates of homelessness is at a nascent phase. This paper addresses this gap by merging as-yet-unexplored data on county-level eviction filings for 2018 and Black-White estimates of homelessness across U.S. communities in 2019. Using seemingly unrelated regressions, this paper examines whether metro area eviction filing rates were positively associated with racial gaps in rates of homelessness. Results showed a significant association between eviction filing rates and Black-White gaps in homelessness rates. In areas with relatively high eviction filing rates, there were relatively high racial gaps in rates of homelessness. This finding extends the existing body of literature on evictions and homelessness by suggesting that areas with higher eviction filing rates are likely to target Black renters. Consequently, low-income Black renters disproportionately are at greater risk of eviction-led homelessness. Thus, resources toward preventing racial disparities in eviction should be intentionally targeted to communities with relatively higher eviction filing rates and reduce racial disparities in eviction-led rates of homelessness.

### **The British Shadow Carceral State: Detention Fix, Racial Terror and (b)Order**

*Remy-Paulin Twahirwa, Lizzie Hobbs*  
(London School of Economics and Political Science)

Following the 'crimmigration' turn in the study of border regimes and the punitive treatment of people on the move globally, it is common to draw connections between the prison and the detention centre as devices of state control and punishment. For instance, it is regularly argued that both the prison and the detention centre inflict psychological, physical, and social harm to those confined between their walls. Moreover, several researchers have highlighted how the prison and the detention centre contribute to racial capitalism by producing and mobilising capital in the State, such as using private companies to build and manage those facilities. Finally, the prison and the detention centre, as both disciplinary and exclusionary institutions, have been increasingly challenged by abolitionists, particularly calls for their permanent closure. Yet, most scholars continue to organise an epistemic distinction between the prison and the detention centre by highlighting their dissimilarities. In this paper, by focusing on their ontological relationships, we argue that the prison and the detention centre acts together and concurrently as racialising, gendering and colonial technology of power. We advocate for an end to the epistemic dichotomy in the study of prison and immigration detention in order to better excavate and challenge the totalising tendencies of the British 'shadow carceral state' (Beckett & Murakawa, 2012). By building on interviews with caseworkers, migrant organisers and testimonies from former detained persons and former staff at Brook House IRC, this paper gives attention to specific patterns, such as the establishment of a regime of colonial, racial and sexual terror through captivity and the emergence of a detention fix in British politics, to illuminate the solidified and hybridised relationships between prison and detention estates.

## **Rights, Violence & Crime - Room 10**

### **Our Files Are Never Closed: Private Sector Surveillance Dossiers in the Development of Vulnerability and the Enforcement of Government Policy in WWII Canada 1943-1945**

*Scott Thompson*  
(University of Saskatchewan)

During the Second World War, needs for labour at home, and soldiers for the front lines in Europe, led the government of Canada to implement a new National Registration and Identity Card program. With the development of new dossiers for all Canadians, this program was designed to identify exactly who was needed for industry, who could be conscripted into the Armed Forces, and who was not complying with their orders. The problem, however, quickly arose as to how to identify, and force into compliance, those who had simply not registered and for whom the state held no dossier. After failed attempts by the federal Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the government turned to the private sector for help. Through a purchasing of access to the Hooper-Holms Bureau detective agency's privately held files, as well as the banking record dossiers of the Associate Credit Bureau of Canada, over 25,500 unregistered individuals were investigated, located, identified, and forced to comply, within five months. Drawing on internal government records, communications with private sector actors, and private investigators training documents, this paper demonstrates the vital need for, and adoption of, private sector dossiers in the effective application of government conscription policy in WWII Canada - arguing that it is the capacity of the dossier to identify, locate, and make individuals account, that render surveillance subjects vulnerable to those organizations and now platforms (google; Meta; etc.) who gather personal data, or to the multiplicity of actors able to purchase the services of those who do.

### **Changing What Justice Means: Authoritarianism, Coroner Courts and Deaths in Custody**

*James Whitfield*  
(University of Warwick)

In the 1980s, Hall (1979; 1985) introduced the term 'authoritarian populism' to describe Thatcher's novel mode of political governance and its unwavering commitment to a law-and-order agenda. This term articulated a fundamental transformation within the state, as it shifted away from consent toward coercion as its modus operandi. This transformation was evident within the field of criminal justice, where civil rights were eroded through the enhancement of policing powers and the worsening of



imprisonment conditions (Scruton, 1987). However, it is important to recognise that authoritarian populism was not merely a strategy of repressive control; it encompassed productive elements that actively reshaped the functioning of the state, creating new ideological and material structures. This phenomenon is particularly evident in the context of deaths in prison and police custody, where the state's authoritarian agenda clashed with activists, resulting in the refinement of the coroner courts system. These courts became legitimate venues for seeking justice after a death in custody had occurred. Nonetheless, they proved to be a near-perfect system for a state committed to authoritarian control, this was due to their limited capacity establish liability and ability to provide the thin veneer of democratic accountability by occasionally delivering verdicts critical of the state. This was productive in the sense it legitimised the courts as an authority capable of articulating truth upon a death in custody and yet entrenched authoritarianism as the courts withheld any chance for genuine justice or change.

### **'Kuki are Manipuri and equally Indian': Decoding Manipur's 2023 Ethnic Riots, India**

*Vibha Arora*

*(Indian Institute of Technology Delhi)*

Protests, economic blockades imposed by armed militia, ethnic conflict has promoted the perception of north-eastern Indian state of Manipur as an 'ethnic cauldron.' My paper is based on extended research, some secondary reports and interviews with key informants and it decodes the ethnic riots of May-June 2023 that occurred between indigenous Kuki tribe (religious minority) and politically dominant Meitei group (Hindus), which has rekindled image of a 'burning Manipur' where human rights are being violated, and a biased state government. The totalitarian power of the Indian state in this sensitive borderland has been supported by extension of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act for an extended period and civil society agitations against it. My analysis attributes the 2023 ethnic riots to a combination of structural and ethnic-organizational aspects of Manipur's society and polity that is witnessing a demographic shift, and political insensitivity of the state government in stock-piling ethnic tensions that got kindled by the Meitei demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status. The struggle over ST status (for and against) could have been restricted to the legal domain, but it spilled into the streets, homes, and villages of Manipur and with a ferocity that had not been anticipated by the national government and the state government. The magnitude of ethnic rioting and internal displacement has fractured the ethnoscape beyond imagination and healing is going to be an arduous slow process. The internal displacement of the Kuki community highlights their existential debacle and recent demand for separate local administration.

## **Science, Technology & Digital Studies - Room 11**

### **The Social Ontology of AI Risks**

*Catriona Gray*

*(University of Bath)*

Risk looms large in artificial intelligence (AI) discourse and practice. It presents variously as a rubric for the potential harms associated with AI, a rationale for regulation, and as a decisional tool for organisations who might deploy AI technologies. Given its ubiquity, one might expect this treatment of risk to be accompanied by a coherent – and indeed explicit – social ontology. Risk is, after all, a concept used to analyse, mitigate, and prepare for possible outcomes. As a category of indeterminacy, it implies at least the possibility of social explanations for AI harms, and indeed treatments of risk often invoke various structural and agentive forces in accounting for AI's potentially harmful effects. These harms are contemplated, enumerated, and, in some cases, made actionable in policy. Such efforts, however, are not underpinned by any clear theory of how the social objects involved in the production of harmful effects have the capacity to influence the world i.e., a social ontology. Social ontologies are systematic accounts of the nature and properties of the social world. In this paper, I turn to critical realism to help address this shortcoming in social theorising about risk and AI. By addressing ontological presuppositions directly, I propose, we can generate richer causal explanations of AI harms and, ultimately, more effective regulatory policy.

## **Addressing Environmental Crises: How Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and the More-Than-Human World can affect Change**

*Catherine Price, Tom Bott  
(University of Nottingham)*

Science and technology is being developed to address numerous environmental challenges including climate change and biodiversity loss. Responsible research and innovation (RRI) is increasingly being implemented by researchers to ensure that research and its impacts are opened up to broader deliberation, engagement and debate in an inclusive manner, and to enable the complexities and uncertainties of research to be revealed through involvement with those impacted by the research. RRI acknowledges that innovation can be unpredictable as well as beneficial and can raise questions or concerns.

Taken at face value, RRI appears to challenge the status quo of decisions around scientific and technological developments being left to those with scientific expertise. Alternative knowledges can act in partnership with scientific knowledge and expertise, breaking down social hierarchies. However, existing RRI frameworks are anthropocentric, and exclude the more-than-human world (animals, plants, soil, water, land etc.). Without including the more-than-human world in RRI frameworks, environmental crises such as climate change and biodiversity loss will never be able to be fully addressed as key stakeholders are omitted.

This paper presents an overview of a project that is aiming to design, co-produce and provide a conceptual framework for including the more-than-human world (animals, plants, soil, water, land etc.) within responsible research and innovation (RRI). The paper will show how a transdisciplinary project can address environmental challenges whilst also affecting positive change. This is achieved by engaging with the under-valued voices and agencies of alternative expertise (human and non-human) alongside scientific knowledge and understandings.

## **Social and Behavioural Science for Crisis and Emergencies in Government: Challenges, Opportunities and Learning from Recent Events**

*Peter Bailey, Carrie Heitmeyer  
(Environment Agency)*

In times of crisis and emergencies, actors in Government need scientific evidence and advice. These actors – politicians, officials and senior scientific advisors within government– have in recent years recognised the importance of social and behavioural sciences within scientific advice systems and practices. In this paper we explore the challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from recent crisis and emergencies where social and behavioural science has been mobilised. We draw upon recent case studies such as Covid-19, floods and drought. We are writing from the multiple perspectives of: participants in such official scientific advice systems, professional social scientists with our own expertise and careers in Sociology and Anthropology, and observers of public and policy sociology (Burawoy 2006) in action. We reflect upon the position of the social sciences with respect to natural sciences and medicine in official scientific advice and the commonalities and tensions between social science disciplines in such official settings. We finish with a review of the challenges of mobilising sociology and anthropology in such contexts but, more importantly, the many opportunities for our disciplines to contribute at times of crisis.

## **From Major Divisions to Research Subcultures: An Exploratory Study of Research Type Hierarchies among Faculty Members in the South and Southeast Regions of Brazil**

*Daniel Guerrini, Sylvia Gemignani Garcia, Ana Paula Hey  
(Federal Technological University of Paraná)*

The classification of scientific areas and disciplines is a social and cultural process guided by the objects, theories, methods, and instruments used in the production and dissemination of knowledge. Since Thomas Kuhn (2011[1962]), the division between "hard" and "soft" sciences has been particularly influential, entailing a hierarchy from the first to the second group of sciences. This division, however, does not consider the ways of generating knowledge and constructing research objects within each disciplinary field. Here we investigate a classification system based on scientific practices. To this end,

a self-designed questionnaire was administered among professors from postgraduate programs in all major scientific knowledge areas. In total, there were 916 responses from faculty members of academic postgraduate programs, both at the master's and doctoral levels, from institutions in the states of Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Paraná, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and Minas Gerais. Faculty members were asked to identify types of research they conducted as well as institutional categories of their universities, their own sociodemographic data (race, gender, age), their social origins (educational level and profession of the parents, public or private schooling of the respondents, institution location in the interior or capital of the states) and social and cultural aspects of the respondents (religious beliefs, political stance). With this, we found a great opposition between theoretical and experimental research, where the latter was considered hierarchically better positioned. At the lower levels of the hierarchy were research approaches involving direct contact with empirical reality.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 1 - Room 8**

### **Intersectional ADHD Injustices and Inequalities: A Literature Analysis of Barriers to Full and Equal Participation in Society**

*Dyi Dieuwertje Huijg*  
(University of Roehampton)

At least 2.5% of adults have ADHD with a gender ratio near 1:1 (Kooij et al., 2019, p.19; UKAAN, 2013, p.1); thus, an estimated 86,800 adult ADHD women live in London alone (London.gov, 2018). While comprising half of the ADHD population, it is widely recognised that ADHD women are an under-researched group. This is even worse for other intersectional analyses of ADHD experiences; case in point, only recently this concern was recognised by prominent UK ADHD researchers (see Young et al., 2021). At the same time, the majority of research about ADHD concerns an echo chamber in areas such as the 'neurobiologically impaired ADHD brain', its cognitive and behavioural deficits, the diagnostic process, the prevalence of ADHD, medication, symptoms and subtypes of ADHD, 'co-morbid conditions', and ADHD(ers) as a relational, social and economic burden.

There is almost no research that moves away from the medical model, that explores the injustices and inequalities that ADHDers face, and offers an intersectional analysis thereof. As part of a larger project on how ADHD women intersectionally experience the(ir) neuronormative world, in this paper I offer an exploratory and intersectional analysis of the academic literature on ADHD. Through this re-reading, the aim is to understand what is already known on the social, economic, educational, health, behavioural, normative and other barriers that ADHDers experience to full and equal participation in society to increase our understanding of intersectional anti-ADHD injustices and inequalities.

### **'Whose Rainbow?' LGBT+ Students and Staff in Higher Education Reflect On the Rainbow as a Symbol of Inclusion and Belonging**

*Tig Slater, Drew Simms, Eleanor Formby*  
(Sheffield Hallam University)

Since the 1970s, rainbows have represented lesbian, gay bisexual and trans (LGBT+) pride, belonging and community. Yet, through COVID-19, rainbows developed new significance, symbolising the NHS, leading some to question their continued use by and for LGBT+ people. Adding to this context, increased LGBT+ visibility has led to an LGBT-, and especially trans-phobic backlash. In higher education (HE) in particular, trans rights are positioned as oppositional to academic freedom of speech and, despite universities flying rainbow flags, LGBT+ staff and students report feeling institutionally unsupported (Pearce, 2020). In this presentation, we will report findings from a BA/Leverhulme funded project, 'Whose Rainbow?'. In 'Whose Rainbow?' we interviewed national bodies, LGBT+ students and staff, and institutional 'allies' scheme members to explore how rainbows function as a symbol of inclusion (or not) in a HE context. We will focus on data from LGBT+ students and staff which interrogates the rainbow as a symbol of inclusion and belonging. Preliminary analysis suggests that while rainbow symbolism remains important to some, a mixture of the COVID-19 pandemic and institutional use of the rainbow have led to uncertainty and scepticism around its meaning, and shifts for LGBT+ people to use other forms of symbols and recognition.

## **Imaginarities of Crisis, Resistant Affect and Fugitive Alternatives in English Feminist Academia**

*Lili Schwoerer*  
(Oxford Brookes University)

My paper explores the role that the imaginary of the 'university-in-crisis' plays in constraining and opening up possibilities for emancipatory feminist knowledge production. Based on 34 interviews with academics interested in gender, feminist and queer studies in four case study universities in England, I explore how discourses about universities circulate through universities, and the ways in which these link to affective investments. In the interviews, the university-in-crisis is constructed through three affectively loaded discourses: the postfeminist student, regulatory diversity and inclusion policies, and the feminist-as-critic. These discourses construct an imaginary of the university which can constrain possibilities for emancipatory knowledge production: by exempting those critiquing the university from its functioning, preserving the status quo of feminism, and reproducing the university as a necessary vessel for resistant knowledges. However, the interviews also reveal alternate imaginaries: participants imagine universities as shifting configurations selectively showing an interest in feminist knowledge, as well as capitalist institutions that function through the commodification of knowledges understood as different. I put these imaginaries in dialogue with scholarship on fugitive knowledges (Harney and Moten, 2013; 2021) and abolitionist university studies (Boggs et al, 2019) to explore the potential of producing feminist knowledges, as one of my respondents described it, 'under the radar', disregarding or subverting the university-as-crisis. The imaginaries arising here, I argue, open up for possibilities of producing feminist knowledges in the university despite the university, in a move which has the potential to disrupt the linear temporal order and externalisation of 'crisis'.

## **Social Divisions / Social Identities 2 - Room 12**

### **Emergence of Bahujan Students' Movement: A Study of University Campuses in Odisha**

*Aruna Mahananda*  
(Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India)

Historically, it has been observed that student movements have been essential in bringing about social change in the world. In the Indian context, most of these student organizations, whether they follow a leftist or a rightist ideology, have always tried to hide their Brahminical foundations and have ignored the problems of marginalized students on university campuses. When it comes to Odisha, one can witness the Brahmin and Karana castes' historical monopoly over political power in the state, and as a result, neglecting caste issues in political parties and other academic institutions in many ways.

In this project, the researcher has followed the qualitative approach and used the phenomenological technique to understand the lived experiences of the Bahujan students located on university campuses in Odisha. The present study has demonstrated clearly how the hardships, struggles and measures taken by the Bahujan student movements on the university campuses. Furthermore, it clearly outlined the various elements that motivated the Bahujan students to join the ongoing struggles and helped them to recognize their own responsibility to pay back to society and making efforts to pass this legacy to upcoming generations.

### **Esoteric Capital, Women, Queerness, and Disability in Metro Manila during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

*Bridgette Nicole Diaz*  
(University of the Philippines Diliman)

This paper demystifies the ways western esotericism was capitalized by Filipino women and queer Filipinos to surmount isolation, discrimination, precarity, and disability amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and the Duterte regime. Based on interviews with 20 members of major Metro Manila esoteric groups and four years of participant observation and content analysis, esotericism was perceived as highly conversible and transposable capital, and a nuancing of the current conceptualization of esoteric capital is thus proposed. A form of knowledge, a language, and a practice, esotericism served as a unique "medium for human connection", collective well-being, and resource access. It became a basis for anti-fascist, LGBTQIA+, and feminist activism through an elite student-organization, the nationwide protest,

“Mass Kulam” (“Mass Witchcraft”), and respected practitioners campaigning for progressive politicians. Small esoteric businesses, mostly owned by middle class women, opened during the pandemic as the demand and skhole for spirituality increased, and “legitimate” esotericists enjoyed high prices due to their rarity and “energy exchange”. Esotericism assisted the membership of queer, neurodivergent, and/or women artists in elite habitus, generating income despite the decrease in work opportunities and providing inspiration for creative outputs. In addition, divination was perceived as a strategizing tool hence rituals and practices are credited for “power moves” in different fields. A nuancing of the current conceptualization of esoteric capital is gleaned from this analysis and proposed as esoterically-derived qualities and labels by themselves have become references for roles and positions and exclusion or inclusion in esoteric and, to some extent, exoteric fields.

**‘...You go on one of these protests, your child could get hurt...’: Overcoming the “Sinister” Narrative During the Irish Anti Water Charges Campaign (2014-2016)**

*Michael Murray*  
(*Maynooth University*)

This paper examines how working-class activists challenged and overcame political fear narratives during the anti-water charges campaign in Ireland, with specific focus on the ‘sinister’ narrative, an attempt by the government and its supporters to frame protestors as violent and extremist. Despite attempts to frame such a narrative as an appeal for reasonable, rational politics over the volatile and irrational, this discussion emphasises the centrality of emotion in political power relationships. Here, political fear operates most effectively when targeting expectations for normal living (Debrix and Barder, 2013), which in turn, offers fertile ground for opposing fear threats. Rather than subscribing to the position that political fear is ubiquitous or the reflection of a general societal malaise, this paper follows Jefferies’ (2012) argument that political fear is mediated, contested and contradicted. Drawing on interviews from activists, this paper shows how the ‘everyday’ becomes a key context in which ‘deviance framing’ around class and gender can be reframed and reappropriated, for instance, through the deployment of counter spectacles. Lastly, while political fear can have an individualising effect, this paper demonstrates how subjective and individual acts of transgression are mediated through a collective and community lens via the use of social media, but also crucially, through face-to-face contact and interactions.

**Explaining Social Change: Ireland’s Moral Revolution**

*Lisa Smyth*  
(*Queen’s University Belfast*)

What role has solidarity played in Ireland’s liberalization? Can we understand this moral transformation as the inevitable strengthening of individualist norms through processes of globalization, in ways that necessarily erode solidarity? This paper argues instead that the case of Ireland reveals both the normative character of social change and the importance of attending to varieties of solidarity. The paper considers the dimensions of change in Ireland as it has moved from patriarchy to egalitarianism through a series of critical events, while at the same time sustaining a solidaristic culture in the face of potential libertarianism.

## **Sociology of Education - Room 13**

**High Expectation, Low Involvement: How the Inconsistencies between Parents' Educational Expectation and Involvement Affect Student Outcomes**

*Jinhan Liu*  
(*National University of Singapore*)

While ample research documents that parental educational expectation and parental involvement are beneficial for children’s academic and developmental outcomes, these two dimensions are not always consistent. Some parents hold high educational expectations for their children but rarely engage in home-based and school activities. However, less is known about how this occurs and whether it may potentially hinder students’ development. Using nationally representative data of middle school students

from the China Education Panel Study (CEPS), this study examines the causes and consequences of the inconsistencies between parental expectations and involvement in China, a society marked by high emphases on educational success due to Confucian cultural traditions. Analyses based on linear mixed effects models show that parents' educational beliefs and actions are shaped by class-related resources and cultural values. Parents with low socioeconomic status tend to have high expectation-low involvement and low expectation-low involvement patterns regarding their children's education. In contrast, educational expectations and involvement are more likely to be both high for parents with advantaged socioeconomic status. Moreover, the inconsistencies between parental educational expectations and involvement are associated with students' lower psychological well-being. The positive influences of parental educational expectations are also less likely to be converted into students' better academic performance due to the lack of action-based involvement. These associations are generally the same for boys and girls. This study advances prior research by providing evidence for the interplay between parents' educational beliefs and practices on children's development.

### **Educational Equality Crisis on a Micro Level: The Chinese Privileged Parents' Justice Claims to School Choice**

*Cheng Zhong*

*(Center for Sociology of Education, Nanjing Normal University)*

The concepts of educational equality designated by policymakers and philosophers contribute to improving educational equality in school choice on a macro level. However, as previous studies suggest, school choice policy programs enlarged educational inequalities. While current literature continues to seek solutions from a bird's view, this study appeals to think about the folk concept of educational equality defined and enacted by parents.

This study argues that the 'truth' of equity in education usually relies heavily on how equity is defined and subjectively judged (Rawls, 2001). We examine the complexity and contradictions of 'equity' in parents' policy interpretation based on Abu El-Haj's (2006) term of 'justice claim' and an interpretive paradigm of policy analysis (Yanow, 2000).

This study explores Chinese middle-class parents' (n = 21) justice claims in a recent school choice reform (i.e., SAR), which continues to limit parents' autonomy and strengthen the equal distribution of school resources. Qualitative interviewing allows us to inquire about parents' meaning world and facilitates us to access their subjective understanding of educational equity.

The findings suggest the contradictions and tensions between SAR's equity rhetorics and parents' justice claims. While parents recognize SAR's policy visions and representative politics, they show a pragmatic attitude and advocate distributing schooling situationally. Besides, parents identify the institutional partiality of SAR and adopt noncompliance to remediate the insufficient representative. Our analysis offers a psycho-social lens for policymakers and practitioners to understand and conceptualize educational equity in a bottom-up way.

## **Theory - Room 5**

### **Complicity and Crisis: Sociological Enquiry and its Social Cures**

*Joao Almeida*

*(University of Glasgow)*

A common trope on crisis social sciences research consists in reclaiming instances of its conceptual history, where Reinhart Koselleck essay on crisis emerges as the key figure in this repeating narrative. This allows for a widely spread conceptual understanding of the term within its medical metaphor: from economic crisis to environmental crisis, the promise of a social cure, of social fixes to present crises, paradoxically reveals the project of a pacified global market economy fearful of retrieving the other less discussed facet of such a widely spread concept in social research. The eschatological dimension of crisis as a moment of decision, of critique, where change becomes inevitable and radically alters the social, escapes such a securitised rationality of social cures and endless policy recommendations. More importantly, it exposes, as Foucault did in his 77-79 lectures on security, the complicity of the very positivistic and physiocratic knowledge that paradoxically propose social cures by aiming to pre-empt

the human experience of crisis and catastrophes. This paper proposes to problematise what would be an elective affinity between the conceptual borrowing of crisis, as an eschatological moment of decision, and sociological research for our post-political times of multiple crises without decision.

### **Adorno Now?**

*Liz Bradbury*  
(*Anglia Ruskin University*)

Is the work of Theodor Adorno relevant to contemporary sociological understandings of crises? Should his work be part of the wider project to engage meaningfully with social crises that many see as fuelling the rise of right-wing authoritarianism and undermine shared ideas of meaning, truth, and social solidarity? How might his work help us forge closer connections between social justice and environmental sustainability within and across the social and natural sciences? Where might we now begin to open up a formative conversation with his work?

These questions will be considered with specific reference to Adorno's writings, talks and lectures on aesthetic modernism, positivism and the idea of 'reconciliation with nature'.

### **Theorising Money: Power, Temporality, and Social Change**

*Szinan Radi*  
(*University of Cambridge*)

'Money' received renewed attention from scholars in recent years. Historians have explored how money has shaped state formation and societies in historical contexts. Social scientists have also deepened our knowledge of money as a subject of power and state practice, challenging the belief that money's value is tied to precious metals. Instead, they argue that money is a creation of the state, operating within complex social relations. However, both approaches have limitations. Historians, while providing detailed accounts of economic life often neglect to conceptually articulate the monetary implications of state building and economic state power. Social scientists, although adept at constructing social theories, often lack a nuanced understanding of the temporal aspects of fiscally-structured relationships, an area where historians traditionally excel. This paper aims to bridge this gap by developing improved reflexive conceptualisations to examine power dynamics expressed through money's value between states, societies, individuals, and financial institutions irrespective of economic system types. The paper focuses on four categories of public finance: the means (taxes, bonds, credits), methods (propaganda, wage/price policies), implications (prices, purchasing power, informality), and conditions (trade/foreign policy objectives) of fiscal policy. These are used to create two 'ideal types': a relatively disruptive and a relatively cohesive balance of power between the state and the public. Finally, these conceptual insights are used to assess how money could help overcome dichotomies (e.g. plan-market) and provide new perspectives to the historical social sciences both from above and below.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 1 - Room 14**

### **Female Entrepreneurs: We need to talk about Menopause**

*Sharon Mcgreevy, Josephine Browne, Therese Moylan*  
(*IADT*)

The paper seeks to explore the taboo subject – the menopause and its impacts on female entrepreneurs and their business with the aim of informing enterprise policy, practice and inclusion.

Menopause is rarely a topic of open discussion in the entrepreneurship literature. While the discourse is currently gaining traction in the wider society, research on the impact of the menopause on female entrepreneurs is rare, despite the fact that nearly half of the world's population is experiencing or will experience this biological transition. The impact of the menopause on female entrepreneurs and their business remains a neglected and taboo subject. This paper aims to address this knowledge gap.

The aim of this paper is to critically explore the impact of the menopause on female entrepreneurs and their business, and question:

- (a) To what extent does menopause transition impact on female entrepreneurs and their business?
- (b) What challenges are experienced by female entrepreneurs during menopause transition?
- (c) What supports are available to female entrepreneurs coping with menopause transition?

**Methodology:** The research employs Life course theory and analysis, which refers to sequences of transitions and trajectories throughout an individual's (or cohort's) life (Elder et al., 2004).

**Contribution:** This paper has identified a gap in existing practice and research on female entrepreneurs. The paper will make a contribution to new knowledge in this field.

### **The Crisis of 'Women's Empowerment': Where Do We Go from Here?**

*Nandini Das*  
(University of Southampton)

The term 'women's empowerment' has become a buzzword in the last two decades, with its meaning and approaches to it changing through policies, programmes and interventions at various levels of implementation. While there is ample literature on empowerment based policies and interventions' impact in the lives of women, a lot of it use a linear notion of empowerment, as women being either empowered or not empowered through them. However, women's everyday lived realities consist of multiple axes of power and power relations. Many languages and vocabulary also do not have a direct translation for the word 'empowerment' to be understood in a local context. How do we then locate the concept of empowerment in specific contexts? This research looks at policies and interventions on women's empowerment by NGOs and government stakeholders and their impact on the lives of women in home-based work, and more specifically in the context of female weavers in the handloom industry in Assam (India). Through an ethnographic study in Sualkuchi handloom cluster (Assam), also known as Manchester of the East, and through use of methods such as interviews, focus group discussions, visual data collection and observation, the research looks at how different stakeholders envision empowerment of women on the one hand, and how women understand and negotiate it in their everyday lives, on the other. The findings are situated in the larger context of various crises and changes that we are witnessing in the Global South, within a neoliberal paradigm and the rise of far-right politics.

### **Reframing Women's Career Development: A Mixed Method Exploration of the Impact of Marriage and Childbearing on Women's Career Self-Efficacy**

*Sha Lyu, Christopher Rees*  
(University of Manchester)

The event of getting married and having children play a pivotal role in understanding women's career development. Whilst extant research mainly identified the detrimental consequences of marriage and childbearing status against work-related outcomes (i.e., work performance; Deen et al., 2021) and life-related outcomes (i.e., work-life conflict; Nomaguchi, 2012); little research explored the impact of marriage and childbearing status on women's career-related outcomes with a mixed method. To address this research gap, our study shifts the focus to women's career-related outcomes with a mixed-method approach to investigate the impact of marital and childbearing status on women's career attitude and psychological capacity.

First, the qualitative study was undertaken to get an exploratory understanding about marriage and childbearing status with regards to women's career development. It collected 30 interview data with female employees, human resource professionals and line managers, all employed within the Chinese private sectors. We then designed a quantitative study according to the qualitative result and prior literature. It aims to account for and validate counter-intuitive findings obtained from the qualitative phase. A total of 328 responses were collected.

Our study revealed counter-intuitive results between marital and childbearing status and career development self-efficacy; a motivational mechanism was proposed to explain the casual relationship. This study challenged the prevailing negative bias associated with women's marriage and childbearing by exploring the motivational mechanisms of career-related outcomes. This study also shed light on



diversity and inclusion management in the practice and provided novel implications to women's career development.

## **Work, Employment & Economic Life 2 - Room 15**

### **Welfare Mix as an Answer to the Italian Welfare System Crisis and Change**

*Barbara Barabaschi*

*(Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore)*

In Italy, a debate is ongoing on welfare system crisis and the evolution toward a "welfare mix" due to the co-presence of actors of different nature in the provision of welfare services. This is a very significant change because it responds to a structural delay compared to other countries and reveals new collective sensitivities towards the most disadvantaged groups of the population. The paper presents results of 52 projects realized by Caritas (national religious institution) where volunteering, associations and public social services create synergistic networks capable of giving flexible and personalized responses with high levels of success compared to the traditional approach to welfare services. They concerned unemployed people with whom individual professional paths have been built, promoting their skills and accompanying them towards reintegration into the job market, or housing support offered to people without a house and a work. The experiences carried out seem to confirm the academic literature, as well as the political debate underway at international level, as well as numerous practices regarding the greater effectiveness of the paths implemented compared to mere monetary support measures. In these accompaniment paths, crucial variables emerged have been: the density of the network of public and private actors involved, the presence of volunteers as well as professional social workers, and in any case the monetary support, both direct, through vouchers or training and work contracts and indirect, through operators activity. Welfare mix is presented as an example of intersectional policy approach adapts to face the complexity of contemporary societies.

### **Leaving the Career Behind? Long-Term Wage Consequences of Paternal Leave in Germany**

*Corinna Frodermann, Ann-Christin Bächmann, Andreas Filser*

*(Institute for Employment Research Germany)*

The transition to parenthood is a critical juncture for gender inequalities in the labor market as heterosexual couples tend to reorganize paid and unpaid work in traditional ways after a child is born. Therefore, increasing fathers' involvement in childcare is widely seen as a key policy measure to reduce gender inequalities. In Germany, a central parental leave reform in 2007 created incentives for fathers to participate more in childcare by introducing a two-month daddy quota. However, in 2018, more than half of fathers still did not claim any parental allowance. Surveys identified the fear of career disadvantages as a central reason for the reluctance to take paternal leave. However, evidence on the career consequences of paternal leave is still lacking for Germany. In our paper, we address this research gap by examining the long-term wage consequences of fathers' parental leave.

We use a unique administrative dataset from the Integrated Employment Biographies that contains complete employment histories of married couples through 2019, including highly reliable wage information. Our sample covers more than 114,000 couples who became parents between 2007 and 2013. Extensive and daily information on the employment biographies of both partners allows us to analyze parental leave patterns within the couple in detail. We employ an event study design to explore fathers' wage development before and after taking parental leave and simultaneously consider a control group of men who became fathers but did not take parental leave.

## **Gambling as a Livelihood Strategy: A Potential for a Public Health Crisis in Ghana**

*Rabiu Asante*  
(*University of Ghana*)

The aftermath of the Covid-19 outbreak in mid-2020 left in its wake troubling economic challenges with global currencies particularly in developing nations tumbling to their weakest values yet. This posed several challenges across all spectrums of society. It plunged several Sub-Saharan African countries into various levels of economic crises. This was manifested in high inflations, eroded currency values, reduced earning power and increasing unemployment, particularly among the youth in Africa. In order to ensure the survival of the youth, gambling avenues became more appealing. Despite the increasing involvement of the youth, existing legislation fails to prioritize the potential public health crisis this poses and how the excesses of gambling must be handled. Consequently, this paper explores how tertiary student gamblers manage the micro-level crises they encounter as a result of gambling. Relying on data from 1,141 tertiary students from Ghana, the paper argues that although student gamblers are aware of the crises they encounter while gambling, its functional livelihood strategy makes it challenging for them to notice and deal with the associated gambling risks.

# PLENARY PANEL

## 16:15 - 17:45

**Jenny L. Davis**  
**Vassilis Galanos**  
**Dan McQuillan**  
**Lucy Suchman**

**Chaired by Susan Halford**

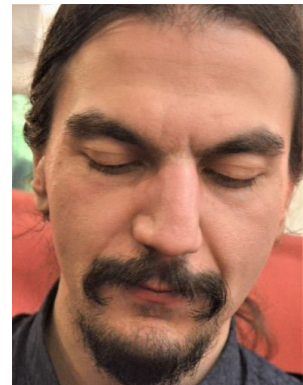
## Sociologies of Artificial Intelligence

The BSA Conference has convened a panel of experts to bring sociological analysis to bear on the political, epistemological and methodological conditions through which AI systems are produced and used. Members of the panel will examine the imaginaries, techniques and practices that shape the conceptualisation and regulation of AI and the pre-figurative consequences of data and datafication. In turn, the panel will also consider if and how sociological challenges to current AI assemblages might contribute to alternative futures, with or without AI.



**Jenny L. Davis** is a Professor of Sociology at Vanderbilt University, with an Honorary Professorship at the Australian National University. She works at the intersection of social psychology and technology studies, focusing on the ways social forces embed within and are affected by technological systems. Her book, *How Artifacts Afford: The Power and Politics of Everyday Things* (MIT Press 2020), provides an operational framework specifying how technological design reflects and shapes individuals and societies. With particular attention to AI, big data, and algorithmic systems, Jenny maintains active collaborations within and outside of academia, applying a sociological lens to the ways data-driven infrastructures infuse our social worlds. For more on AI in society, check out her work on *Affordances for Machine Learning and Algorithmic Reparation*.

**Vassilis Galanos** is Lecturer in Digital Work at the University of Stirling and Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh's Science, Technology and Innovation Studies Department and the Edinburgh College of Art. Vassilis teaches courses on internet, AI and society and various aspects of technological innovation, while serving as Associate Editor of the journal *Technology Analysis and Strategic Management* (Taylor & Francis). Vassilis researches and publishes on the interplay of expectations and expertise in the historical and current conceptual and regulatory development of artificial intelligence, robotics and internet technologies. Vassilis's further academic interests include cybernetics, media theory, invented religions, oriental and continental philosophy, community-led initiatives, journalism, and art.





**Dan McQuillan** - After a Ph.D in Experimental Particle Physics, Dan worked with people learning disabilities & mental health issues, created websites with asylum seekers, ran social innovation camps in Georgia, Armenia & Kyrgyzstan, led a citizen science project in Kosova, and worked in digital roles in both Amnesty International and the NHS. He is now a Lecturer in Creative and Social Computing at Goldsmith's University, London, and recently authored *Resisting AI - An Anti-fascist Approach to Artificial Intelligence*  
<https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/resisting-ai>

**Lucy Suchman** is Professor Emerita of the Anthropology of Science and Technology at Lancaster University in the UK. Before taking up that post she was a Principal Scientist at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), where she spent twenty years as a researcher. Her current research extends her longstanding critical engagement with the fields of artificial intelligence and human-computer interaction to the domain of contemporary militarism. She is concerned with the question of whose bodies are incorporated into military systems, how and with what consequences for social justice and the possibility for a less violent world.



**Susan Halford** will be facilitating the panel. She is Professor of Sociology and co-Director of the ESRC Centre for Sociodigital Futures at the University of Bristol. Her research focusses on the politics and practices of digital data, artefacts and infrastructures, working across the social sciences, arts and humanities to explore sociodigital futures in-the-making and consider how these might be directed towards pressing concerns of sustainability and social justice. Susan was President of the British Sociological Association 2018-22.



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