

CONTENTS

Adam Fish's Salon.....	2
Celia Robert's Salon.....	8
Elizabeth Shove's Salon.....	14
Lucy Suchman's Salon.....	21
John Urry's Salon.....	27
Open Salons 1st July.....	33
Open Salons 2nd July.....	41
Visitor Information.....	48

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Studies

Christianity and Occupy LSX: Religion, Politics and Identity

The role of Christianity in politically radical or progressive activism has been largely neglected in much scholarship, taking a marginal role in comparison both with studies of secular activism and the overwhelming focus on the Christian Right (Swarts 2008 and Wood 2003).

The Occupy movement, specifically the camp outside St Paul's, presents a significant opportunity to examine particular currents of Christian activism in the UK. While the Church of England reacted in confusion, rather than support, to the establishment of the protest camp, social media enabled the dissemination of a statement of Christian Solidarity with Occupy LSX, drawing signatories from various Christian organisations and congregations. Christians also mobilised online so as to be called upon to form a ring of prayer to protect the camp from eviction, though the late and sudden nature of the police action prevented this from actually occurring.

My Masters thesis aims to explore the identities of Christian Occupiers and how these played out in the context both of St Paul's reaction and of the camp's problems, such as violence and alcoholism. In taking such an approach, I question some of the assumptions of (new) social movement theory and hope instead to utilise spatial metaphors to understand resistant identities, such as bell hook's conception of 'marginality' (1991) and Soya's 'thirdspace' (1996). In exploring the identities of Christian Occupy protestors, I also hope to re-address the division forced by social movement theory between acts of political protest and broader lifestyle choices (Haenfler, Johnson and Jones 2012).

Going Digital, Big Brother & Sister and Little Siblings

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Sometimes, big sisters and brothers need to learn from their smaller siblings.

When organisations "go digital", it can be for a variety of reasons with both positive and negative consequences for their internal "audiences". Goals and aims are shared and contested in all organisations, and this presentation will look at the goals and aims of a local arts centre in their contested dream of "going digital". The presentation drills into the multiple goals, alignments, and conflicts of tip-toeing into digital arts education, using a broad activity theoretical frame of analysis.

At the site of the investigation, an arts centre in the North West UK with little history of using new ICTs for educational programs, there are different formal and informal groupings, discourses, goals and concerns involving the opportunities and threats that "going digital" brings to everyday practice. Going digital can actually disempower users, and empower non-users in the organisation. It is not necessarily

the tools alone that determine these flows and changes to daily practice.

The presenter will suggest that SMEs are potentially able to position the use of ICT tools and systems in a much more human-machine ecological and symbiotic relationship, precisely because of the human-human communication flows within the organisation. It is an area where large “big brother” enterprises might do well to learn from their smaller siblings.

iSpam

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This study will explore Web 2.0 platforms through Michel Foucault’s concepts of biopower and biopolitics. These concepts have primarily been used as an analytical framework for areas of interest such as biology, race and security because of their concern with power over biological lives. However, I intend to extend this paradigm into different directions, which have received little attention so far. Since a significant portion of everyday life takes place within Web 2.0 platforms, it opens the possibility that concepts of ‘life’ and ‘being’ can appropriately be used in these environments. Therefore, the emergence of Web 2.0 platforms provides an opportunity to take Foucault’s notions of biopower and reevaluate it in light of recent technological, epistemological and phenomenological developments within these environments. Thus, this study will analyze Web 2.0 platforms and the power relations that emerge within these environments through the concept of spam. Spam has started to appear on emails in the 1980s and is considered to be an abusive or inappropriate way to circulate unsolicited messages across the Internet. Yet, it is in fact hard to find a coherent or consistent description of spam due to its constantly changing nature. Spam seems to be in constant change; it challenges the traditional binary approach to content/users, fake/real, producers/consumers and advertisement/conversation. Therefore, this study will examine the complexity of the concept of spam through the lens of Foucault’s concept of biopower, and the way in which it can be used by commercial, political and private entities to seed their agendas.

Representations of HIV-positive identities in BBC children’s TV programming

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This paper will investigate how interested adults used children’s media to teach children about HIV/AIDS, acknowledging the institution of childhood as a site of ideological dispute and inscription. Analysing how adults negotiated the decision to represent HIV-positive persons to children and teenagers reveals how adults, in conveying their anxieties about HIV, exposed much of their attitudes to childhood, gender, sexuality and disease. Taking BBC children’s television as its focus, the paper will use textual analysis to demonstrate how children’s entertainment presented HIV-positivity in the mid 90s. The investigation will provide both a snapshot account of a particular programme’s presentation of HIV, Grange Hill, as well as a contextualised view, embedding such representations in the media image of HIV-positive identities past and present. Understanding how adults have conveyed their knowledge and beliefs about HIV-positive identities in the past is vital to understanding the way these identities are constructed and conceived of in our present. The paper will further social science understandings of the under-researched area of HIV-positive identity construction mediated through children’s educational entertainment materials. It

will also indicate areas where further research is required.

Mette Furbo

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Digital labour in consumer genomics

Digital media and the Internet have created new forms of labour - what is also called 'digital labour'. Often, it is talked about in terms of 'free labour' in a cultural economy. I will like to introduce and talk about other practices of digital labour by referring to the field of consumer genomics. Individuals can today buy gene tests online without the involvement of a health care professional. The largest and best-known consumer genomics company is North American 23andMe Inc., located in Mountain View. Not only does the company provide individuals with the opportunity to have their DNA sequenced, 23andMe also invites its customers to participate in research which in effect, as argued by Harris et al. (2012) creates a database of free, clinical labour. This novel approach to medical research driven by social participation is one form of digital labour. Another is when members of online communities try to make sense of their illness, for example chronic fatigue syndrome, by participating in DIY-style genetic analysis of their 23andMe genetic data. As they travel the Internet and utilise a number of online tools and resources, they engage in another form of digital labour.

Reflections on media discourse controversies regarding digital games

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Digital games have become a part of the cultural and social reality of children and young people in the Western world today and are increasingly gathering acknowledgement as teaching facilitating tools and resources (Prensky, 2001; Van Eck, 2006; Gee, 2007; Whitton, 2010). However, the media discourse reflects highly contrasting views on digital games.

This paper analyses the ideas expressed in the Norwegian popular media discourse in 2012, regarding digital games for learning. Disagreements and controversies in science and technology tend to reflect broader tensions in society and separating the two can be difficult. The Norwegian media discourse reflects contrasting views on digital games. Digital games are thus depicted as a threat to the mental, social and physical wellbeing of young people on one hand and as a ray of hope for future education, innovation, independent thinking, problem solving, creativity and entrepreneurship on the other hand.

The media discourse thus reflects the scientific disputes tied to game studies and digital game based learning. Controversies illustrate the authority of the scientist in society. Even in spite of cases of deception that have attracted media attention the popular belief in the neutrality of science has been persistent (Nelkin, 1987; Hess, 1997). The paper aims to cast a light on the debate on digital game-based learning and reveal how and why certain features of digital games seem to be the basis of highly contrasting and even emotional dispute.

The radical and the ordinary in alternative consumption practices

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Everyday acts of consumption have been explored as a site for social change, variously to resist or undermine the logic of capitalism; to exert market pressure, for example by demanding more 'ethical' (equitable, ecologically sound) production and distribution arrangements; and to prefigure alternative visions of society in response to current or anticipated social, economic and environmental crises. Of particular note is how such discussions move back and forth between discourses of the radical and the ordinary, presenting alternatives as possible or normal, while imbuing everyday activity with transformational significance. This paper draws on a study of alternative consumption practices – ways of acquiring, using and disposing of goods outside the formal economy – focusing on ways in which waste items are put back to use: giving and receiving via online reuse networks; redistributing unwanted fruit from urban public and private spaces; and reclaiming discarded food from supermarket bins. In particular it explores how people come to engage in these practices – how what is initially unthinkable might be first shown to be possible, before becoming normal – focusing especially on the role of social relations in exposing people to new or different practices.

Global brands presence and influence in social practices

VIVIANE RIEGEL

To understand the contemporary context in which global brands can be analyzed, we propose the discussion based on global consumption culture and the influence of these brands in social practices.

Every form of interaction between brands and consumers — taking place online and offline, in stores and over mobile devices, in branded content and by word of mouth, and through all direct consumer experience — can be understood by the social nature of brands. Tapping into the social nature of a brand means thinking differently about the expectations that consumers have for the product or service, and the values they share about it. In this sense, the brand experience is no longer restricted to the traditional strategies of advertising and marketing. From this perspective, this research project aims to find some evidence on how the presence of global brands can influence different social practices in our contemporary society. It will be analyzed through: (1) local and national meanings attributed both to brands and to their interaction with consumers; (2) the construction of global and cosmopolitan lifestyles by individuals and communities that engage to different practices promoted by global brands; (3) local and global, physical and virtual spaces of consumption built and promoted by global brands. Social practices are considered as habitual activities that structure the lives of communities and groups, and that are shared by and relevant to many of their members, we can analyze various perspectives from the social presence of global brands.

Films and their affects

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Film and Sociology

My presentation will look at the approach that academics take when viewing films and whether or not a different approach can be used and if so what this would contribute to film analysis. When writing essays on films in the past I have found the required form of analysis to be quite constricting. There is a heavy emphasis on mise-en-scene, cinematography, dialogue and music but very little when it comes to what the viewer feels as a result of what they are viewing. I intend to begin by looking at the work of Roland Barthes, in particular Camera Lucida, where he takes the cultural object and views it in terms of how it affects him emotionally. Can films be viewed in these terms? What do our emotional reactions say about the films themselves? And how can we analyse films using this method?

Nuclear power futures: Towards an understanding of agency

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Research in long-term energy futures often concentrates on certain outcomes or scenarios. Processes are envisioned as linear, unidirectional and continuous (Craig et. al 2002). Alternatively, transition studies construct a structured framework to approach change (Foxon 2010). This ongoing PhD research focuses on the multi-actor processes of future-making. The future of nuclear power is shaped by nuclear engineers, energy company managers, policy-makers, industry workers, local residents, anti-nuclear campaigners, as well as various alternative energy protagonists, electric car developers, electricity users. These actors not only project futures through visions, construction plans, technology designs or economic calculations, but also endeavour these through specific practices, technologies, discourses. As opposed to conventional futures techniques and forecasting methods, this research project concentrates on the agency of future-making. The project aims to research the diverse organisations with the aim of building up an ethnographically informed methodology to address agency and future-in-the-making.

Rethinking human exemptionalism: a sociohistorical exploration

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School of Sociology and
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Despite vast amounts of scientific research, media coverage and international policy implementation, our current ecological juncture seems more pessimistic than ever. Whilst we understand humanity's instrumental role in environmental degradation comprehensively, the task of rethinking our global societies in order to imagine a different future seems impossible, perhaps futile. My exploration, which draws upon theoretical research conducted for my undergraduate dissertation, utilises the apparatus of William Catton and Riley Dunlap's HEP/NEP dualism in order to question this perplexing situation. Catton and Dunlap's contribution to an emergent 'sociology of the environment' in America in the 1970s attempted to understand the changing relationship between humanity and the environment by tracing the transformation of thought from the Human Exemptionalist Paradigm (HEP), in which humanity was seen as somehow specially 'exempt' from ecological pressures, towards a New Ecological Paradigm (NEP), wherein humanity

recognises their dependence upon ecological factors. My research offers a review of the HEP/NEP dualism in a thoroughly social and historical context. In doing so, I suggest that whilst the HEP/NEP dualism remains somewhat underdeveloped in Catton and Dunlap's work, it provides a pertinent sociological understanding of humanity's complex and historically grounded relationship with the environment. Ultimately, I will argue that the dualism as presented provides an explanation of our current paralysis towards environmental catastrophes: our own existential uncertainty of our place in the cosmos. Thus, this research contributes to a furthering of sociological analyses of our relationship to the world in order to facilitate a new, more ecologically harmonious future.

Social Innovations Development In The EU: The Role Of ICT In Facilitating Diffusion

The importance of social innovations is growing as they play pivotal role in addressing societal challenges the World is facing nowadays. Social innovations' development is given a special place in the European Union (EU) as declared in Europe 2020: strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, HORIZON 2020 and Cohesion Policy proposal. European Commission defines social innovations as "the development and implementation of new ideas to meet social needs and create new social relationships or collaborations". While responding to social demands, social innovations maintain the social component as a mean (social mission) and as an end (economic and social value) in itself.

However, nowadays these processes can hardly be realized without information and communication technologies (ICT), which provide key infrastructures for primary all processes in public and private life of any spheres. ICT are integrated into the problem solving, as well as embedded in the process of social innovation diffusion.

The central research question is whether the social innovation diffusion in the EU creates the opportunities for social innovation development in neighboring countries and Ukraine as a case-study, in particular, with the help of ICT. Favorable scenario assumes that the high social innovative activity in the EU can enhance innovation activities and serve as a stimulus to accelerate the dynamics of socio-economic growth in Ukraine and further convergence with the EU countries. Hypothesis: EU is important actor in fostering social innovations by enabling social innovations and diffusing good practice.

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How is the 'boxing body' being made?

Several recent studies have discussed the body in the context of boxing and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), construing it as a stable unit on which different social and cultural meanings have been imposed (Spencer 2009, Pradise 2012). Such constructivist approaches have, unfortunately, not only predominantly circumscribed its production/construction to the physical boundaries of the gym but also largely overlooked the importance of materiality and discourse involved in its conceptualization.

Drawing from the author's personal experience in a local boxing gym in Northwest England, this study will discuss how the material environment of the gym and the objects populating it (heavy bags, ring, ropes, mottos on the walls...) constantly shape and redefine this 'boxing body'. This study will look in great detail at both a training session and a bout and particular emphasis will be given to the practices through which this 'boxing body' is being made (Mol 1999).

By applying a material semiotic approach (Haraway 1997; Law 2009; Mol, 2011), this study will envisage the 'boxing body' as performed and will investigate the multiplicity of such performed entity (Mol, 1999; Butler, 1993). Its main expected finding is that such body is performed not only within (as emphasized by constructionist approaches) but also without the boxing gym. In other words, it will demonstrate how the 'boxing body' is a body multiple and the boxing gym is only one of the multiple realities within which the body to be performed.

How much does a life cost? Pricing, cost-effectiveness and calculation devices in the case of HPV vaccines in Colombia

Policymakers and governments have adopted market ontologies for understanding healthcare. Market ontologies have involved a change of language, as well as, the establishment of a set of practices of calculation and valuation of healthcare goods and services. Market metaphors and the emphasis in user choice can be described as marketization.

In this paper I present an analysis of this process in Colombia through following a particular good: HPV vaccines. In particular I will describe the negotiation and practices involve in the definition of vaccines' prices. Price has been presented as a key element in the movement of vaccines across countries and regions, as well as, as a factor for producing health gaps and exclusion. As Callon and Çaliskan have

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noted “prices are estimated quantifications and therefore imply the mobilization of calculation tools. As such, they are at the heart of agents’ struggles to produce asymmetries in the distribution of value” (2010: 17).

Valuation of HPV vaccines produces (and is produced by) particular enactments of cervical cancer, risk, health and life. I will describe the different valorimeters used in the introduction of these vaccines within the Colombian market and government public vaccination programmes. Valorimeters, denote “the various tools, procedures, machines, instruments or, more generally, devices effecting this controversial translation of values into figures and, more precisely, into monetary amounts” (Callon and Çaliskan, 2010: 17). These devices enact not only versions of disease and technology (vaccine), but also they provide an image of values and government priorities.

Bear Performance: A Masculine Model of Homosexuality in Contradiction

ANGELICA CABEZAS

University of Manchester
Anthropology

This paper will explore how the discourse about hegemonic masculinity within the Gay Bear Subculture contradicts some of the foundational principles of this community and their own embodiment of masculinity.

Those who identify themselves as Bears adopt a masculine aesthetic as a reaction to the “mainstream gay scene”, that celebrates more queer practices such as cross-dressing or just more challenging gender identities. Confronting these practices, Bears perform a “straight” gay man, trying to create a distance from any kind of “effeminate behavior”.

This research explores the narratives of a musical band of Bears using ethnographic documentary, following them in their dream of becoming the Best Bear Boy Band.

This study maps from inside the bear community, recognizing strategies of belonging and exclusion, and understanding the Bear performance as a contradictory point of intersection of class, gender and identity.

Learning and Researching Leadership

ERICA LEWIS

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Management Learning &
Leadership

Learning and Researching Leadership

This paper will reflect on issues arising in the initiating stages of an action research project designed to learn with and from the experiences of young women, and once young women, of exercising and developing leadership within a social justice setting.

In particular I intend to explore how within the research process we are ‘learning leadership’ (a practice) as well as ‘learning about leadership’ (a theory) (Ganz and Lin, 2012, p353). I will also outline how my research contributes to the leadership literature by expanding our understanding of the exercise of leadership by young women in an international women’s rights organization. In turn actors and sites of action the leadership literature has been critiqued for overlooking (Ospina et al., 2001, Chetkovich and Kunreuther, 2004, Stead and Elliott, 2009, Marshall et al., 2011).

Breastfeeding as work – dilemmas of conceptualisation in research (and life)

LULA MEGINSKA

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Breastfeeding as work – dilemmas of conceptualisation in research (and life)

If work is an “activity involving mental or physical effort in order to achieve a purpose or result” then breastfeeding must be understood as work. Breastfeeding also requires an expenditure of energy, it is a productive activity, involving a breastfeeding woman in social relations - which are all, again, characteristics of work. Yet even a cursory search for articles related to ‘breastfeeding’ and ‘work’ proves that a vast majority deal with issues around ‘reconciling’ breastfeeding and working life – this ‘management’ being a kind of work in itself. It could be argued that the demise of the wet nurse, a ‘breastfeeding professional’, played a part in obscuring the work involved in breastfeeding and ostensibly changed the status of breastmilk from commodity to ‘sacred substance’ (Golden 1996). Even if production metaphors of supply and demand are ubiquitous in medical discourse and frequently used by mothers talking about breastfeeding (cf Dykes 2006), the work remains understood as a labour of love. And yet, at the same time, it could be argued that breastfeeding has a quantifiable worth and that human milk production meets all the criteria for inclusion in GDP and that without it such measures remain biased and distort policy priorities (Smith & Ingham 2008). As a feminist and a breastfeeding mother researching breastfeeding, I struggle with the ways in which breastfeeding could be conceptualised as work and my presentation will focus on these dilemmas.

From Ovulation to (in)Fertility; Practices of Knowing and Becoming

JOANN WILKINSON

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For women and couples who are trying to conceive, ovulation becomes an important focal point, and knowing when it happens is considered key to increasing a woman’s chances of conceiving. Discussions on online pregnancy forums guide women on how recognize the signs of ovulation and what to do when it happens. Some women are new to the discussions on the forums, others have been taking part in them for several months or years. They gradually become experts on the ovulating body learning about temperature dips, cervical mucus, ovulation pains and saliva patterns. The measuring and observing of the ovulating body is a process of becoming yet these practices of knowing also place them nearer to the infertile body; conception is something which normally just happens. In this way, the process of knowing is also a process of unbecoming. As the women learn about how their bodies work in terms of ovulation they also discover how they don’t work in terms of conceiving. This talk will focus on the practices of knowing within the context of ovulation and the trying-to-conceive body and will examine how such practices are complex, how they shift boundaries and reshape the reproductive body.

“You trust [...] the medical profession don’t you, you trust the doctors”: how parents make sense of their daughters adverse side effects following the HPV vaccination

ALI HANBURY

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Vaccinations save lives. Lives are precious and therefore vaccines are accepted. Or so the story goes. Here I will present an alternative account, one of iatrogenic and contested illnesses following the HPV vaccination. Decision-making regarding whether to vaccinate has largely been framed as a choice involving the weighing up of risks and benefits; how likely is it that my child will experience side effects versus what health problems will they avoid by being vaccinated? If it is believed that the benefits; the ill-health or diseases avoided has greater worth than the risk of side effects then vaccination is usually accepted. This argument is one which has been previously problematized and here I will trouble this risk-benefit dichotomy by introducing the experiences of parents (and when possible individuals) of ‘vaccine injured’ young women. This paper includes empirical accounts from parents and young women who have received the HPV vaccine and have experienced adverse side effects. Finding solace and support through online networks, parents are sharing ways of confronting inert medical responses, fighting for diagnosis of illnesses and challenging the pharmaceutical companies. As a new and emerging health movement this group of parents of ‘vaccine injured’ young women are highlighting problems and inconsistencies with the HPV vaccination programme; from the information provided when considering consent and the suspicion and accusations of parental neglect, abuse and harm. Parents share their stories of meaning making, individual research of symptoms and reflections of their own positions which I will engage with to offer initial analysis.

Seeing Whiteness in Indonesian Comic Character

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In this essay, I would like to discuss about the whiteness produced in the children comic, titled “Cerita Negeri Dongeng ” published in children magazine. In this comic, the character of fairy mother is illustrated as white women. In this case, I would like to argue about how whiteness, is constructed. The color skin of the character in the story seems contradictory with the original skin of Indonesia, since Indonesian people do not have white skin like European. Whiteness, Sara Ahmed argues, becomes worldly in non-white bodies (Ahmed, 2007). It is not something taken for granted, but inherited and shaped by colonialism (Ahmed, 2007). In line with what Ahmed said, Indonesia was colonized by Netherland for centuries. The colonialism has made the position of white people in the first class. Furthermore, it is perpetuated by national media. As Foucault power does not appear as force, yet it appears a form of productive or pleasure (Foucault, 2000). Power, then, become discourse through the set of knowledge through representation (Rose, 2007). In the case of the children comic, the representation appear in the visual image. Rose argue that visuality contains two aspects: vision and visuality. Vision means the capability of seeing, while visuality means the way things are seen and constructed (Rose, 2007). In this research, I would like to observe the image in discourse analysis method. In understanding the meaning of image, the researcher need the intertextuality that refers the way that the meaning of one discourse depend on another discourse.

Hazel Marsh

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Student drinking and abstention cultures: the role of media ‘over-representation’ and targeted prevention campaigns

Student drinking and abstention cultures: the role of media ‘over-representation’ and targeted prevention campaigns

This paper focuses on two aspects of on-going PhD research on how student unions might best respond to continuity, change and diversity in student drinking and abstention cultures with a view to reducing harm and promoting the safety and health and wellbeing of the student body. Firstly, the role that media ‘over-representation’ (Atkinson et al, 2011) and social networking sites play in relation to producing norms around student’s alcohol consumption is considered. Secondly, and in the context of the first focus, this paper compares (a) ‘student night’ promotions and (b) drink safety campaigns aimed at students. This comparison will inform a consideration as to the effectiveness of primary prevention campaigns in light of evidence which suggests that public health messages do not hold resonance with young people, nor reflect the social complexities of alcohol consumption (Sondhi & Turner, 2011) or indeed the lack of it.

The materiality of care by webcams

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The advent of telecare carries a promise. All kinds of problems in healthcare (like the increase of chronic care patients and the decrease of nurses) will be solved through ICT. That’s for the optimists. There are more pessimistic views as well, for example because of the actual distance and coldness that comes with it. Yet we still know so little of what is actually happening in and with care when it changes into telecare. I followed a team of oncology nurses of a homecare organisation during a project with webcams. They wanted to monitor their patients (who are in a palliative stage of life) more easily without being more intrusive. By using a webcam and a computer with a dedicated platform with specialised information and a questionnaire, they aimed at improving the quality of care. But what happens when the webcam is introduced? It is not the same giving care in front of the camera as sharing the room together. The webcam frames reality, by actually framing the image you can watch, but also by leading to new actions in care. Do nurses need new rituals and new ways of enacting care, as the so familiar surroundings have changed?

I have observed webcam-care and interviewed both patients and nurses. I am starting new work on this data and would love to share ideas on telecare, framing reality, active technologies and latent forms of care. I have planned a rough article on this topic by the time the summer conference starts.

The Human Body in Cultural Context: Attitudes towards Health, Illness and Treatment

**MyKHAYLO
Lytovka**

Maria Curie-Sklodowska
University
Sociology of Medicine

Attitudes towards health, illness and treatment are to great extent the effect of cultural environment. Individuals belonging to different ethno-cultural groups have different belief systems related to health and illness and are adherents of different medical practices. The present paper aims to explore the body as a fundamental category affecting attitudes towards health and the choice of medical practices. Foucault's body as a 'site of pain' which has to be localized and relieved stands within the western medicine pattern where body is viewed as a set of members, organs, etc. treated separately. In contrast, the holistic approach, interpreting the body as a unit, is the foundation of eastern medical tradition. Being a product of western or eastern culture, the concept of the body assimilated by individuals shapes their health strategies and affects the way they choose to be treated.

TCyborg or goddess? discourses of human enhancement

Peter FUZEŠI

Lancaster University
Sociology

Disability is and has been deployed as a powerful metaphor both in everyday language and institutionalised cultural forms (Mitchell and Snyder, 2001). Freak shows have a long history within Western modernity as sites to negotiate and stabilise individual and collective identities (Garland-Thomson, 2002). One could argue that the emergence of disabled sportspeople as supercrips (Howe, 2011), is a new reiteration of disability as spectacle.

While previous images of disabled people informed one's understanding in relation to individual and collective normality; the users of assistive technologies such as paralympians are often recognised as cyborgs, and their technologically enhanced bodies evoke new historical perspectives on technological development and new forms of embodiment.

My presentation is part of a wider research project that aims to provide a cartography of power by tracing the connections between different discourses of experts and policy makers, the public understanding of disability and AT, different marketing strategies of AT products, and how those inform the localised practice of developing assistive technologies.

Here I would like to focus on three important currents of such discourses: firstly the different transhumanist movements that see human enhancement in terms of progress (Kurzweil, 2006; Minsky, 2007; Moravec, 2000), secondly the academic reflection on the posthuman condition (Hayles, 1999; Wolfe, 2009), and thirdly the feminist intervention that recognises the liberating potential of technology and new forms of embodiment (Haraway, 1991). My aim is to trace how these discourses might inform the understanding of disablement and human enhancement of experts, customers and citizens.

Laura PiScicelli

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Combining the 'ABC' models of (pro-environmental) behaviour change and social practice theory to explore collaborative consumption

By preventing new purchases and promoting the reuse of goods, the shared use of some kind of commodity between groups of individuals is a promising strategy to avoid waste production. Growing interest has been recently triggered by the rise of collaborative consumption, described as “traditional sharing, bartering, lending, trading, renting, gifting, and swapping, redefined through technology and peer communities.” (Botsman and Rogers 2011, p.xv). Recognised the value for these (re-) emerging social practices in enabling pro-environmental behaviour and more sustainable lifestyles, it is worthwhile to explore their actual potential for acceptance, adoption and scaling-up among a larger number of consumers.

The study builds on a ‘middle ground’ position combining two different, if not contrasting, theoretical approaches: the individualistic ‘ABC’ models of behaviour change and social practice theory. In particular, taking collaborative consumption practices and their dynamics as the central unit of enquiry, the research investigates the personal values at stake in engaging in sharing rather than buying and considers how these values can be influenced by practice-embedded experiences. Consequently, the potential for a practice-oriented approach to inform the design of products and services enabling waste prevention is further questioned and analysed.

In this presentation I firstly describe the theoretical standpoint embraced in the study and its main underpinnings; subsequently, I make the case for the appropriateness of operationalising this position through a mixed methods research design. Finally, I describe the challenges and opportunities for designers in facilitating behaviour change through product-service systems for collaborative consumption.

Waste flows: moving with the indeterminate

Owen Dowsett

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Sociology

Waste flows: moving with the indeterminate

Waste doesn't ever really go away. It is never really disposed of. It rather flows. Following the work of Myra Hird, and drawing upon Tim Ingold's (2007) account of matter and materiality, this presentation will consider the reasoning behind such a statement and its implications for how we should understand waste. Through attending to various materials that constitute 'waste', I will discuss how their flow can be considered in both spatial terms (their containment and channelling) and temporal terms (the stability and instability of their material states). It soon becomes apparent that these dimensions of flow are interlinked. Indeed, infrastructure for managing the 'disposal' (see Gregson and Crang, 2010) of waste

is highly dependent upon the predictability and stability of the materials that are to be disposed of (see Marvin and Medd, 2006). This plays out through a system of management that seeks to nurture both the mobility and immobility of different materials, and to actively manage (to prevent and to bring about) their potential to change form. Nevertheless, waste materials tend to leak, spatially and temporally, from the categories they are ascribed into new potentially harmful arrangements. The presentation will therefore consider the forms that such leakage takes and how this relates to the instability of the material and social relations that coalesce around waste materials.

Democratic politics of transformative practices: transition management in a Dutch city port

SHIVANT JHAGROE

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Social Sciences (DRIFT)

This paper investigates democratic politics of 'transition management' (TM) practices. TM can be defined as "forward looking, adaptive, multi-actor governance aimed at long-term transformation processes that offer sustainability benefits" (Kemp & Loorbach, 2006: 103). The politics of TM, however, have been problematised (Shove and Gordon, 2007, 2008; Meadowcroft, 2009), especially fundamental democratic questions (Hendriks, 2009; Voß, Smith & Grin, 2009). With this background, the paper first discusses how TM practices can be understood as a network of material-discursive practices (Barad, 2007), thereby highlighting TM's political nature in abstracto (e.g. selecting 'frontrunners' and directed towards 'systemic change' and 'sustainability') and in concreto (politics of bodies, materiality and social practices). It then discusses how TM resonate with three different types of democratic politics (aggregative democracy, deliberative democracy and radical democracy).

An empirical case of TM in the Rotterdam harbour area (City Ports) further illustrates this. The City Ports programme consists of five strategies aimed at strengthening the regional economic structure and becoming an attractive environment to work, sport and live in. A discourse analysis shows that TM practices are always embedded locally and combine different democratic traditions as well as non-democratic sources of legitimacy (such as bureaucracy, technocracy, legality, economy). This elucidates how this specific TM case is inherently ambiguous in terms of its 'democratic character', interestingly, making it very fruitful. In that, flexibility and experimentation are mixed with dominant institutions, thereby diffusing a demos (e.g. current/future populations, residents/voters/employees/consumers) and complexifying boundaries between democracy, technocracy and bureaucracy."

Liz Morgan

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Environment

Transition to more sustainable clothing systems; can a business actor become a transition manager?

Retailers are often overlooked as system participants by researchers examining transition towards more sustainable consumption, yet they are key actors in the current system of provision and consumption. Marks and Spencer, the UK's leading clothing retailer, has undertaken arguably the most well known and best regarded business sustainability programme in the UK over the past 5 years: 'Plan A'. Six of the original Plan A commitments sought to promote more environmentally efficient consumer behaviour in connection with clothing. Through analysis of company reports and other publicly available data, this research seeks to identify how and why these individual operational commitments for sustainability might help to stimulate change from one system of provision and consumption to another, more sustainable, one.

The analysis finds that the company's initial estimates of the business case value to be derived from some of the sustainability initiatives were quickly exceeded and this gave internal confidence to go further and be more ambitious. This, in turn, led to the company developing a wider system with other actors, in order to fulfil the ambitions. In seeking to encourage consumer behaviour change, this large retailer positioned the change for the consumer as easy, risk-free and cost-free. It concludes by drawing more general lessons about in-system business actors' roles in managing transition towards more sustainable consumption.

Katja SCHÖNIAN

Institute for Advanced
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Sociology

Variations on relations: intranet software, work practices and the concept of standardisation

My dissertation investigates the entanglement of work practices and digital technologies using the example of intranet software. Framing the intranet in relation to theories of practice, my work explores how the intranet transpires through distinct work practices. Moreover, it asks to what extent the implementation of this software increases the standardisation of work practices and related ideas about contemporary office life.

For the summer conference I will present preliminary findings of my fieldwork conducted in a telecommunication company. In light of a recent merger this company has gone through, I first of all illustrate the expectations towards the intranet. Moreover, I am going to shed light on the different ways in which the intranet is part of a variety work practices. I do so in order to argue that processes of standardisation must not be understood as a straightforward, one-sided development. Rather, they should be considered in terms of tensions that emerge as part of different work processes and practices. Thus, the practices enabled or possibly restricted through the software are better conceived as constant and dynamic entanglements that simultaneously include moments of continuity and change.

As it can be seen, my work contributes to the discussion about global standards which are often described as a one-way, homogenising development within contemporary societies. I suggest theories of practice avoid such causal explanations and instead allow me to think of the intranet as part of dynamic relations. As such it travels but to some extent also maintains shape across different locales.

“Well calculated care” – Practices of calculation in a domiciliary care agency

Lydia-Maria Quart

Lancaster University
Sociology

Since the mid-1990s the supply of long-term social care in Germany has changed profoundly: the number of professional care providers and the number of people receiving care from those providers have increased vastly. Also to a growing extent care is being regarded as part of the economy, which means that providers are supposed to compete on a free market and patients are viewed as customers or clients. Those who support this development have suggested that the introduction of economic concepts makes care supply more transparent and rational. Critics on the other hand have claimed that framing care in economic terms has undermined the characteristics which care work used to have and should have.

This paper is about the entanglement of economic calculations and notions of good care in a domiciliary care agency's office. I will discuss what it means to “calculate” care. I will argue that seemingly contradictory rationales like budget, business, care, ethics, responsibility etc. play out when care is planned in the home care provider's office. Thus, calculating, I will suggest, is a complex practice involving human, conceptual and material actants. In the paper I will present material from my ethnographic research with home care providers in Berlin (Germany) which I am carrying out in the context of my PhD thesis on marketisation of care. In my analysis I draw on practice theory as well as on STS research on care, standardisation and market making practices.

A primary child's literacy activities with his foreign domestic helper and parents at home in Hong Kong

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Language

The approach of my present research treats literacy not simply as a set of technical skills learnt in formal education, but as social practices embedded in specific contexts, discourses and positions (Barton and Hamilton, 2000). In this study, literacy is regarded as multiliteracy practices because of the various modes embedded in texts, namely, linguistic and visual across multiple social setting (Heath and Street, 2008).

There is a broad consensus that families play an important role on the children's development in literacy. There has also been a number of research investigating both academic literacy and family literacy overseas. However, few ethnographic studies have shed light on children's literacy practices by the characteristics of family context in Hong Kong — a bilingual and trilliterate society.

To fill the research gap, this research seeks to investigate ways in which a middle-class family in Hong Kong enabled their children to have improvement in their literacy efforts. The focal child managed to get more exposure from his parents and foreign domestic helper who played the role of language tutors who integrated socially and culturally relevant teaching practices into their family literacy instruction.

Ethnographic case study methodology was adopted because it allowed me as a researcher to collect multiple forms of evidence in the family context. Based on the data collected, several recommendations for school educators are provided. It is hoped that the outcomes of the research will offer critical insights to the design of the policies on family education in the long run.

KAROLINA LINDH

Lund University
Department of Arts and
Cultural Sciences

Situating bystander CPR skills in everyday life

The objective of the research project at hand is to study the bystander CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) standard in practice; that is how it is enacted in different contexts and what understandings and associations these translations give rise to. CPR is a standardized set of procedures that any bystander is allowed to perform in cases of cardiac arrest. The development of external chest compressions in the 1960s made it possible to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) outside hospital settings since the chest no longer had to be opened. The lay public has since then been encouraged to take part in CPR courses. In Sweden more than three million people have taken a CPR course since 1983. This Swedish large-scale project, which involves stakeholders from different parts of society such as public authorities, insurance companies, NGOs, fundraising organizations, cardiologists and medical researchers, can be likened to a popular movement. These stakeholders engage in the mediation of CPR guidelines to the lay public in different ways. This presentation will focus on how CPR is situated in everyday life during CPR courses at an occupational health service in southern Sweden. The study draw attention to the ambivalence that arises when the instrumental guidelines are turned into practical excersices, how a procedure intended to save lives give rise to worries and hope. The study is based on observations and interviews carried out between 2011 and 2013.

CATHERINE WALKER

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Health

Methods to capture children's everyday lives and environmental concerns: the importance of space and positioning

The moral case for pro-environmental action centring on lowered resource use, sustainability and reducing environmental vulnerability often draws on abstract notions of children and childhood to buttress its argument. In my PhD research I argue that exploring the details of children's everyday lives in different spaces may offer a way of looking beyond these abstract notions to highlight the structural factors - and understandings of individual positioning amidst these - that can support or inhibit children's awareness of, or engagement with, broadly defined environmental issues.

Whilst abstract notions do sometimes filter into children's talk about the environment, I have found that using different methods to capture children's everyday lives can in some cases shed light on the complexity of relating abstract notions of what it means to be 'pro-environmental' to concrete behaviour. In other cases, they may illuminate the presence of behaviours that can be considered in some contexts as 'pro-environmental' against the absence of rhetorical justifications of these.

This presentation will consider the methods used in my PhD fieldwork in India and the UK whilst researching the everyday lives of 24 children living in a variety of contexts. These methods comprised interviews, mobile methods, photo elicitation and cognitive mapping, and I used these in a number of different spaces inhabited by children in their everyday lives, including school, leisure and home. In presenting some tentative findings from recently-completed fieldwork, I will pay particular attention to the difference that space made to the execution of the methods and data generated.

Deborah Denton

Lancaster University
Marketing

Anatomy of a Big Night Out: Developing a better understanding of the practice(s) of planned heavy sessional drinking among young adults

Despite evidence that alcohol consumption in the UK is falling, heavy sessional drinking amongst young adults remains an enduring concern. Recent statistics revealed that 22% of men, and 17% of women 16-24 'binge' drink and alcohol related hospital admissions continue to increase (NHS, 2012). Recent attempts to tackle harmful drinking through social marketing campaigns have been largely ineffective because they ignore the social and pleasurable aspects of the drinking experience (Szmigin et al., 2011, Brown and Gregg, 2012, Heaven, 2013).

This research aims to provide new insights into 'harmful' and 'hazardous' drinking amongst young adults by focusing on the relationship between consumption choices and drinking practices. Building on, but with a different perspective to, previous studies into alcohol consumption and social identity (Griffin et al., 2008:2012, Banister and Piacentini, 2006:2009), it views the heavy drinking session as an integrative practice which interacts with other social practices (Arsel and Bean, 2013).

My research will use a multi-method qualitative approach to examine drinking practices in four groups of young adults aged 18-25 across a range of socio-economic and educational circumstances. Using a practice theory perspective, I can identify the key constituent practices of a heavy drinking 'session' and examine the 'performative linkage' between their constituent 'objects, meanings and doings' (Magaudda, 2011), enabling fresh insights into the drinks choices which lead to harmful consumption. This paper will focus on the development of my theoretical framework and research design.

Peter Swan

Lancaster University
Marketing

A Charged Debate? How social enterprises balance the need to raise money while maintaining accessibility

For many social enterprises and third sector organisations as a whole, statutory income remains one of their most dependable sources of income, which is often attributed to the inability of their beneficiaries to contribute even a small amount of money towards the cost of their services. Nevertheless, with statutory income becoming scarcer or more restricted, many third sector organisations have considered implementing user fees as an immediate response to reductions in government income. The challenge for third sector organisations is how to ensure that these charges do not deter beneficiaries from attending. Using the case study of Pioneer Projects, a community 'arts and health' organisation, this paper investigated the challenges facing third sector organisations which are considering charging for activities or services.

Staff at Pioneer Projects acknowledged that raising additional income through participant fees was necessary owing to factors outside the organisation's control. However, they considered it imperative that the organisation remained as inclusive as possible, acknowledging that its overall legitimacy was partly dependent on maintaining a strong relationship with the local community. Pioneer Projects has largely managed to avoid 'institutional isomorphism' in the direction of the market, consulting with

participants and taking time to implement decisions. However, making unpopular decisions has been unavoidable in some instances. To minimise this loss of internal legitimacy, Pioneer Projects utilised strategies such as impression management to justify its decisions.

As well as creating tensions with beneficiaries, the charging debate highlighted tensions between the grassroots and professional sides of the organisation.

Sara Heidenreich

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of Culture

Imagining knowledge deficits without filling the gaps? How offshore wind scientists conceptualize the science-public relation?

Public engagement with science and technology has increasingly gained attention within politics and social science theory. A frequent finding in empirical studies of science-public relations is the prevalence of the widely criticized deficit model implying a conceptualization of the public as knowledge deficient and in need of science education in order to have a more positive and accepting attitude towards science.

This paper analyzes how scientists themselves conceptualize their role and the role of the public in science-public relations. It is based on 26 semi-structured interviews conducted with scientists connected to two Norwegian national research centers on offshore wind energy.

The paper finds that there indeed is a conceptualization of a knowledge deficient public among the scientists. However, instead of taking an active role to close this perceived knowledge gap through public education as the deficit model would suggest, the main tenor in the interviews was either that others, namely politicians and social scientists, should do the public education because the scientists were concentrating on technical details or that the scientists didn't really see the necessity for public knowledge enhancement or engagement at all. Despite the importance attributed to the public by politics and social science theory, to engage with publics seemed irrelevant for the majority of the interviewed scientists.

Grounded Theory and Technology Design: The Case of Medical Interpreters

ILANA ROZANES

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Science and Statistics

How can a patient and a health provider communicate with each other when they do not speak the same language? International migration, business and travel have made this question a reality for many people. Language barriers are of particular concern in healthcare, as they may impede equal access or be detrimental to the quality of services. One way for patients and medical providers to communicate across language barriers is to work with professional medical interpreters. The human language technology community has also been researching and developing solutions, such as spoken language translation, that could allow patients and providers to communicate when human interpreters are not available. In addition, communication technologies that allow interpreters to work remotely (e.g. telephone and videoconferencing) have been used to reduce the costs associated with travel time and to facilitate the

availability of interpreters. Although these two approaches could offer viable solutions, I believe that a deeper understanding of the work of medical interpreters is needed in order to explore how technology can contribute, if at all. As a result, a grounded theory of the work of medical interpreters has been developed based primarily on interviews (both one-on-one and in groups). In this presentation I will start by discussing the resulting theory of Comfort Zoning. Based on my experience, I will then try to position the Grounded Theory methodology within the design process. In specific, can Grounded Theory offer a viable way of going from data to design opportunities?

Exploring and addressing methodological issues in the re-framing of patient safety

This presentation focuses on patient safety enactments in various realms of healthcare practice from home to more institutionalized settings, and on possible tensions these entail in the everyday activities of living and dealing with conditions of health, curing and care. It addresses some methodological issues that bear upon discerning tensions in and across enactments, such as in relating design/use configurations of such practices. A discussion is invited regarding an STS reflexive approach on methodological matters, for approaching patient safety enactments.

Public and private initiatives towards patient safety improvement have focused on technological developments, such as telemedicine services, provided through seemingly appropriated technologies, e.g smartphones. Shortcomings, such as mobile phone and Internet signal losses are still considered as unrelated practices to healthcare and point to emergent socio-material assemblages where the scope and the boundaries of safety in patient care are being challenged. Still, consequent re-configurations of healthcare and patient practices need to be inquired into and understood.

Design approaches to patient safety may be too delimiting as to how they scope their inquiries. Qualification processes of novel frames and devices tend to simplify the projections of implicated actors in design methods. This is reflected in initiatives that address safety sensitive assemblages as parts of methodological considerations but yet, leave out of their scope the recognition of and engagement with any transformative potentials that may underlie in performative elements of patient safety enacted spaces. How designing for patient safety may address such multiple unfolding issues towards a potential reframing of patient safety?

From Molecule to to the Patient: Nanomedicine and the Materialization of Expectations

The movement of scientific research in nanomedicine is becoming an increasingly important aspect of contemporary biomedical societies. The STS literature has pointed out very well the role of expectations and future-oriented visions in the generation of this emerging area of biomedical research. In particular, nanomedicine implies an orientation towards the future, through the articulation of different narratives which are enunciated by heterogeneous actors, such as patients association, scientists, biomedical researchers and policy markers. In this contribution - based on ethnographic observation of an Italian laboratory of nanomedicine operating within the field of experimental and clinical pharmacology - I

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will try to investigate the relations between this promissory narratives and the research work in the laboratory of nanomedicine, where researchers are involved in the development of “nanodevices” of synthetic DNA in order to achieve new therapeutic regimens for cancer treatment. In the contribution, emphasis will be given, firstly, on the performative and processual aspect of future-oriented narratives on nanomedicine in the shape and generation of medical futures and expectations. Secondly, I will discuss the sociomaterial practices of design, development and characterization of the “therapeutic nanodevice” as heterogeneous activities of materialization of expectations and nanomedical futures. I frame my discussion within the literature on the technoscientific expectations.

On public engagement of science and “regionality” in museums - what bases are there for comparisons between the Nantong Museum in China, and MOSI in the UK?

Jia-OU SONG

University of Manchester
Chinese Studies

When Zhang Jian created what is commonly known as ‘China’s first museum’ at the start of the 1900s, he was not aware that science communicators and museologists 100 years later at the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI) in Manchester would be musing over the same problem: how do we engage our visitors in science through the stories of scientific objects? This paper lays the ground-works for a larger project looking into the agendas of science museums in the UK and China, by comparing two seemingly very different museums. The “Nantong Model” of propagation originated by Zhang Jian located social improvement as rooted in the education of local students – with the help of the museum – and their exposure to foreign scholars. MOSI, whilst existing in a well-connected world, continues to highlight local science, technology, and engineering to its audiences. Both museums work to communicate science while boosting the profile of their geographical regions. How do they compare to one another, if they can be compared at all? Using a mixture of secondary literature and ethnography, the two museums are contrasted in terms of their origins, the way in which they connect science with the local region, and the relationship between visitors and the exhibits within. This paper considers what we can learn from each case study in order to improve current science communication in museums, and to explore how they each situate science in their respective societies.

Some elements for a sociology of business games

Léo Touzet

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Sociology

I propose to focus on a special pedagogical device for management training : the business game. The business game is a pedagogical simulation of business management: teams of participants represent and play the role of managers of fictitious companies, that are competing in a given market. Players have to define their business strategy, their trade, financial and production policies, etc. They periodically must make choices and take decisions, which are faced against each other by a software that simulates market reactions... As showed by Steiner (2007), there are generally two ways in which scientific knowledge can generate or produce practices that match what they say, or in other words, in which they can performed them: “the teaching and diffusion” of knowledge, and the “inscription of knowledge in the tools used

by agents”. The business game is both a tool inside which scientific knowledge has been incorporated, and a vector of diffusion of this knowledge to (future) managers.

I propose to focus particularly on the second modality of performativity, the inscription of knowledge in the pedagogical device, especially observing the modeling activity of the games designers. Indeed, in the “core” of the software governing the games operation and “behind” the algorithms they developed, lie hidden economic models. How these models who reflect particular conceptions of the economy and business are they built ? Where do these economic representations encapsulated in the games algorithms come from? What do they reflect: the economic theory or the subjectivity of games designers, or both?

The role of magic in user driven innovation and design

Marie Ertner

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Interaction Design
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Is there something magical about user driven innovation? This question imposed itself on me after a workshop in a collaborative, user driven innovation (UDI) project developing welfare technologies for elderly people. On this workshop where 7 new prototypes were introduced, the links between research, design activities and genesis of prototypes seemed impossible to trace (as if conjured up by magic).

I introduce the concept of magic to explore the different logics of relations between cause and effect in the field of UDI. The complex processes of tying together heterogeneous knowledges and materials from diverse activities, such as user studies, ideation and prototyping, is often managed and guided by systematized models and methods for user driven innovation. These models and practices instantiate certain configurations of rational-irrational, control-‘letting-go’ that seem to be core to how user driven innovation is practiced. Where and how might magic figure within these practices and what would it do to introduce the notion of magic to the domain of science and technology?

To introduce the concept of magic to the analysis of technological innovation might be used as a critical grip, but it might also be a way of reminding about the limits of human knowledge and possibility of control (Malinowski, 1935). Since along with magic comes awareness of the multiple agencies and unpredictable influences that go in to all relations of cause and effect; to acknowledge magic opts for methods and approaches that emphasize humility accorded by diligence and care in all processes of technological development.

Sorting and the epistemic politics of organic waste in Israel

Talia Fried

Bar Ilan University
Science & Technology
Studies

Solid waste is a critical environmental problem, and in any post-consumption method of treating it (recycling, composting, incinerating, and even landfilling), sorting is a central practice. My paper will discuss the case of sorting organic waste in Israel, where officials began rolling out a national household waste collection system in a number of towns last year. The new sorting scheme was designed to be as simple as possible. There are only two bins — one ‘wet’ for organic waste, the other ‘dry’ — where ‘wet’ is the privileged stream, its purity measured to indicate a sorting program’s success.

Despite its publicly championed ease and simplicity, the clarity of the wet/dry boundary, and the material make-up of what ends up as organic waste, are hard to determine. Thus there are numerous

material and discursive elements at play in shaping and settling organic waste as an ontological entity, and in moving it along the post-consumer waste network (one worrisome outcome being the marketing of toxic compost to farmers). This study ethnographically describes sorting practices at different sites in the waste infrastructure, including sidewalk bins, waste transfer stations, and commercial composting facilities. Using the analytical tools of enactment (Mol 2002) and epistemic object (Knorr Cetina 2001), I show how organic waste unfolds in different material and signifying forms, and explore some of the less visible stakes and knowledges involved in pushing waste through these formal sorting interfaces.

Sustainability that matters: Certifications, enactments and multiplicity in the Colombian sustainable coffee production

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SANCHEZ VARGAS

Lancaster University
Sociology

Sustainability has become an important source for adding value to traditional commodities. Sustainable Coffees in Colombia are part of Specialty Coffees programme. To produce sustainable coffees, certain production protocols have to be fulfilled including a number of social, environmental and/or economic criteria. In this paper I attempt to present some of the different localities, enactments and materialities of objects, practices and people involved in the production of Colombian “Sustainable special coffees”.

This presentation drawn the mattering of Sustainability, firstly enacted as a certification, in some specific locations such as the Coffee farm (as practices to produce sustainable coffees), groups of consumers, Non-profits organizations that promote sustainability by developing standards and certifications; the International Coffee Organization and the Colombian National Federation of Coffee growers which in alliance with CENICAFE (The National Centre for Coffee Research) create and distribute knowledge and technology for achieving sustainability in the coffee production.

This paper is a first exploration for analysing how those locations interfere and co-exist together and the network that makes possible transitions to sustainable coffee production. Finally, this description is framed by the concern of Science and Technologies Studies (STS) with materiality, multiplicity and interference as a way for dealing with such complexities.

Blurred Vitalism: The Immune System, Epigenetics, and The Dissolution of A Self-Contained Human Nature

ANDREA
NUNEZ CASAL

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Media and Communications

In this paper I trace the biomedical and socio-cultural networks through which the immune system is being reconfigured, attending to particular ontologies and epistemologies of human vitality. While classical immunology conceives the immune system as a molecular mechanism based on the maintenance of biological identity, contemporary biomedicine, especially the emergent field of epigenetics, seems to challenge the idea of a fixed and self-contained human nature by recognising the role of psychological, socio-economical, and ecological factors in the shaping of the immune function. In the light of this holistic understanding of human vitality, I interrogate, on the one hand, to which extend epigenetics

is transforming traditional discourses on immunity, thereby, undermining the nature/nurture divide. On the other, drawing on the work of Nikolas Rose, I discuss the ways in which epigenetics research on immunity, by being translated from the confines of the laboratory into the public domain via media technologies, is producing new forms of subjectivities. I argue that notions such as 'somatic individual' or 'molecular selves' need to include issues on bodily plasticity and multifactorial effects, since these aspects are also conforming much of the current neoliberal rhetorics on human nature.

INKA GREUSING

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Intertwining of field-habitus and the knowledge of sex/gender in the social field of engineering: Thinking about Bourdieu's habitus-field concept with Barad's notion of diffraction

In Germany engineering today is still a men's domain. This is in contrast to the public discourse, which seems to assume gender/sex equality and justice. It is also in contrast to the longlasting efforts to raise the quota of women in this field. I'm the head of such a project which aims at reaching girls. Further, I reflect (or diffract?) on it from the perspective of feminist science and gender studies. My investigation is about the intertwining of field-habitus and the knowledge of gender/sex in the social field of engineering. I use Bourdieu's habitus-field concept supplemented with Butler's concept of the heterosexual matrix as thought tool.

My object of research is transcribed interviews I had done with engineers who work at a university of technology and are engaged in my project. Through their narrations I can learn about interpretative patterns which are effective agents in the engineering field.

My reserch interest is an epistemological as well as a political one: One goal is to understand how (re)constitutions of sex/gender relations and ratio funcion in the engineering field. Another one is to find 'adjusting screws' in the field, through which I can promote possible changes together with engineering institutes; changes, which lead to more just sex/gender ratios and relations and to a de-constitution of bipolar sex/gender comprehension. In my paper I want to rethink some aspects of my understanding of Bourdieu's habitus-field concept with Barad's notion of diffraction and what this implies for my own reserch topic.

**Isabell
Loeschner**

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Mobile Email – a blessing or a curse?

In the last decades ICT have become key to our lives. We have entered the age of constant connectivity and our society has become an information society in which we are persistently bombarded with information. Mobile technologies are a vital enabler in the move towards this information society. Yet, the impact of ICT is paradoxical as both benefits and disadvantages can be observed and are perceived differently by different people. While on the one hand, allowing for more flexibility and self-determined work routines, some experience information overload, high pressure to work beyond traditional work hours and blurred work-life boundaries. Especially in the context of information overload at work, email has often been singled out as “Source and Symbol of Stress”. While a substantive body of knowledge exists on information overload, most of existing research has been carried out prior to the advance of smartphones. Hence, the aim of this proposed research is to bring our understanding of email to the smartphone era by trying to untangle the paradoxes of mobile-email use in the constant connectivity paradigm, while considering the agency of the user. To this end a Case Study is conducted in a multinational company drawing on a mixed approach of data collection. Two mobile-email user groups (information-overload-sufferers and mobile-email-embracers) are studied to investigate the differences between them and to develop a framework capturing these. This framework will both contribute to the understanding of mobile-email and will help to untangle the paradox of email as a blessing or curse.

Accounting for taste

Steve Wright

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Educational Research

The session I will present at the mini STS conference arises from my fieldwork for my PhD in Technology Enhanced Learning where I am looking at the processes of learning and practising sensory judging. My fieldwork was in three stages: participant observation of: 1 - a blended face-to-face/online course in beer judging, 2 – taking the online multiple-choice style guide exam and then the tasting exam 3 – course participants practising sensory evaluation as judges at the UK national homebrew competition.

In considering sensory evaluation, in particular taste, I draw extensively on contemporary work by established STS scholars. At the core of this course, practice and my investigation is the classification system used and its consequences – following the “ethnography of classification systems” and “information infrastructures” of Bowker and Star (1999) and Star (1999). I look at how these enable mobile devices such as iPhones to have apps developed for them and how other standards e.g. the Beer XML standards enables interoperability. By standardising descriptions and classifications in this information infrastructure these have helped to both stabilise and grow a network and test it in certain ways. I am interested in particular in the ubiquity of mobile devices and this “technologising of tasting” and how it is related to, referred to, stabilised, challenged or made and remade in closely analysed conversations and interaction practices.

This aspect extends my previous (published and in press) work on mobile devices in informal learning of brewing.

Jenny Preece

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Residential mobility and the role of the labour market: early findings using a biographical approach

This paper presents some early findings from research exploring residential mobility in more deprived neighbourhoods. Using a biographical approach, it seeks to understand whether labour market conditions influence households' residential mobility, drawing on theories of individualisation and liquid modernity which suggest that changes in labour market relations and processes have fostered greater spatial (and social) mobility. These theories underpin policy discourses which emphasise the importance of individual flexibility and mobility as a response to the needs of the labour market, where people 'get on their bike' rather than remaining trapped in apparently job-poor areas. Early findings challenge the notion that households suffer from a 'poverty of aspiration' and are 'trapped' in declining communities. Rather than an overarching narrative of decline, participants had varied ways of understanding and relating to their neighbourhood(s), presenting divergent and sometimes contradictory narratives of place. While some were tied to places by memories, family and complex support networks, for others life in a 'declining' area was an affordable and pragmatic 'choice'. Early findings show that households were seldom completely immobile, with biographies revealing a range of local, regional and country-wide moves, some of which were driven by labour market opportunities. However, the drivers for mobility were often multifaceted, tied up with a range of motivations which are difficult to disentangle and can only be fully understood in the context of a person's wider life story.

Choosing the Margin in the Homeless City

Natalie Robinson

University of Liverpool
Sociology

"Spaces can be real and imagined. Spaces can tell stories and unfold histories. Spaces can be interrupted, appropriated and transformed through artistic and literary practice" (hooks, 1989). In her (1989) essay, bell hooks invites us to "choose the margin as a space of radical openness". This paper will explore what this might mean for homeless individuals in the contemporary city, and for the social researcher who seeks to enable a "radically open" account. Edward Soja's (1996) notion of a trialectic "thirdspace" informs my discussion, which will focus on spatial, temporal and social (im)mobilities. Drawing on Teresa Gowan's (2010) ethnography of homelessness in San Francisco as case-study, I will consider the spaces and places that her homeless companions navigate on a daily basis, locating potential "profound edges" of resistance (hooks, 1989). Soja's logic of "both/and also" pervades my discussion, which seeks to disrupt binary definitions of mobility/immobility, inclusion/exclusion in the "realandimagined" urban space. Hook's incitement to enter the margins - "let us meet there", will be explored as an invitation to activist sociology. I discuss how such an invitation might pose a challenge to the researcher who endeavours to access the marginal sites of resistance.

Tiantian Shi

Lancaster University/
SUN Yat-sen University
Sociology

Networks and practices in making a new-born tourist place in China since 1978: Case of Kanas

Modern tourism re-emerged in China after the “reform and opening” policy in 1978, which leads China to paradoxical and complex context under intersection of various sectors, e.g. culture, economic, ideology, etc. Under this context, modern tourism spread in China and more places are making into tourist areas, especially places in the remote ‘backward’ west areas in China. Kanas is such a area in the northwest corner of China, which is newly built into tourist place after 1980s.

This study takes Kanas in Xinjiang as the case, collects the historical documentaries from all levels of government, and conduct interviews of planners, experts, tourists in different period of Kanas tourism development and oral history of local residents, local government officer of Kanas and area around Kanas, make a detailed description of the “making” process by reviewing a string of events, and explore the networks and practices in different stage of the life of Kanas to find the key elements and mechanism of the interaction of various networks and practices in ‘making of tourist place’ in China after 1978.

David Williams

University of the West
of England
AQMRC and CTS

Understanding the Social Practices of Transport Management in the UK

Within the UK transport sector, Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions have remained relatively constant since 1990, when the overall level of emissions has fallen. (DECC 2012 [p9]). Behaviour change policies to reduce GHG intensive travel tend to be dominated by social psychological and (behavioural) economics approaches (COI, 2009 [p7]). However, attempts to ‘nudge’ individual behaviour towards sustainable choices is likely to be insufficient to meet the UK Government’s carbon reduction targets (Shove, 2010). Understanding the transport sector from a social practice theory perspective can highlight where the opportunities exist within the management of the network to enable a greater uptake of low carbon travel alternatives.

Transport management only becomes of greater interest to people when there is a disruption to their normal activities, such as road closures or a heavy snowfall. Such events highlight the importance of practices and conventions that determine which activities, routes and modes of travel are favoured when the network is disrupted. This overview will provide an understanding the how the existing system operates in ‘normal’ conditions, and how meanings (e.g. essential travel), materials (e.g. which surfaces are treated) and competences (e.g. how to travel during winter conditions) change during the temporary altered states. Understanding these processes through practice theory, rather than as matters of individual rational choice opens the possibility to develop policies designed to minimise the impact of GHG intensive elements of the system (Shove et al., 2012), thereby helping the Government towards meeting its GHG targets.

ATMs, self-checkouts, bitcoins: how computer screens pass money to each other

FELIPE RAGLIANTI

Lancaster University
Sociology

This presentation examines with fingeryeyes (Hayward 2010) the sociotechnical gesture of passing money on between humans and computer screens. It discusses how certain practices with automatic tellers, self-checkouts, and bitcoins might situate economies as material arrangements. Through a portfolio of pictures and stories, I highlight how different financial manipulations either overlap or exclude each other, depending on how interactions among species might playfully work to fuse lively response and machinic reaction (Haraway 2008). With this this register in mind and body, I briefly read some fragments of Latin American and European policies of the digital as responsible of constituting some of the gaps they intend to bridge. I conclude by recommending a cyborgian (Haraway 1991) kind of courtesy as the political referent and premise for a citizenship of lively beings and machines, to generate more inclusive ways of passing money on.

The ghost of the Israeli car

DOPON ORYAN

Bar-Ilan University
STS

In Hebrew, the word ‘ghost’ also means ‘spirit.’ This work will deal with the development of material-semiotic object, a ghost of sorts — the Israeli car, called “Susita.”

We operate in a world of physical things. Objects come about in the course of social, economic and cultural agreements and circumstances. These objects have an impact on our daily lives — in how we conduct our everyday affairs, on how we perceive ourselves and how we are perceived by others. In this cycle, the technological and the social define and redefine each other again and again.

I will use the lens of co-construction (Jasanoff, 2002) to examine the case of the Israeli car, the “Susita.” Specifically, I seek to explore how co-construction can help illuminate the production of national objects: How they come into being, with what stakes, and what power they possess in the national sphere in which they are created.

The private car industry in Israel was active from 1951 to 1982, years in which Israeli society and economy were undergoing a significant shift from a socialist to a capitalist orientation, from a society mainly concerned with constructing national image to one where the place of the individual in society becomes paramount. The Israeli car took part in these changes both as a subject and object, and it is these roles that I will describe in the paper using historical and material-cultural tools.

Fight fire with fire: forcing the ivory tower of risk management

PAOLO GIARDULLO

Università di Urbino
Economy, Society and Politics

My Ph.D. research aims to investigate the strategies adopted by actors engaged in controversies about interventions to reduce air pollution risk in metropolitan context. Since the considerations fostered by influential scholars, risk has become a relevant research field for sociologists. The concept presents a lot of shades: it could redefine the category of class and the relation between individuals and groups or society in general. Risk is also deeply intertwined with techno-scientific knowledge as part of

policy implementation process. Even if citizens' participation experiences or participant democracy experiments are expanding, processes in environmental risk management still remain an expertise affaire. Lay public typically enters the arena when policies have been already implemented; independently of the explanations, when lay-actors decide to enter the public arena a certain degree of conflict is raising. According to these facts is important to dedicate empiric reflections to new strategies adopted by the actors that are on both sides: contesting or defending the policies. The case presented here is the controversy about the "Area-C", the congestion charge active in Milan. After a brief description of the measure, the map of the actors involved will be depicted following the Actor-network Theory perspective. By sketching cartography of the controversy the strategies adopted by the actors will be analysed using mixed-method approach. The analysis will show the actors challenging their counterparts using different rhetoric regimes. Furthermore, an important result is the systematic use and elaboration of scientific data made by the parts in conflict.

Innovation, Space, Software and other Characters: following Architectural Design

DANIELE DE PRETTO

Università degli Studi di Padova
Philosophy, Sociology, Education
& Applied Psychology

Interaction between designers, software & other tools, mistakes, management of time & space are just some of the dimensions that make up a design trajectory in an atelier of architecture and made it possible. Understanding architectural objects without investigating the process that make them possible, hide us the most part of dynamics that make the realization of the project itself feasible. These dimensions have often been neglected by sociological studies of architecture that, instead, are often focused on fruition of space by users, the training of architects in a sociology of professions perspective, rather than the building, seen in a symbolic way. With my research, starting from an STS perspective, I highlight design practices involved in the creation of a new artefact, trying to connect material elements, actors involved in the heterogeneous network and the technological artefacts that contribute to the achievement of the project. The research focuses on the issue of technological innovation see also as management of new spatial relationship between context and content, materials and architectural theories, software and designers. In order to facilitate the emergence of knowledge, innovation and design practices, the empirical context of the research was investigated through the tools of ethnography. These led me to spent about one year in an important atelier of architecture in Milan, where I alternated participant observation, in-depth interviews, photographs and analysis of atelier's documents, in order to follow the trajectory of different projects and the non-linear path from the idea's conception to the final drawings.

Schengen visa regime: materiality and symbolism of barriers

LIDIA KUZEWSKA

Polish Academy of Science
Graduate School for Social Research

The 'Schengen Curtain' as the contemporary European visa regime is sometimes called by its critics has again split Europe shortly after its re-unification after the communist divisions. Some countries became full members of the European Union, whereas others remained in ambiguous status of its 'neighbors', even though according to various geographical, cultural and normative criteria they perceive themselves as being Europeans.

On the basis of the analysis of publications, documents and actions organized by a Ukrainian non-governmental initiative 'Europe without barriers' (<http://novisa.com.ua/en/>), whose primary goal is the visa-free regime advocacy among Ukrainian and European publics and officials, I will try to demonstrate how the symbolic meaning of visa regime and visas as material objects is constructed. Among others such aspects as the growing discrepancy between understandings of the visa regime on the levels of states, various interest groups (intellectuals, workers, tourists, students, etc.) in Ukraine and in the EU and among particular individuals will be discussed. Finally, the idea of 'Europe' and the usage of this concept as constructed by the NGO's discourse in order to support the idea of visa-free regime will be analyzed as well.

Unfamiliar Terrain: Sociology as Expertise

MING LIN

Lancaster University
Sociology

The epistemic and political implications of science-driven policy have been given detailed treatment in much recent work in STS. Numerous authors have recognised the pressing need to address, explore and challenge the complex and intricate network of assumptions underlying science-policy interactions and the attendant figurations and enactments of the interrelationship between the social and scientific orders. The emphasis, however, is usually placed on expertise emanating from the more traditional and established scientific disciplines (i.e. natural and engineering sciences) that generally have a pronounced quantitative dimension in the form of numerical data, risk assessment reports and predictions based on statistical models. The involvement of, and contribution made by, the social sciences, and their specificity as purveyors of knowledge to policy debates, has, curiously enough, attracted little scholarly attention. This paper seeks to address this question by looking at the example of sociology in Latvia and interrogating the reasons behind its limited policy uptake. This projects synthesises insights from post-positivist philosophy of science and contemporary work in STS (actor-network inflected approaches in particular) for the purposes of exploring (i) the arguments used by Latvian sociologists to explain and justify the epistemic import of their discipline (ii) and the possible causes of the limited uptake and influence of sociological expertise in policy debates. The paper argues that the reasons for the limited policy presence of sociology in Latvia can, in part, be articulated in terms of its epistemic specificity (as outlined by Latvian sociologists) and internal heterogeneity vis-a-vis epistemic and ontological commitments.

MIKE FELL

UCL
Energy Institute

Who has the power? Concepts of “control” in home energy use

Smart energy systems (which integrate information and communications technology with energy infrastructure) will play a key part in the UK’s transition to a low-carbon economy. They are necessary if the nation’s existing energy infrastructure is to cope with projected increases in electric heating and vehicle use, and also to permit growth in intermittent supply sources such as wind power. This is possible because they allow demand for energy – currently visible only in aggregate – to be monitored more closely and potentially influenced through mechanisms such as time of use pricing or even direct third-party control of smart appliances in people’s homes, the better to match it to supply.

My research focuses on this potential for change in where control resides in energy systems, and how this might affect consumer acceptance of smart energy (in which previous studies have indicated it is a factor). Currently at the literature review stage, my presentation will discuss the different ways in which “control” has been conceptualized in the energy field and elsewhere, with a focus on its importance to technology adoption and other aspects of behaviour. In particular, I use the example of automation in heating controls to explore the many different faces of control and the factors which affect it, linking this to trade-offs between comfort, energy use and convenience.”

CHARLOTTE
KEARSLEY

Lancaster University
Organization Work and
Technology, LUMS

Assessing the contribution of a rural development project to local food security: a systems theoretical analysis

Increasingly, we are faced with societal problems marked by complexity and inter-systemic interdependency - that engage the knowledges of different actors operating at different societal levels. One such problem may well be the continued volatility of food prices, and the demands on the food system which will result from the need to feed 9 billion people by 2050. The vulnerable are likely to suffer disproportionately, in relation to the security of their food supply, and the linkages between food and development are still underexplored.

The traditional imperative of economic growth through industrial development needs to be balanced by enquiry into the prospects for an underrepresented rural population, with the aspiration of maintaining the sustainability and resilience of their livelihoods. One area of research for which these debates are particularly pertinent is that of rural development projects, and in particular the literature which assesses their impact upon local farmers. The research agenda of international development has grown increasingly reflexive in its mode of interrogating the justification for and outcomes of intervention, and it is in this spirit that I intend to present a review of the literature on local food security and agricultural development, prior to conducting sociological fieldwork into the impact of an irrigation project in Kenya.

The research questions will be framed in the light of potential contributions that the use of Niklas Luhmann’s theory of social systems can make, particularly in relation to its helpfully distinctive (albeit

complex) conceptualization of structure, process and agency.

Robert SMITH

University of Liverpool
SACE

Meaning and metaphor; rock-art as a vehicle of social organisation in Neolithic Britain and Scandinavia

Archaeology and meaning have historically had a difficult relationship. In archaeology, we have to create a meaningful narrative of prehistoric society, using only the remains of their material culture. During the Neolithic period (approx. 4000-2400 BC in Britain or 4000-1800 BC in central Sweden/Norway), rocky outcrops were elaborated by either pecking abstract designs (Britain) or painting with animal and human representations (central Sweden). 'Rock art' in particular provides archaeologists with a visual expression of prehistoric social structures and their organisation. The research presented within this talk has investigated and made a comparison between rock-art panels in Cumbria and Sweden. Arguably, these can be seen as an expression of Neolithic social values and an attempt to visually represent the social structures which governed them. The visual statements made through the rock-art were explored as examples of people's changing relationship during the Neolithic with the natural world, the resources it contained. In practice these visual statements and structures are produced according to a small number of regularly occurring patterns which created a rock-art 'grammar'. This grammar could be seen, in a Foucauldian 'power-knowledge' sense, as the correct way to think during the Neolithic. Differences between Cumbria and Sweden in this grammar are explored. It is discussed how this grammar can be translated to enhance our view and understanding of Neolithic society in the two regions.

SALON SR2

Sarah Becklake

Lancaster University
Sociology

Making 'Guatemática': Global tourism competition in Guatemala

Tourism is playing an increasing role in many governments' development plans, especially in the 'global South'. However, as countries increasingly turn to tourism as a means of development, it becomes more difficult for any one country to attract a sizeable share of the limited 'global tourist market'. Consequently, competition for tourists has grown, allowing us to speak of 'global tourism competition'. This research project starts from a key argument: that there is a growing powerful discourse surrounding 'global tourism competition', or 'tourism destination competitiveness' (TDC), and that this discourse is informing the 'competitiveness strategies' of various tourism stakeholders', ranging from international organizations and states to small-scale businesses and individuals living and working within 'tourism destinations'.

Drawing upon preliminary field research data, this presentation seeks to highlight the growing general concern with 'global tourism competition' and provide an initial look at how this is being manifested within one country, Guatemala. Rather than a 'competitive tourism destination', Guatemala might be better known for its long civil war and its high levels of corruption, violence and poverty; nonetheless, 'global tourism competition' has 'arrived' in this small Central American country. Mapping how 'global tourism competition' is actually done in the 'wild zone' of Guatemala, however, highlights many disconjunctures and a high level of complexity.

Embodying Masculinities: Alcohol Consumption and Club Cultures

Vittorio GIOVINE

Lancaster University
Sociology

Extreme alcohol consumption is a normalised leisure activity for significant numbers of people in the UK. This research aims to provide an original contribution to understanding drinking behaviours by bringing together theories of embodiment and masculinity within the context of club cultures. Drinking alcohol is a highly gendered activity, often employed by men to engage with hegemonic/normative forms of masculinity (Lyons & Willot, 2008; Peralta, 2007), and club culture has been identified as a discursive arena where dominant frames of gender might be questioned, and where, traditionally, intoxication is achieved with illicit drugs rather than alcohol (Jackson, 2004; Malbon, 1999; Pini, 2001). On these grounds, this study will explore men's lived experience of alcohol consumption in club culture, the discursive scripts on which the participants draw to account for this, the embodied practices involved in their drinking behaviour, and the forms of masculinity that club cultures and substance use may enable the project's participants to inhabit. As this investigation takes seriously the sense of immediacy and sensory engagement in the lived experience of 'disruptive practices' such as clubbing, alongside Foucauldian discourse analysis, the research will employ sensory ethnographic methods (Pink, 2009). Sensory ethnographies will aim at developing an experience-based appreciation of what participants might be experiencing and tacitly knowing and doing. Therefore, this study also attends to the 'phenomenological body', the multidimensionality of the body's senses, and thus the intertwinement between social, discursive, material, and sensory environments – both the re-presented and the physically engaged experiences of clubbing.

Moving Away From Class: Thinking (Working) Class and LGBT/Q identities 'beside' each other

Sabrina SQUIRES

Lancaster University
Sociology

My research explores how class is understood in relation to LGBTQ politics and lives. In this paper, I will discuss how my research participants narrated the relationship between class and LGBTQ identifications. Drawing on the centrality of spatial and temporal metaphors in my participants narratives, and discourses on class and LGBTQ sexualities, I explore how a moving towards LGBTQ identifications can (inadvertently) mark a moving away from (working) class ones. While my participants were involved in politics that engaged in class related issues, so were not ambivalent about or did not 'disidentify' (Skeggs, 1997) from class in obvious ways their narratives did demonstrate difficulty holding LGBTQ

and (working) class identities 'beside' each other. I will argue that discourses that construct LGBTQ identities as 'classless', 'transcending' class (Heaphy, 2011) and class as not a 'central axis of difference' in LGBTQ lives (Seidman, 2011), as well as how class is understood make it difficult thinking, speaking and seeing class in relation to LGBTQ politics and lives. I will explore how (working) class and LGBTQ sexualities can form 'divergent visibilities' (Tucker, 2009), and how the way that class and LGBTQ sexualities are 'known' affects what is 'seen' as a class or LGBTQ issue.

SALON SR3

JESSICA RIVERS

Indiana University
Communication and
Culture

The Good, the Bad and the Lazy: Reputation Management and Self-Esteem in an Athletic Community of Practice

Sports sociologists generally focus on those at the center of the action, but it is equally important to pay attention to athletes who are not very good. This is because such a change in perspective may actually speak to the majority of people who participate in athletics, however marginal their contribution to sporting culture may seem when considered alone. As part of my dissertation research, I trained with and interviewed professional and amateur MMA fighters. In this paper, I will focus on the men and women -- like myself -- who did not feel they had successfully assimilated into the martial arts communities they had originally sought out. I will explore how we dealt with our perceived standings among our peers and superiors. Some of us pushed ourselves harder. Others appeared to "slack off" during training, and a few stopped training altogether. Using scholarship on situated learning and reputation management, this paper will analyze how my informants and I myself became aware of our respective social statuses and how we used that information to manage our reputations and self-esteem. This paper is concerned with how people sense changes in their own self-worth, not based on economic or occupational status, but on how they use their bodies. It will examine the discursive and corporeal modes through which people continue to compete for, or conversely, resign themselves to certain positions within the hierarchies that often constitute voluntary athletic engagements.

JASMIJN RANA

Freie Universität Berlin
Berlin Graduate Schol
Muslim Cultures and
Societies

Ladies only! Young Moroccan-Dutch women in kickboxing

In the Netherlands and other European countries, young Muslim women are increasingly active in combat sports, such as boxing and thai-/kickboxing. This anthropological study investigates young Moroccan-Dutch women's engagement in combat sports as an emergent trend. What drives and enables young Muslim women to practice kickboxing and what are the effects of these activities on their notions of self and on their position in society? This paper is based on a year of intensive fieldwork, including participant observation and in-depth interviews, among Moroccan-Dutch female kickboxers in The Hague, The Netherlands. It will explore the process of acquiring bodily knowledge (ways of knowing) and the acquisition of skills (enskillment) as a means of (re)-producing notions of self and senses of belonging. This enskillment is not merely about modeling and copying, but is a form of coordination between a person's body, perceptions, resources, tools and environment. The investigation of ways of knowing in this particular kickboxing setting does not only provide insight in the practice of kickboxing and the notion of being a kickboxer, but as well in the different ways of knowing regarding gender, ethnicity, class and religion. Whereas many debates on the Muslim female body in Europe are focused on pious practices, this paper aims at developing an alternative view on the politicization of the relationship between the individual and society, in which women's bodily practices are the sites for contestations over national, ethnic and religious identities and forms of belonging.

STANLEY BLUE

Lancaster University
Sociology

Scheduling Routine Practice: Syncopating the Rhythms of Everyday Life

This paper develops an understanding of the implications of a theoretical approach towards 'theories of practice' that considers 'practice' as both becoming and situated in the 'moment' of doing. It thus offers a re-conceptualisation of the notion of 'intervention' as a suitable tool for shaping what people do in 'everyday' life. Instead I offer three alternative conceptual tools for considering the shaping of 'practice' as routine or otherwise: arrhythmia, training and syncopation. It is through these three tools that I argue that policy makers, institutions and professional bodies could re-consider approaches to behaviour change that rely on models of the rational actor, of habitual and conscious action, or of 'practices' that recruit and carry individuals and instead take into account situated and becoming socio-material assemblages of bodies and things as they arrange in repetitive and rhythmic 'moments' of 'practice', to more thoroughly conceptualise and potentially shape the rhythms of 'practice' in everyday life.

To this end, I draw on ethnographic studies at various sites of more and less 'leisurely' and changing rhythms of practice, including rhythms of yoga, computer gaming and mixed martial arts to illustrate the utility of these theoretical tools for considering how what people do becomes scheduled as routine or otherwise.

This theoretical analysis of 'practice' first develops the implications for thinking about routine and change in a different way; but also presents a further conceptual framework for those hoping to shape what people do through an understanding of the syncopation of rhythms of 'practice'.

DAMLÁ TONUK

Lancaster University
Sociology

An Investigation Into Material Culture Of Bio-Plastics

Bio-plastics are a type of plastics. Unlike conventional plastics, these are made up of renewable bio mass and bio-degrade in compost piles like organic waste. Bio-plastics address many of the concerns that plastics have generated, such as, oil dependence, environmental damage and waste problems. So, bio-plastics define a set of different dynamics among different social groups, than that of plastics. This study explores the relationship between people-materials-objects in the context of various questions about responsibility and economy. For this purpose a mixture of conceptual resources from material culture and STS are employed to explain the social construction and technological making of a material with all its specificity. The history of plastics helps to exemplify the ways in which a material enters social life and shapes and at the same time gets shaped through mutual relationships. Following different stories in which bio-plastics get involved in the daily life of people, this research suggests a way of studying materials.

MARTIN GREEN

Lancaster University
Sociology

Sleeping With Multiple Times in Xinjiang

China 'officially' follows one time-zone despite covering nearly 50 degrees of longitude and thus resists the recommendations set at the prime meridian conference. If China followed the standards of coordinating clocks used by the majority of the world - and thus shifted time by hourly intervals for every 15 degrees of longitude - it would have four different time-zones. While the whole of China is 'officially' set to China Standard Time (CST), many in Xinjiang – a province in the far west of China – follow 'Xinjiang time' by setting their clocks two hours differently to how clocks are coordinated in Beijing. This presentation draws on ethnographic notes in the region to describe how different forms of official emerge. These descriptions explore how resistance to daylight exists on global, national, and provincial scales, and within the practice of sleeping. By drawing on descriptions of napping and being jet-lagged, this presentation argues that sleeping emerges with multiple times - such as those of the sun and clocks - which intersect and continually re-configure everydaylight.

TOM ANDERSON

Lancaster University
Sociology

Safety - it's as simple as that

This PhD research aims to uncover and document empirical details of work in hazardous organizations, such as the offshore oil and gas industry, as exemplars, and a test-bed for ideas and theories about the 'high reliability organization' (HRO). The initial HRO study group was limited to US nuclear plants, aircraft carriers, and air traffic controllers, but is now seen to include offshore oil and gas operations

(Cox et al., 2006).

Offshore oil and gas production platforms provide a dynamic, challenging, and often hostile environment (adverse weather conditions, process temperature, pressure, and noise), where life – 24/7 – revolves around the process of extracting hydrocarbons in a safe, but above all, time-driven manner.

There is an assumption that by being compliant with organizational safety rules and procedures, oil and gas workers will be directed towards safe working practice. However, as Suchman (1983) pointed out, the procedural structure of organizational activities is the product of the orderly work of the setting, and not just a reflection of some enduring structure that stands behind that work. Hughes et al. (1994) also highlighted that it is through the social practices, of which the setting's orderly work consists, that process emerges.

Using ethnographic data (daily diary notes, audio recordings of structured and unstructured interviews, and photographic media including video recordings), this research will use ethnomethodologically informed ethnographic analysis to assess if work in this conspicuous setting can be explicated in terms of locally accountable practices, or can be seen to support HRO theories.”

SALON SR5

RACHEL PRESTON

Lancaster University

Sociology

To what extent does the shared fridge keep its shape?

Literature concerning conventional domestic technologies has typically focussed upon micro-investigations of people's everyday practices. This paper describes a small-scale study of fridges in the atypical context of student living, where a 'normal' fridge could be shared by as many as nine individuals. Our research found that the shared fridge was the site of many overlapping tensions, such as confrontation between how the fridge is designed for use by a household and how the fridge is (re-)shaped through being shared by multiple users.

This presentation will explore the extent to which concepts of object-user relations, such as scripting (Akrich,1992), fluidity (Mol and Laet,2000), and fire (Law and Mol,2001), are relevant in understanding the shared fridge. Unlike Mol and Laet's 'Zimbabwe bush pump', the materiality of the fridge is unsettlingly rigid. Yet this is not to argue that it has no flexibility. On the one hand, the fridge appears resistant to being (re-)scripted by its users, but on the other, users re-appropriate the fridge's interior. The research asks to what extent is the shared fridge a leaky or messy object?

The shared fridge flickers between being materially whole and split up into many parts. There is simultaneously a blurring of boundaries and the continual creation of new ones, each configured by the predetermined size and design of the fridge. However, it takes effort to maintain the fridge and

mutually 'hold up' new boundaries. The research asks to what extent accounts of struggles and tensions feature in the above concepts of object-user relations.

Slippery slopes - nature, numbers, value and money in ecosystem services

Niklas Hartmann

Lancaster University
LEC and Sociology

"The work that numbers and visual representations do in (post)modernities and for their projects is an important theme in STS and cognate academic conversations. This paper analyses the flow of numbers and visual representations in the "ecosystem services" (ES) community.

While hardly known to the general public, ES as a concept and an emerging community of practice has increasingly come to dominate discussions about and attempts to "close the gaps" between environmental "science", "policy", "economics" and "management". In a curious reversal of what STS has identified as the Western/modern obsession with purity (e.g. Law 1994:7) the basic assumption is that if only things were properly connected, problems would go away. This, of course, is a contentious project: some would rather have at least "economics" kept at a safe distance to keep ecology pure, untainted by "commodification" which allegedly reduces complex ecologies in ways that preclude their being saved. Both views agree, however, that "good" numbers represent while "bad" numbers fetishise.

But where do which numbers come from, how do they travel, how are they re-embedded, and how do they change along they way? Who invests the labour to make this possible? What work does it do? And how do members assess the goings-on? To answer these questions drawing on ethnographic field work, this paper mobilises Helen Verran's re-reading of Peirce's theory of signs, and Bill Maurer's observations on the entanglement of truth and representation with coinage in Western thought.

Freedom of Movement, Migration and Integration in 'New' Europe and the Impact of Accession on Local Communities in the UK

Shona LegaSpi

Lancaster University
Sociology

Migration has a long history within Europe. The more recent expansion of the European Union, however, has shifted the framework of migration. The notion of regional EU citizenship that has developed alongside open borders and market driven integration, has potentially broad implications regarding the status of intra-EU migrants living and working in 'new' communities. At a time when the UK is questioning its relationship with Europe and voicing fears over the impact of further Accession, this research aims to look at the impact of European expansion on communities in the UK. It will explore migrant and non-migrant resident perspectives in terms of people's perceptions and experiences around integration locally, through field work in Morecambe and Lancaster. The research will consider the difference between the terms 'migrant' and 'free mover' and the implications of viewing migrating EU citizens as one or the other. It will attempt to assess if, and how, EU expansion has challenged assumptions about identity and rights for its citizens, and any resulting impact on integration and identity with reference to Polish nationals in the UK.

STEPHEN JACKSON

Lancaster University
Sociology

'Weather of mass destruction': Forecasting the future as climate-driven war

The deeply worrying prospect of a global catastrophe frequently operates as the conceptual backdrop of rhetoric meant to convey the dangers of climate change (Hulme, 2008). In recent years, however, concerns about the risks posed by climate change have yielded more detailed and dystopian visions of a future in which environmental crises overwhelmingly define and propel social conflicts. As one author puts it, 'Climate change is emerging as a new variable—some might argue a "hypervariable"—in international security in the 21st century' (Smith, 2007). Such forecasts imparting tremendous causal power to climate change are articulated through frightening warnings about impending 'climate wars' (Dyer, 2010), 'climate-driven conflict' (Sanders, 2009), the assertion that 'climate change, increasingly, can cause actual political violence' (Goodman, 2011), and in statements such as James Lovelock's that 'civilization' may 'degenerate into Dark Ages, with warlords running things' (2007). Political scientists and defence professionals contribute to such environmentally-linked Hobbesian forecasts in which climate change is framed as an emerging security threat, opening a role for military-led interventions. Hence, catastrophic narratives about the future also help to shape how the future unfolds, and in ways not necessarily intended by the actors who employ them.

Bearing these concerns in mind, I ask: How are such narratives changing the way we talk about and define present-day social conflict and political agency? In what ways do they affect our understanding of how these relate to natural forces? And how can narratives about a future marred by climate-driven social chaos influence how the future unfolds?

'Weather of mass destruction': Forecasting the future as climate-driven war

CLAY GARLAND

Lancaster University
Sociology

My project examines the relationship between the public and private spheres in the government of migrant populations in the UK by considering a number of case studies in which welfare services for asylum seekers have been privatised. Since the general election in 2010, the coalition government has placed welfare reform at the centre of its plans to cut government spending. In the field of immigration governance, this focus is reflected in the fact that a disproportionately large part of the UK Border Agency's 20% budget cut was passed on to support services, which includes support for asylum seekers. It is against this background that new housing contracts for asylum seekers have been arranged in which local councils (who previously played an important part in the logistics of asylum housing) have been replaced by multinational companies, including G4S and Serco. This paper will analyse these contracts within the broader context of the histories of privatisation and immigration governance in the UK.

KaKee Scott

Lancaster University
Design (Imagination)
and Sociology

Design and new economics

The recent instability of global economies has prompted a surge of interest in heterodox economic inquiries challenging mainstream economic theories and policies that are seen to have caused, contributed to, or failed to predict current catastrophes. A cluster of these inquiries, sometimes dubbed 'new economics', align around questioning the primary motivation for economic growth and the inevitability of escalating patterns of consumption and production. While these discussions have been bubbling at the margins of economic disciplines and overlapping interdisciplinary studies, little consideration has been given to the role of design disciplines in articulating alternative economic systems.

I will present an initial effort to identify ways that acts of design contribute in formulating economic activities, and that such mechanisms can be engaged in the development of alternative economic systems. I will share the results of a brief comparative study of two academic research networks on either side of this gap between 'new economics' and design. These two groups are similar in their purpose to promote sustainable economic systems, but distinct in their approaches. One, an international network of innovation studies and science and technology studies researchers focused on sustainable consumption and production, covers concerns about growth and economic transitions. The other, an international network of design researchers, is committed to social innovation and collaboration through design. This study will consist of a comparative review of concepts, themes, values and proposals that appear within the digital archives of these two networks, followed by a workshop involving network members to evaluate this comparison.

SALON SR2

**Elizabeth
Houghton**

Lancaster University
Sociology

Constructing the student experience: how universities market what they have to offer

In the language of Higher Education 'student experience' is an oft-used but ill-defined term. Previous research based on student experience has focused on students' conception of learning, but the term has taken on a more holistic meaning in recent years. Broadly it encompasses the teaching, opportunities and environment students can expect to experience at a given university. Increasingly universities look to sell the unique student experience they can offer to prospective students, whilst students are becoming savvier about what they expect from their student experience. Crucially, students are willing to pay more for a better student experience (UNITE Group, 2012).

Students have a wide range of resources available to them to help them decide which universities to apply to and what type of student experience they offer, but the medium universities have most control over their own communications, mainly prospectuses. My research will seek to understand how different universities market their 'unique' student experience to prospective students. It will be based on a discourse analysis of four prospectuses from universities: to account for environmental difference, two will be campus universities and two city universities.

I want to discuss: -Why universities place so much importance on selling their student experience? -How the student experience is referenced in, and constructed by university prospectuses? -Whether, from these texts, universities do provide unique student experiences or if in reality there is little difference between them?

Fracturing the future

ALAN Webster

Lancaster
LEC

The 2008 financial crisis and 'Great Recession' have nurtured new rhetorical spaces for ideological projects addressing energy security and climate change. Shale gas production (using hydraulic fracturing-'fracking') has been hailed a 'game changer' for US economic and energy policy. Similar rhetoric, sensitised for Europe, claims shale gas as a low carbon 'bridge fuel' to complement climate change policies. In the UK the development of policy frameworks to facilitate shale gas is disrupting the political consensus of decarbonising power generation by 2050. These emergent policy debates are now translated geographically into planning conflicts in Lancashire, where the largest shale gas reserves and most production ready company, Cuadrilla, are found. With a full production rollout of fracking predicted to extend beyond 2050 this paper will investigate the environmental implications of this to the rural hinterland of the Fylde peninsula. Perceptions of this scenario amongst local residents and stakeholders will be explored through the dialectics of place attachment and place identity and the psychological processes leading to disruption of these. Findings suggest a diversity of perceived futures, from fears of an industrialised landscape to trust in 'planning gain'. These views track gradients relating to the intensity and symbolism of place attachment from the utilitarian 'environment-as-resource' viewpoint to those who regard place as a locus of self-identity. These findings have implications for trust in science, corporate and political actors and will inform both the opposition to such projects and those who seek the 'social licence' to do business in places of contested meanings.

Perceptions and enactments of innovation by construction industry practitioners

Natalya Sergeeva

University of Reading
School of Construction
Management and Engineering

A dominant perspective on innovation in the generic and construction-specific literature is oriented towards positivist and quantitative approaches. Research has tended to focus on the means by which innovation can be measured or easily determined by variables in certain points of time. While positivist and realist approaches provide indications of the averages across large samples, they tend to either ignore time, processes and context completely or compress it into variables and snapshots. An alternative sensemaking perspective offers a movement closer towards a dynamic understanding of processes in ways that are sensitive to time, flux of ongoing activities, interpretations and contexts. This perspective

offers better explanations to how individuals perceive and enact innovation over time. The purpose of this research is, therefore, to explain perceptions of innovation from a sensemaking perspective. In order to achieve the aim, thirty semi-structured interviews with the construction practitioners who in some sense construct themselves as innovation champions were conducted. The analysis and discussion of the interview data touch upon each of the seven properties of Weicks (1995) sensemaking theoretical framework. This involves how individuals are constructing and de-constructing their identities, labelling and de-labelling activity as innovation retrospectively, enactive environments, social inter-subjectivity, ongoing processes, extracted cues and plausibility. Of particular note the properties are connected, making sense of the empirical data. Through intra-subjective beliefs (identity) and inter-subjective judgements (social) individuals are continuously (ongoing) enacting (enactments) inaccurately perceiving (plausibility) how one particular organisational activity is extracted (cues) and labelled as innovation retrospectively (retrospect) and make sense prospectively.

SALON SR3

JANINE MORLEY

Lancaster University
Sociology / Computing
and Communications

Of molehills and mountains: Unpicking the dynamics of energy demand with small-scale, micro-investigations

Theories of social practice have recently inspired consumption research, including social studies of domestic energy demand (e.g. Gram-Hanssen, 2011). Such a research agenda does not necessarily imply that energy consumption be studied in practice, but such an approach might be valuable. Indeed, in this paper, I argue that micro-investigations of everyday practices can help explore, discover and untangle some of the elements and relations that configure current practices and energy demand. I show how small-scale and detailed studies of cooking, computing and heating based in “atypical” (aka student) homes illuminate, and at the very least pose interesting questions of, the wider dynamics of such everyday practices. Zooming in to the details of performance, which is in part achieved in these studies through energy consumption data, helps pick up the trail of potentially ‘problematic’ elements and relations which can then be traced more broadly over time and space. In this way, a cross-cutting concern for understanding how domestic energy demand is constituted, may change and may be shaped, is transformed into a multiplicity of concerns across diverse aspects of society. This highlights the need to attend to the specificities of practices, “the details of which reflect distinctive accumulations of meaning, materiality and competence” (Shove et al, 2012: 146). This is an exciting development: it proposes re-interpretation and novel combinations of diverse areas of specialist and hitherto unconnected knowledge.

**ENIEKE-AKPO
ANESAH**

Lancaster University
Sociology

The ‘Struggle’: Re-framing Meaning, Identity and Action in the Niger Delta

In this paper I argue that the oil rich Niger Delta Region is a highly complex and contested space. I will explore the different ‘framings’ of the Delta region, looking in particular at the way that the Nigerian State, on the one hand, and militant groups, on the other, use these framings of place to assert themselves and their different positions and identities – with regards to control, resources, resource exploitation, and economic and social benefit. Using recent empirical material from interviews with key militant groups in the Delta region I will explore how these frames of meaning, attached to place, give actors a platform to justify their actions. I will explore how both state and militant actors continually and iteratively evolve these frames to support their actions and actively engage one another in negotiations and conflict. Through these materials I will give a sense of what Nigerians call ‘the Struggle’ and how this struggle is dependent on a constant re-framing within the Niger Delta region. As I will show, this is partly a re-framing of place, but also one of identity and purpose, as the very categories of ‘militant’, ‘freedom fighter’ and ‘nationalist’ shift as part of this on-going conflict.

HARRIS KALOUdis

Lancaster University
Sociology

Doing social innovation in practice: the role of an innovation network in setting up a local Homeshare scheme

Social innovation is increasingly portrayed by governments as a source of policy solutions to contemporary challenges to human wellbeing and social welfare. Technological innovation alone is no longer seen as sufficient or as primary to social innovation in driving progress. Accordingly, social innovation features heavily in official rhetoric and in funding priorities for research and policy development as an under-researched and under-developed field. This paper draws on sociological and political theory that conceptualises social innovation as both a discursive resource mobilised within diverse, overarching political projects framed by debates on neoliberalism and economisation, managerialism, consumerism, populism, and the decline of the welfare state and as a set of localised, contextualised practices undertaken by specific agents. This paper explores questions of how social innovation in the field of public welfare is done in practice; the formation and role of innovation networks; and, what are the implications of social innovation for re-conceptualising welfare and public services, home and care, community and state. I draw on an action research study of a Homeshare service being introduced into a locality. The action research component consists of the researcher facilitating and supporting the innovation network which would design and implement the new service. The operation of the network will be studied ethnographically and the outcomes of the wider project will be observed quantitatively through service and performance evaluation metrics. The design, rationale, data collection, analysis and evaluation of the study will be open to network participants for the purposes of collaboration, contestation, scrutiny and critique.

GRAHAM DEAN

Lancaster University
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Hypercraft – The social practices of new materialism

The relevance of craft making in contemporary culture has been highlighted in recent works such as Richard Sennett's 'The Craftsman', Matthew Crawford's 'The Case for Working With Your Hands' and exhibitions like 'The Power of Making' at the V&A Museum. Connections between craft and digital technologies have been explored in The Craft Council's 'Lab Craft' touring exhibition and linkages have been made with maker culture events such as hackfests and makerfaires.

From this nexus of digital technologies, maker culture, art and craft an interesting juncture of materials, self and practice is emerging. Hypercraft, as a new form of creative practice, is being both described (curated) and inscribed (made) by its participants. This paper provides an analysis of a 3 month craft & technology residency programme managed by Watershed, an arts and culture centre located in Bristol, supported by the Crafts Council and funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The three makers on the programme work within host technology organisations and explore opportunities across their own craft practice and digital technologies.

Drawing on data collected through interviews, programme meetings, blog posts, promotional material and a final showcase event, I describe how participants are moving beyond Glenn Adamson's description of craft as being resolutely stuck with objects (pots), actions (throwing of pots) and sites (studio). These Hypercraft practitioners are actively engaging in collaborative practices and in the production of artefacts that explicitly address social connections, produce crafted experiences and go beyond the single handmade artefact through the use of digital fabrication technologies.

Behind closed doors - Understanding the influence of microgeneration and family dynamics on energy related social practices

NICOLETTE FOX

University of Sussex
Sussex Energy Group,
SPRU

In recent years the UK Government has encouraged householders to generate renewable energy by offering financial incentives. But it also hopes that microgeneration will inspire people to change their behaviour reducing energy demand and shifting usage from peak periods. And yet, despite this policy intervention, there have been few UK studies looking in detail at households that are prosumers -energy producers and consumers. However, another energy policy directed at households, the installation of smart metering, has attracted considerable research. Both policies are seen by the Government as having the potential to change behaviour, by making energy visible to householders. And yet, in the case of smart meters, a year-long study that looked at this issue found there wasn't strong evidence of significant and sustained behaviour change. Instead, Dr Tom Hargreaves (2012) argues that new approaches are needed that go beyond narrow understandings of individual decision-making about energy use, and begin instead

to account for the full range of household dynamics and practices, many of which ostensibly have little or nothing to do with energy. This analysis is also relevant for my PhD looking at households that are either energy prosumers or consumers. It will be based on a 12 month in-depth study of 12 families with teenagers, with half the households having solar panels. The research will include individual and group interviews with family members, as well as energy walks and video diaries looking at social practices in the domains of comfort, cleanliness and convenience (Shove 2003).

The Discipline of Clothing: Jaeger and Nineteenth-Century Liberal Governance

ANGELA LOXHAM

Lancaster University
Sociology

Liberal governance is understood as having been the ruling concept of nineteenth-century Britain. By applying a neo-Foucauldian framework, it has been argued that society was intended to become self-governing through the production and internalisation of knowledge and norms about the ideal, healthy subject, aided by assemblages of technologies.

However, this concept remains underdeveloped in relation to consumerism, in particular, concerning clothing. While the haptic potential of shopping in the eighteenth century is starting to be better understood, the nineteenth century is still largely considered to have witnessed a shift towards the spectacle, with all being a feast for the eye. But touch was vital in aims to refashion the healthy, rational subject through clothing and shopping, as a leisure activity, could be considered as a way of doing this that fitted in with liberal doctrine. This paper outlines how the healthy body was understood in this period, and the part that clothes and the skin, acting as a portal to the self through the sensation of touch, were considered to play in this. The analysis moves to why certain clothes were considered unsuitable for the skin and the physical and moral problems that these clothes could lead to. The final part of the presentation discusses the technologies of the body that were advanced in response to this. Nineteenth-century governmentality assumed more than an ocularcentric dimension of self-inspection, but was deeply connected to quotidian issues this, as a discourse of power which penetrated throughout all of society affected retailing too.

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PICTURES FROM THIS YEAR'S EVENT

We welcome applications from PhD and MA students registered at other Universities at home and abroad who want to stay for short periods as visiting students. If you would like to visit the Department for more than a few days, the best idea is to get in touch with a member of staff:

Academic staff in the Department:

Monika Büscher, Rebecca Coleman, Anne Cronin, Tim Dant, Bulent Diken, Adam Fish, Debra Ferreday, Anne-Marie Fortier, Graeme Gilloch, Bob Jessop, Michael R. Kräetke, Adrian Mackenzie, Maureen McNeil, Maggie Mort, Roger Penn, Celia Roberts, Andrew Sayer, Elizabeth Shove, Vicky Singleton, Lucy Suchman, Bronislaw Szerszynski, Richard Tutton, David Tyfield, Imogen Tyler, John Urry, Sylvia Walby, Claire Waterton, Brian Wynne.

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Visiting students can stay for anything between a month to a year or more. You need to complete an application form but once you are accepted you have all the rights and privileges of a postgraduate student at Lancaster including:

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- A research proposal detailing your PhD work, this should include a research title
- A CV
- For non-native English speakers only: documentation of your competence in English
- For visits over 6 months: Scanned copies of relevant academic certificates and transcripts

For home and EU PhD students in 2013-2014 there is a fee of £3,900.00 per year or £12,620.00 for non EU students (pro-rata rates apply).

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If you have any questions please contact Rachel Verrall, spgadmissions@lancaster.ac.uk , +44 1524 594178

APPLYING to
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SOME OF THE THINGS VISITORS HAVE SAID ABOUT US

Katia FROM DENMARK:

Lancaster University has given me the opportunity to recapture the rhythm of my PhD research and analysis. The staff and fellow students have reminded me that intellectual exchanges are much more fun in an environment with enthusiastic, engaging, open and welcoming people. The Department of Sociology at Lancaster University is such a place.

Inari FROM FINLAND:

I spent seven months as a visiting student at the Department of Sociology in 2008, and found the time fruitful and fun in terms of academic work, everyday life and leisure. I chose Lancaster University because of my PhD research topic which concerns domestic technologies, everyday life and design of future technologies. I had been inspired by writings and articles that originated from Lancaster University. When I arrived, I found a research culture in the Department that lived up to all my expectations. My own research progressed enormously during my visit. Staff in the Sociology department were helpful and friendly, and their academic expertise really contributed to my theoretical, conceptual and methodological thinking and writing. I was surprised by the informal (yet professional) atmosphere of the Department: you could contact any member of staff and they always found time to help you with your work even though they weren't your official supervisors.

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We HOPE to See you again SOON!