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You can also find some helpful maps of the university and town on the inside covers of this booklet, and a programme of events on the back.

Don't forget to fill-in the feedback form to let us know how much fun you had!

Salons

Elizabeth Shove

Participant: Stanley Webster
Institution: Lancaster University
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Title: Changing Routine: Temporalities of "Leisure" Practices in Everyday Life
Abstract:

This paper uses social theories of practice to help understand the socio-temporal rhythm of everyday life and considers the material, spatial, temporal and teleological principals that structure the making and breaking of routine. I begin by asking how it is that certain "leisure" practices are able to capture the time and commitment of practitioners so that they become embedded within the fabric of daily life.

With this question in mind, I discuss the experiences of people engaged in practicing yoga, stock car racing and resistance training in gyms and analyse the teleologies, spatialities and temporalities associated with each practice. These cases demonstrate that although each practice has its own specific temporalities, spatialities and indeed organising principles, there are also common features of routine and change.

Discussion of these contrasting cases leads me to argue that routine is not simply made and broken, that routines are not simply exchanged for other routines; but that change in practice is itself a fundamental property of routine. If we are to better understand the scheduling and organisation of practices in everyday life the traditional concept of routine requires a re-characterisation as being organised with, rather than separate from change.

Thus, I build on and develop discussions regarding the pragmatics of doing and organising 'leisure' practices within the rhythms and schedules of everyday life.

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Participant: Francesco Buscemi
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Title: The Hidden Origins of Meat
Abstract:

Until the 1970s, in many European countries, butchers showed hanging dead animals out of their shops, as an invitation. Consumers wanted to see and to touch the flesh, because they were aware of the link between animal and meat.

Today supermarkets hide animals, not showing their heads, tails, or legs on their shelves. Consumers do not want to be aware of the link between an animal and a steak. In small towns like Stirling, for example, living rabbits are everywhere, therefore restaurants and supermarkets do not serve or sell rabbit meat, it would bridge the two images. Our mind strives to split the image of a living animal and that of a steak by every means: Masson, food researcher but also psychoanalyst, list all the techniques we use to do so.

This trend is mirrored on TV: every day food TV shows hundreds of dishes, explaining origins, nutritional values, costs and cultural elements of them. But food TV is hiding the animal origin of meat.

Jamie Oliver asks children 'What is this?' showing them vegetables but not showing them chicken breasts. In tarts, cakes, astiches, celebrity chefs are hiding the animal origin of meat. Just Heston Blumenthal challenges the mainstream TV, showing bleeding animals. In Italy also talking of it is dangerous: the gastronomist Bigazzi was fired by public television because said that during the WWII he and his family ate cats, a truth known but inconvenient to be heard.
We are changing our relation to nature and animals.

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Participant: Sheila Zimic
Institution: Mid Sweden University
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Title: Understanding the Notion of "Digital Native": Categorization, Generation, Technology and Social Change
Abstract:
As the digitalization and the spread of internet started off in the Western societies, the young people growing up with these contemporary digital technologies were often referred to as the 'Net Generation' (Tapscott, 1998) and later, 'Digital Natives' (Prensky, 2001). It means that they are considered to be the ""native speakers of digital technology"", the experts and 'technology whizzes' who truly can make use of the 'new' technologies which are 'changing our society'. These kinds of statements suggest that the 'new' technological innovations are changing our society and shaping, even creating, the lives of the young generations growing up surrounded with the specific technological innovations.
In my research I attempt to try to understand what is behind the notion of the 'Digital Native' by exploring and challenging its social structure. How can we understand the 'Digital Native' in terms of socially given meaning through: i) categorization as a function of social identity processes; ii) the concept of generation - how generation is defined; and iii) the role or meaning of technology in the context of 'Digital Native' debate? How can these three themes be used as analytical tools to understand the construction of 'Digital Native'? The aim with this paper is to discuss the three themes - categorization, generation and technology in order to reflect upon social constructions and presumed relations between generation, technology and social change. The paper is a part of the theoretical framework in my Ph D thesis.

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Participant: Matti Kohonen
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Title: Social Value of Information Assemblages: Examples from Ghanaian Social Enterprises
Abstract:
The social value of information will be discussed here through the process of translation, in asking questions such as: Who is problematising information assemblages (or lack of it)? Information assemblage was not straight forward but actors faced difficulties of assembling the persons and objects, establishing the communications or transport channels, being understood, and having the necessary time in hand to do the work of assembling the bits and pieces in order to construct

relevant information in a given temporal situation and in a precise place. Here I studied two organisations which I define as social enterprises, as businesses or associations who use entrepreneurial initiatives and market-based resources to create and contribute towards social value.   I look here two particular fieldsites in Accra, the Ghaianan capital. Firstly the largest Internet cafe in the country called Busy Internet and actors understood it as a public space, and as a developmental space being able to tackle common information problems in Ghana. Secondly, the example of the Linux Accra User Group (LAUG) demonstrates how the ownership of information was a contested terrain, and they were keen to spread their vision of a technological space of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) into public institutions, universities, schools and work places through key projects which they considered as most relevant. Through these dynamics, I look at the types of social values that were articulated in terms of information, by using the new spaces that were created by social enterprises.

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Participant: Lioudmila Vlasova
Institution: Aalborg University
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Title: Energy renovation: performing energy efficiency transforming comfort practices
Abstract:
The following paper provides an analysis of what is at stake during the process of energy renovation of single family detached houses in Danish context in terms of reducing energy consumption. The two main themes crystalized from my empirical dater: a) how energy efficiency is performed by the agents of energy renovation, and b) how the (re)construction of material and technical structures of the house is shaping and been shaped by co-developing comfort practices.
The study builds on one case of Do It Yourself energy renovation, which I have been following from spring 2010 up to summer 2012, through the series of interviews, observations and analysis of other dater material as pictures and drawings. The choice of the Do It Yourself case is motivated by the results of my previous paper, where I argue that Do It Yourself renovation provides the best framework for adjusting users everyday life patterns and practices and the new material structures of the home to each other. In the following paper the co-emergence of material structures and comfort practices will be analyzed to point out some mechanisms that make the development of more sustainable daily routines possible. What makes Do It yourself case especially suitable for the purpose of the study is the time dimension, as the very slow pace of the renovation process makes the co-development of material structures and comfort practices more visible and traceable. The case of Do It yourself can be furthermore argued to be the critical case in terms of developing sustainable comfort practices.
The study will apply the Practice Theory approach as the theoretical framework, inspired by the work of Elizabeth Shove and her study of Do It Yourself projects in "Product, Competence, Project and Practice. DIY and the dynamics of craft consumption".

Participant: Joeri Naus
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Title: Informational Governance for Smart Grids: Exploring the Tension between Sustainability and Privacy

Abstract:
Information exchange has become of key importance in our society. This is certainly true for the energy domain where large-centralised grids are being transformed into Smart Grids; smaller sub-systems that integrate dispersed sites of (renewable) energy generation, storage and consumption. The operation of these grids is heavily dependent upon smart-meters. Smart-meters replace conventional utility meters and enable 1) detailed monitoring of real-time energy consumption at household level, and 2) two-way information exchange between suppliers and citizen-consumers.

The practice of smart-metering provides citizen-consumers with new opportunities to control domestic energy consumption and to reduce the households' carbon footprint. At the same time, however, the disclosure and exchange of (energy-related) information exposes details about everyday life inside the household (e.g. consumption behaviour, daily routines, whereabouts) to energy suppliers, family members and/or neighbours. From present debates it becomes clear that questions regarding information disclosure, privacy and surveillance hamper the roll-out of Smart Grids and may compromise their sustainability benefits.

The first paper will further conceptualise and specify this tension between sustainability and privacy, as well as the role of information flows in relation to this tension. Based on qualitative interviews with different stakeholders in pilot projects in the Netherlands it will also map different perspectives on information disclose, and the ways stakeholders try to deal with this. Ultimately, this PhD-project seeks to specify different dimensions of disclosure, control and privacy in the context of Smart Grids, and to identify (informational) governance arrangements that intelligently combine sustainability gains with enhanced levels of privacy.

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Participant: Virginie Thériault
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Title: The Role of Literacy in Support Groups Attended by Young Adults with Low Levels of Formal Education

Abstract:
Drawing upon Street, Barton, Hamilton, Papen and others in the "New Literacy Studies", I consider literacy practices as social practices rather than simple activities requiring technical skills. Crowther, Hamilton and Tett (2001) argue that literacy is a resource that allows people to regain control of their lives beyond the limits imposed by external forces. Zubair (2004) states that literacy practices can be a mean of expressing desire to find agency and voice. Moreover, Hurtubise et al. (2004), state that literacy is at the centre of the integration process for individuals. My study endeavours to find out if the literacy practices used in support groups (e.g. courses on social and professional integration) for young Quebeckers aged between 16 to 25 years old with low levels of formal education can make a positive contribution to their personal and professional life and can play a role in increasing the place of literacy in

their lives. I will use ethnography as a methodology and the two main methods selected are participant observation and semi-structured interviews. Two community-based organizations from Quebec (Canada) will participate in this project.

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Participant: Georgina Wood
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Title: Managing Water Consumption Through Water literacy and Citizenship Education
Abstract:
The invisible role that water plays in everyday life in the UK, and the lack of consciousness connected to its usage, means that water companies and policy makers face a difficult challenge in reducing household demand for water.
This paper proposes that innovative modes of education are required in order to facilitate the shift of British people from passive service users to active citizen consumers of water. It argues that promoting the creation of 'water literate' citizens, who value water and actively apply these values to their behaviour, could greatly enhance efforts to manage water resources more sustainably in the UK.
The research focuses on the potential role of education in encouraging water literacy and citizenship, through the design and teaching of water lessons in secondary schools. Schools provide an environment where a generation of future decision-makers is brought together to learn, and they therefore act as an ideal forum for increasing young people's understanding of the issue of water sustainability, as well as spreading the message on to households in the local community. Young people have a major influence over both their peers and their adult relatives' decisions.
The study goes on to examine the role that the school can play in both the creation of more sustainable social norms relating to water usage, and the development of environmental citizenship in young people.

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Participant: Peng Zhang
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Title: Global Linkages of Chinese Local Government and Domestic Regions: Internal and External Cases
Abstract:
Why even a small county in China take pleasure in international activities now? This paper is mainly about Global linkages of Chinese local government and domestic regions. Take two cases - Global linkages of Yangtze Delta Sub-region as internal case and non-central government Chinese offices in Germany as external case.
As we all know, positive spillover effect has a strong explanatory power with the approach of European integration, Neofunctionalism theory make a lot of contributions to help us to understand this world after WW2. The approach of Chinese local government and domestic regions expand their global linkages follow the same logic. From positive spillover effect to increased number of transaction to domestic governance changes, this approach is quite at the beginning as European integration just made its first step in 1950's - 1960's.

Long-term history analysis will help to understand this is a very new phenomenon in China's long political history, local government was forbidden to have connections with the outside world. And theories of the origin and operation of the state in political science will help to understand the development of global linkages of Chinese local government and domestic regions completely.

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Participant: Peter Swann
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Title: Managing Evaluation: A Community Arts Organisation's Perspective
Abstract:

Arts and health organisations must increasingly provide measurable evidence of impact to funders and other stakeholders. Meeting this requirement poses both logistical and ideological challenges for arts and health organisations. This paper explores the strategies used by an arts and health organisation to negotiate the tensions between the demands for measurable impact and their own ethos of working. Using participant observation and semi structured interviews, it was found the organisation's staff considered evaluation as necessary and useful, yet also to be time consuming, intrusive, and a possible threat to their ethos. Nevertheless, the organisation has been able to utilise a number of coping strategies. They have successfully negotiated with one of their funders and are developing their own outcomes monitoring tool. Despite this, it was believed by some staff that even conclusive proof of their benefits may not be enough to satisfy some stakeholders.

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Participant: Owen Dowsett
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Title: Fixing Bicycles, Fixing Practices
Abstract:

I am using the example of bicycle repair to explore what it means to 'fix' and how this works out in practice. The rhythms of socio-technical failure raise questions about when objects are deemed broken and fixed, and for what reasons objects and their components are considered repairable or in need of replacement. They also raise the much broader question of what it is that needs fixing. These questions can be explored in both practical and conceptual terms. By working with two bicycle repair initiatives (in Lancaster and Bristol respectively), I will attend to the material and social interactions that are involved in fixing bicycles. Participants will vary from those that are highly experienced in fixing bicycles to those that are at the first stages of learning. Through the research, I will consider how fixing can be understood as a social practice. Rather than a means to the fulfilment of other practices (e.g. cycling), fixing is better understood as an end in its own right. In this sense, my approach accords with that of Sennett (2008) who draws our attention to the individual, social, and environmental rewards that can be achieved through practical engagement with the objects of our lives. This paper will provide an account of my progress to date.

Participant: Lars Ege Larsen
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Title: User Practices and Heat Pumps in a Low Carbon Transition
Abstract:
Current energy systems face the challenge of including more renewable energy sources (RES) in their supply. While some RES are almost as flexible as fossil fuels other are inherently fluctuating. In Denmark wind power is put forward as a main RES and is expected to increase substantially towards 2025. This has shaped ambitions to push an increased electrification of heating and transport services. One example is the promotion of central heating heat pumps (CenHPs) as a main heat supply in residential buildings. To fulfill their potential CenHPs must be operated in respect of wind availability and grid congestion. This presents a new situation where users are confronted with a demand for flexibility.

The paper aims to deepen the understanding of the user perspective in relation to CenHPs in order to address the likely acceptance of CenHPs and the extent of flexibility in use.

The paper employs an understanding of residential energy consumption developed within the social practice approach. Here consumption is seen as a result of the performance of everyday practices. Hence the analysis draws on a variety of qualitative methods ranging from desk top studies of reports about heat pumps to research interviews with central actors and household users. Due to the stage of development, the household interviews have been targeted at families enrolled in various 'flexibility testing' projects.

This leads to an investigation of the practices related to heating services. These encompass both comfort practices and practices related to the budgeting and information gathering preceding a CenHP installation.

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Participant: Janine Morley
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Title: Energy and Everyday Life: What's the Problem?
Abstract:
Once the consumption of domestic energy has been reconceptualised in social and cultural terms, it becomes clear that what is consumed in the home - services such as emailing, lighting, film-watching, heating - are not the same "stuff" as what is supplied to the home - internet connectivity, electricity, dvds, loft insulation, gas. A "resource" such as energy, which may at first seem to travel unproblematically between production and use, is in fact realised differently at different "points" in this sociotechnical system. This can be demonstrated from several perspectives; all of which raise the significant prospect that the concepts and problems of (un)sustainability associated with energy may be as localised and situated. Thus a critical issue takes shape: although sustainability has been well articulated at the scale of large systems, such as the global climate, this does not translate directly to sustainability in the home: either as something that can be measured or unproblematically improved or influenced. On the one hand, any reduction in resource consumption, however conceived, measured and realised could be seen as

a "good thing". On the other, the assumption that all reductions are either equivalent or desirable must be treated with extreme caution. This paper explores how energy and sustainability might be re-conceptualised and re-problematised in empirical analyses of everyday life, especially those drawing on theories of practice. It does so with the help of illustrative descriptions of everyday energy consumption in student residences.

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Participant: Veronique Vasseur
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Title: Consumer Behaviour During the Transition of PV in the Netherlands
Abstract:
The transition from a fossil-fuel based system to a sustainable energy based system is required in order to counteract environmental problems and achieve a more sustainable future. The multi-level perspective (MLP) and the technological innovation systems (TIS) framework are used as analytical frameworks to describe, understand and analyze the changes associated with technological transitions. In both frameworks the heterogeneity of users is ill-considered. User requirements will differ among users in ways that are unknown to the provider of the innovation, at least initially. Users have functional needs and aspirations as humans. It is important to inquire into the needs, ways of thinking and cultural meaning of products, as they are an integral part of transition processes. Especially in the domain of adoption of sustainable energy sources there is little scientific research from a user perspective.
This study will focus on the consumers of the technology that already decided to adopt or reject photovoltaic solar energy (PV). We focus on PV as it is one of the most promising low carbon energy sources. While the worldwide application of PV is growing fast, the Netherlands is lacking behind. Instead of looking at what technology can do for people, this research takes consumer behavior, whishes and frustrations as a starting point in order to find out which kinds of people use the PV technology and what the necessary conditions are in order to adopt PV. The empirical analysis is based on a questionnaire among 817 Dutch households.

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Participant: Greg Wallenborn
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Title: Smart grids and the materialisation of ways of life
Abstract:
The battle of the Smart Grid has begun. Many different actors are investing in the electricity grids in order to integrate intermittent renewables and distributed production to the electrical grid, and to strengthen demand side management. Actors' interests are not always aligned and nobody knows how these interests will be translated in material infrastructures. Engineers dream about a complete automation of the grid that would balance production and consumption at each moment. Economists think that the increase of available information will improve the efficiency of the actors, including the end users.

Beyond technological and economic fictions, I explore the conditions under which smart grids could be appropriated by users (residential and SMEs). The different strategies of electricity production and consumption are described at different scales (individual, building, district, region) and discussed in terms of ways of life. The crucial ingredient of limited material resources is incorporated into the picture. I conclude with an alternative socio-political fiction in which active users participate to the materialisation of functionalities, usages and meanings of the new grids.

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Participant: Lenneke Kuijer
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Title: Exploring Processes of Individual and Collective Learning for Practice-Oriented Design
Abstract:
With this paper I would like to present results of and reflections on a study that will run in the end of April. Goal of the study is to explore processes of individual and collective learning involved in the early stages of a discontinuous innovation. Outcomes will inform ongoing research on the implications of a practice theoretical view in design approaches.

Building on results of earlier studies and design projects, the study involves a proto-practice of a novel type of bathing intended to form a less resource intensive alternative for showering. The proto-practice consists of a rough but working prototype, a varied set of skills, procedures and know-how and a rich positioning of the practice in relation to showering.

Taking practices as a unit of design means to envision not only novel things - as designers are taught to do, but novel constellations of things, competences and meanings. To get a preview of a future practice (in order to design appropriate stuff for it), the proto-practice needs time and repeated performance to mature in a community of practitioners.

The study explores a possible way of obtaining such a preview. It consists of three elements: (1) individual explorative use of the prototype, (2) a group session where the (5 - 8) participants will be facilitated to exchange ideas and views on the proto-practice and (3) a second individual use session.

Results will compare the first and second use session and their evaluative interviews and relate differences to the various forms of learning.

Lucy Suchman

Participant: Francisca Gromme
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Title: Tuning into 'Aggression': Tinkering from the Laboratory to the Police Control Room
Abstract:
In the Netherlands, a range of technologies is introduced in policing practices to address the problem of 'aggression' in public space, a problem receiving ample attention in the Dutch media. In this paper I present an ethnographic account of the various forms that aggression assumes in the design, development and experimental implementation of 'aggression detection': a technology for the recognition of aggression in the voice. I approach aggression as a set of partial observations that are mediated by bodies, instruments, culture and politics (Haraway, 1988). By focusing on the activity of 'tinkering' in different locations and stages of technology development and use, I hope to contribute to the argument that tinkering is in fact part of an ontological politics (Mol, 2006). In this case, this includes deciding over what counts as aggression in public space and who should intervene.
The paper starts out by tracing the human and non-human forms that acoustic aggression assumed in the development of the technology for use at a Dutch bus station (the human voice, the bus horn and the siren). Next, I examine the various forms of tinkering, or fine-tuning, that took place to produce these versions of acoustic aggression. Fine-tuning was an activity in which various actors took part, including engineers, policy officers and the police. This activity did not only affect the settings of the technology but, as I show here, the work culture in the police control room and the boundaries of police responsibility were also tinkered with.

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Participant: Faye Wade
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Title: Investigating the Installation and Appropriation of Domestic Central Heating Using Ethnography
Abstract:
This research argues that we must move away from the assumption that central heating use is a series of choices made by the end user and towards a view of it as a socially constructed practice, involving numerous actors. This is particularly necessary when we consider that space heating accounted for 58% of domestic carbon emissions in 2008, and has been targeted as an area where reductions can be achieved. A strong starting point for this is to study central heating installation in domestic properties. Installation is a clearly defined boundary between technology production and its end use and is a pivotal stage in the appropriation of the technology by the end user. The installer has several roles in this process, acting as a temporary user of the system, contributing to the technology design and acting as an informant to the householder, potentially influencing their habitual behaviour. Consequently, it is vital to develop a firmer understanding of the decision-making processes and information exchanges, both verbal and non-verbal; that occur during installation. The best way to obtain sufficient understanding of this is to conduct

ethnography of both the technology-in-transition and the technology-in-use. This will involve shadowing plumbers on several 'jobs' to capture detailed accounts of the interactions discussed above, accompanied by follow up visits to understand the everyday practices and habitual behaviour of householders in relation to their central heating. This presentation will discuss exploratory work that has been conducted to date, contributing to an improved understanding of the installation process.

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Participant: Andras Novoszath
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Title: Imagining Moneys, Measuring Values: The Case of Bristol Pound
Abstract:
Recent works in anthropology and sociology of economics started to recognize and study the role of greater economic arrangements or infrastructures as continuously evolving practices of economization. In my ethnographic fieldwork I am conducting a research on the Bristol Pound, a complementery currency under implementation, considering it as a material-semiotic writing machine or method assemblage. This money-in-the-making promises to provide a supporting framework for local independent businesses, to gain them a greater independence from the global financial system and, in overall, to create a more sustainable and resilient economy in the region. In order to achieve this it employs mobile phone payment technologies, credit union backing and a great deal of community involvement.
Based on the fieldwork I try to unfold Haraway's concept of encounter value and to find out how does it shape our attention in helping to cope with issues such as the roles of of the different monetary regimes, their apparatuses of valuations, and the possible agencies co-emerging with them. Looking at the 'concretization' process of metaphors I examine how different imaginaries (both from within and outside of the 'academy') are employed and with what effect. Finally, I try to think about how we are becoming with money and with our financial practices we take part in.

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Participant: Charlotte Kearsley
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Title: An Actor-Network Theoretical Analysis of Toxicity
Abstract:
My study aims to present findings from qualitative fieldwork undertaken at a chemical engineering firm near Heysham which processes toxic waste, turning it into marketable 'green fuel'. It will look at the heterogeneous social and material networks implicated in the production and categorization of matter as 'toxic' and its reconstitution as 'energy', through the interactions between technological and human actants in the industrial process. It is hoped that the study will provide a contribution to the literature on the creation of green markets, building on the work of Neyland and Simakova (2012) on electronic waste and explaining how the assemblage of social technical and political actors engaged in the production of green fuel stabilize the somewhat fluid boundary between what materialities may be excluded and included in 'the market'.

Participant: Niklas Hartmann
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Title: Researching "Ecosystem Services" - A First Report from the Field
Abstract:
The concept and language of "ecosystem services" was first promoted by scholars of ecological economics in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Until recently clearly outshone by its same-aged sibling "biodiversity", ecosystem services has rapidly taken root policy circles but also in ecological science since the publication of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005). The term originally served as a unifying post-hoc framing for a disparate array of environmental valuation techniques at the same time as promising to make such valuations much more comprehensive. In limited time, however, it has become a powerful framing device which performs equally well as a framework for economic valuation, a policy tool used from international down to the regional level, a new mission for conservation and development NGOs, an epistemic object/apparatus/assemblage for ecology and as obligatory passage point for the funding of environmental research. Whereas political ecologists have addressed themselves to the task of documenting the social, political, cultural and not least environmental repercussions, ecosystem services has to date attracted curiously little interest by STS scholars or even philosophers of biology. My research aims to understand the relationships between ecosystem services, ecological theory and research practice. Although ecosystem services is, to a considerable extend, a policy-driven field, I am mostly interested in the making of environmental knowledge and how it figures human-environment relations. In this paper, I report on field work at ecosystem services scientists' conferences and workshop in March and April 2012. I identify salient themes, contentious issues and taken-for-granted presuppositions.

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Participant: Ana Makuc
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Title: "The theatre in me": VR and New Models of Gendered Intra-Subjectivity in the Futuristic Cyberpunk Fiction of Pat Cadigan
Abstract:
In her latest book, the psychoanalyst Sherry Turkle refers to the 'subjective computer' - 'the machine as it enters into social life and psychological development'. She suggests that: 'Technology proposes itself as the architect of our intimacies' and that 'technology reshapes the landscape of our emotional lives'. Since the early 1990s, scholars such as Turkle have traced the growing engagement with and dependence on computer technologies, in her case arguing that they are radically transforming subjectivities and inter-personal relationships. Prior to this recent research, feminist cyberpunk science fiction published during the 1980s and 1990s explored how cybertechnologies might be implicated in such changes, with specific emphasis on gender and sexuality. These cyberpunk fictional explorations also relate to specific developments in the psychoanalytic theory of Jessica Benjamin. Benjamin developed new models of subjectivity and personal relations, challenging traditional, patriarchal, Freudian models of the psyche. This paper provides a close reading of

the representation of virtual reality in Cadigan's third cyberpunk novel Fools (1992) in terms of intra-subjectivity, by reading Cadigan alongside Benjamin to identify and reflect upon the forms of subjectivity extrapolated by both authors. Fools thematizes neuroses by portraying the main protagonist of the novel - a 'memory junkie', Marceline - with Dissociative Identity Disorder, artificially induced through memory transplantations in virtual reality mind-to-mind contacts. The presentation then explores the dynamic interaction between 'original' and 'copy' in Marceline's consciousness and reflects upon how this complicates her gender and sexuality. In other words, Benjamin's 'relational' model of subjectivity - predicated upon the subject's inter-subjective exchanges with (external) 'others' -, is here explored vis-à-vis an intra-subjective model of the psyche that exceeds and challenges Freud's fixed hierarchy of id/ego/superego. Finally, this presentation examines Cadigan's depiction of virtual reality in relation to more recent, theoretical, and popular literature on the impact of online social networking and virtual reality games on gendered and sexual subjectivities and personal relations.

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Participant: Felipe Raglianti
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Title: Computer Stories of Touch and Vision
Abstract:
Stories of humans and computers often have been marked as being enacted at the human-computer interface, where human-computer 'interactions' would appear as 'reflected' on computer screens. While this approach works with human cognition as distributed through computer calculations of networks like the Internet, the visual metaphor of diffraction patterns (Barad 1996, 2003, 2007) suggests that entanglements between humans and computers interfere with the 'framing' of human-computer interfaces. Agencies derived from humans and computers touch and vision would mess with framed human-computer interfaces, suggesting why computer scientists followed touch and vision to develop new human-computer interfaces, to compress technological compounds behind the screen, and to multiply the materials of surfaces were humans and computers exchange touch and vision as figures in motion.
Thus, if we understand technological stories a bit differently (Haraway 1997, Callon & Law 2003, Thrift 2004), the Internet becomes a material-semiotic method to qualculate computer assemblages. 'To qualculate computer assemblages' means to specify how calculations of human-computer interfaces are materially crafted by humans and computers in order to situate a 'frame' for their agencies. This has consequences for computer screens: some materials would 'surface' for touch and vision to orientate cognitive connections and feedbacks among humans and computers, while some materials would 'surface' as unframed or without agency. What seems interesting here is the shifting mutual necessity and mutual exclusion of material surfaces in computer assemblages, and how the boundary and its transgressions are (re)made by (re)shaping the boundaries between screens, humans, computers, networks and systems.

Participant: Brigit Morris Colton
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Title: Aesthetics as a Technology of Care in Mental Health Services
Abstract:
This paper draws upon an ethnography of Create, an British NHS-based 'arts for mental health service' and STS/feminist work on care. It explores what the use of art practice as a 'treatment' in mental health services can reveal about aesthetics as a technology of care. Create comprises six different art studios (e.g. Photography, Ceramics), each with a dedicated practising artist tutor. Service-users, categorised as having 'severe and enduring mental health needs,' access the service as part of their discharge plan from psychiatric hospital. They learn art skills and through 'making beautiful things' they also learn to (re)value themselves as people, rather than patients. To get a feel for this, I accessed the service as a service would do for six months. I also conducted qualitative interviews with staff and service-users, to discuss how this felt and what may be valuable, or not, about it. We discussed how working in mental health has shaped how the artists teach here and the ways in which art practice, materials and artworks become care-technologies. Aesthetic sensibility is materialised in the organisation of the service's spaces, and its practices of display; signalling something different is happening here than in arts and crafts sessions on hospital wards. Nor is this art therapy, where patients (r)enact trauma, but therapeutic art practice, where personal 'goods' are strengthened. Being in the art studio, rather than in-the-clinic or on-the-couch, imbues agency. As such, Create offers us a unique insight into the possibilities and limits of aesthetics as a care-technology.

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Participant: Helen Pritchard
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: hvpritchard@gmail.com
Title: When an Animal Enters into Things: Reconceptualizing 'Co-creation' in Environmental Data Practices
Abstract:
Through developments in cloud-computing, data streaming and bio-sensing the ubiquities of data practices are re-scripting how we imagine and interact with non-human others and the biophysical world. In the summer party paper I will explore a tentative set of ideas formulated from ethnographic fieldwork and art/hacker practices. Drawing on the fields of HACI (Human-animal-computer-interaction), community art, software studies, Feminist Technoscience and new materialisms these research notes propose and discuss a methodology of co-creation that pays close attention to the non-human animal, code and machine in order to consider how natural and animal geographies might help us rethink the role of the animal in data practices and imagine new forms of politics and new forms of living.

Participant: Goede Both
Institution: Paderborn University, Germany
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Title: Removing the Driver: Gender in the Design of Driverless Cars
Abstract:
My PhD thesis focusses on the gendering processes (Bath 2009; Van der Velden/Mörtberg 2011) in the design of driverless cars. During the last 20-25 years driverless cars have emerged as an important field in the application of robotics (Broggi et al. 2008), where commercial cars are technologically upgraded to perform as autonomous vehicles. This involves translating decision-making and cognition processes from human car-drivers to intelligent machines. Simultaneously, the development of driverless cars aims to transform the ""system of automobility"" (Urry 2004) with profound economic, political, social, and cultural implications. In the Global North car use, car ownership, alleged driving competence, and risky driving are constitutive of doing masculinity (Balkmar 2007), whereas the vision of autonomous driving problematizes those masculine attributes. Gender relations and gendered norms are both embodied in and constructed by artifacts (Faulkner 2001). Therefore, developing driverless cars entails a reconfiguration of gendered subjectivities and the gender-technology relations.
The presentation will give an overview on current developments in this field of robotics. In preparation for my upcoming laboratory study on driverless cars, I would like to discuss my research design with the salon participants. My theoretical frame work draws from feminist technology studies (Wajcman 2004; Weber/Bath 2007; Suchman 2007, 2008), actor-network-theory (Latour 2005; Law 2002, 2004), and laboratory studies (Latour/Woolgar 1979; Traweek 1988; Knorr-Cetina 1999).

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Participant: Joann Wilkinson
Institution: Lancaster
Email: j.wilkinson@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Life in Bits: Articulations of Reproduction in Ovulation Predictors
Abstract:
Ovulation predictors are often small devices which come in bits; they may be microscopes, watches, or monitors and can be assembled and disassembled as users become more skilled with their pieces of metal and plastic. Ovulation predictors also feed off bits: bits of data, body bits, fluids and substances, all leading the user towards a whole; a baby. However, in some cases, increasingly so as one in seven couples trying to conceive experience difficulty, the whole does not materialize. So what happens to the bits and the absent whole? In this paper I will firstly examine how ovulation predictors articulate experiences of reproduction in the form of 'bits of life'. Secondly, I will explore how users also engage with reproductive technology when it fails, and how reproductive bodies materialize in this process. The methodology for this research comes in two parts. I am tracking discussions of ovulation predictors on online parenting forums which take place between users or potential users. Secondly, I am interviewing women and couples who are trying to conceive and are currently using or considering using such devices. This paper contributes to STS in a number of ways. Reproductive technologies are becoming increasingly visible, however much attention has been directed towards

sophisticated and costly interventions such as IVF and less on technologies which can be used outside the medical setting; technologies which have often 'gone under the radar'. My research foregrounds such technologies and explores their impact on bodies and reproduction.

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Participant: Mette Furbo
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: m.kraghfurbo@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Living Data: How Genetic Data Matters
Abstract:
The personal genomics industry has since 2007 surfaced as a rapidly growing field promoted by advances in mapping and sequencing technologies following the Human Genome Project. Direct-to-consumer (DTC) genetic testing companies now offer individuals the chance to genotype their DNA in which they test for a number of common variants (SNPs) to provide individuals with information ranging from disease risk, genetic traits and ancestry. Discourses of empowerment, self-care and individual responsibility circulate and flourish in this industry. Scholars are also talking about 'genetic responsibility' and the gene as an 'ethical substance' intertwined with an obligation to act in accordance to one's 'risky genes'. I propose a shift from thinking about genetic data as something inside the body, where hidden normative processes inflict on individuals moral obligations to live life as a project and to act prudently in relation to their genes. Instead, drawing on Annemarie Mol and Donna Haraway, I want to think about a world of multiplicity and diffraction patterns. Genetic data may not be one thing, but many, and as genetic data has travelled outside the laboratory and the clinic into other domains such as the commercial market and online communities, individuals, so to speak, 'live genetic data' differently. Attending to the practices of genetic data and how genetic data is enacted differently is a way of exploring this as a matter of concern, rather than matter of fact.

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Participant: Lucia Liste
Institution: Norwegian University of Science and Technology
Email: lucia.m.liste@ntnu.no
Title: Governing Through Facebook
Abstract:
Governments around the world are facing a crossroad; on one side, they are still struggling to meet the promises of the Web 1.0 wave of e-government applications (i.e. web sites) while, at the same time, they feel the urge to embrace and engage with the latest of socio-technical developments (i.e. social computing) in their attempts to transform and modernize public sector.
The shift from the Web 1.0 to the Web 2.0 type of applications within governmental organizations has been labeled as Government 2.0. A growing body of literature is already describing the potential opportunities, challenges and risks that social computing could bring into scene for local governments; however, there is not much knowledge about how the technology is actually being appropriated and used. This

paper is an attempt to overcome the lack of empirical evidence by examining how Norwegian local governments are engaging with Facebook.

The goal of this paper is twofold. On one hand, drawing on the insights from participative observation, the paper aims to understand the ways in which Norwegian municipalities use Facebook, focusing on how computer-mediated interaction with the citizenry is being constructed and performed. Patterns of -both, citizen and governmental- use and strategies will be analyzed.

On the other hand, the paper also aims to compare these results with previous ones from a similar study on municipal web sites.

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Participant: Andreas Schadauer
Institution: Institute for Advanced Studies
Email: schadauer@ihs.ac.at
Title: Co-enacting Social Scientific Knowing and Society
Abstract:

Numbers and statistics on society, nations and human beings are commonly attributed a fact like status within media and policy argumentations. Since modern Science Studies limits the power of a "reality out-there" to grant this kind of status anymore, the actors and actants involved in making "facts" came to the fore. Moreover, the researchers, the producers of these numbers are not the only actors engaged in "fact making". Their colleagues, the (technical) devices used, the different organizations involved and the actors who take part in media and policy making, hence all the loops of Latour's "circulatory system of scientific facts", have to be considered.

In my dissertation project I elaborate on this notion of making social scientific "facts" using material generated within a case study on two quantitative surveys in Austria. Utilizing actor-network and practice theoretical approaches, as well as Adele Clarke's "Situational Analysis", I enlarge upon these interwoven but spatially and temporarily dispersed actors and actants in order to see how they make "facts" about society and with it co-enact society itself.

For the conference, I would like to discuss the merits and limits of this approach for studying and understanding social science. What is gained that goes beyond accounts in textbooks and internal disciplinary debates? What, if at all, can be contributed to these debates? What are the political implications of this approach? And in general, what can be gained from turning Science Studies toward Social Science itself?

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Participant: Rocco Avolio
Institution: Milano-Bicocca
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Title: Craft of Light: Ethnography of a Lighting Design Studio
Abstract:

In the field of design, lighting design is the branch that deals with light issues. In regard to this, its concern is on different fields: stage lighting, automotive, architecture, urban lighting, light products. For this reason, the lighting designer label

covers a number of different profiles: lighting specialists, architects, stage designers, engineers. Classical sociology of work and occupations helps little in defining it. Lighting designers themselves point out the centrality of the design project; therefore, an alternative route to define who is a lighting designer is to ask what he/she actually do, by studying the concrete content of his/her work.

Drawing upon field data collected in an ethnography conducted in a lighting design studio from july 2011 to april 2012, the aim of this paper is to reconstruct in detail everyday working practices of lighting designers, following a practice-based approach which combines insights from ethnomethodology, organization studies and workplace studies.

Depiction of different stages of designing some artifacts serves to show the heterogeneity of observed working practices, in which different actors take part, human (designers, colleagues, suppliers, researcher) and non-humans (rooms, desks, computers, tools).

Secondly, heterogeneity lies on the diverse facets - cognitive, normative, aesthetic, material, spatial, temporal, linguistic - of practices.

This enables us to define design as a situated and emerging practice. Actors constantly faces practical concerns on what to do next. The good or bad outcome of practices will depend on situated contingencies and on answers given in different design stages.

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Participant: Graham Dean
Institution: Lancaster
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Title: The Social Practice of Flow: Design Principles from a Practice Lens
Abstract:
'Flow' (Csikszentmihalyi 1991) has traditionally been conceived of as a psychological phenomenon or experiential state related to an individual. It has been described as "the state in which people are so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter; the experience itself is so enjoyable that people will do it even at great cost, for the sheer sake of doing it". The relationship between skill and the perceived difficulty level of a task has been identified as a 'condition' for flow, but this account fails to consider both the trajectory of achieving flow or its social nature. How might we achieve a social understanding of the conditions around this phenomenon and how might we then use this understanding to inform the the development of socio-technical systems?

The approach taken in this work is to use Practice Theory (Schatzki 1996, Reckwitz 2002, Gherardi 2009) as an analytical lens to study the emerging area of digital maker culture (Kuznetsov & Paulos 2010, Wang & Kaye 2011) . The work makes use of Reckwitz's conception of a practice as an 'interconnection of bodily activities, mental activities, 'things' and their uses and background knowledge' and makes central the background knowledge elements of this model in understanding two key digital maker culture practices: 'tinkering' and 'collaboration'.

The contribution of the research should help articulate design principles that may support the development of socio-technical systems from a practice-led perspective.

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Participant: Esther Waite
Institution: Lancaster
Email: esther@thewaites.co.uk
Title: Participatory Inquiries: Enactment Realism and the Making of Differences
Abstract:
My doctoral work, presented here at an early stage of development, involves me with an initiative provisionally entitled 'Connecting at the Edge'. This project extends outwards from the Quakers (The Religious Society of Friends) and is exploring ways in which Quaker practitioners may connect with others to open up innovative possibilities both within and without the Quaker community.

Drawing upon Participatory Action Research traditions, the practical focus of my work is to inquire alongside others into the potential role of digital technologies in this setting. The theoretical focus interrogates my own situated practices as an inquirer, framed by the arguments laid out in Law's (2004) 'After Method'. This draws strongly upon STS and proposes a radical reappraisal of methods, attending to challenging questions such as how we might better approach realities that are elusive, ephemeral, vague and messy.

Law's 'enactment realism' proposes a metaphysics capable of accounting for the fractionality and multiplicity encountered in studies of practice. Such an understanding draws out the performativity of methods in helping to create the social realities they purport to describe, thereby situating the inquirer within the complex workings of ontological politics. This location suggests possibilities for forms of engagement that diverge from the tradition aspirations laid down by apolitical, technical accounts of method. It raises pressing questions around our own sense of agency and responsibility within the inquiry; how do we better understand our role/s in such interventions? What tools and sensibilities might we develop and bring to bear within this generative work?

John Urry

Participant: Kristina Lindström and Åsa Ståhl
Institution: Malmö University
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Title: Emerging Connections Through Happy but also Troublesome Making
Abstract:

"This paper focuses on connections that emerge through the making in Threads - a mobile sewing circle. In Threads we are inviting participants to embroider SMS. Thereby we combine several media practices, in the setting of a sewing circle. One of these practices is embroidery and another is text messaging. Threads can be seen as an example of collaborative media practices.It is argued that such a simple thing as embroidering an SMS is a way of connecting with people, materials and technologies that are proximate, as well as more distant. Although some of the connections made are happy and in line with what Gauntlett (2011) argues, it is also shown how there are deviations from the happy objects (Ahmed 2010) in Threads. Through the making in Threads also more troubling connections emerge. To draw the attention to the extended network of connections we use the work of Parikka (2011), McRobbie (2002 and 2006) and Harding (2009), since their writing help us expand our analytical framework to materialities, gendered hierarchies and postcolonial power relations.The concluding analysis suggest future possibilities of Threads as a gathering for connections where killjoys can share their burden of causing claimed unhappiness."

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Participant: Rosie Emeny
Institution: The University of Sheffield
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Title: "There's enough scope to really enjoy driving" - Cars and the Countryside: Thinking Critically about Rural Driving
Abstract:

As the car glides down the undulating rural road, slowing, skidding into blind corners and sliding atop the gravel that peppers the tarmac, the driver must swerve around potholes whilst being bounced by the suspension as it strains to accommodate the uneven topography. When such journeys unfold along rural lanes, a mobile engagement with the countryside is performed: riding the rural road produces a situated, ephemeral encounter with the rural landscape mediated by the materiality of the car. But how does the car shape individuals' perceptions of the countryside and, in what way is the multi-sensory dimension of the drive recognised, valued and/or revered in peoples' trips within Derbyshire's rural areas? How do people negotiate, perform and consequently practice rural driving in everyday subjective contexts? Moreover, in what way is this performance shaped by dominant discourses of rurality as 'idyllic'? In this paper I offer theoretical discussion and methodological reflections from fieldwork that has sought to explore these questions. Initially I outline the theoretical basis of my research before briefly illustrating the scope of my fieldwork. I will then focus the main body of the paper on discussing emergent themes from my data, as well as methodological insights from using participant video-making. Finally I will critically reflect on how the methods used are shaping my thesis and the wider implications of the research.

Participant: Joseph Gardiner
Institution: Lancaster
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Title: Travel, Security and Privacy: Looking Through Surveillance Technology at Public Spaces.
Abstract:
Autocam is a technologically-enhanced CCTV system currently being developed for use in airports around the world. The system is automated by way of algorithmic modules that filter out elements of data deemed irrelevant for security practices, pro-actively engaging in footage deletion. This development project markets itself as going beyond the current legal constraints laid out to safeguard individual privacy. Recent publications on the proliferation of software-heavy CCTV use the Deleuzian model of the 'assemblage' to describe the boundless and adaptive nature of an expanding interoperable network of surveillance systems. In repeatedly encountering texts that rely upon this model, I began to see what Sheller referred to as the 'non-reflexive embrace of deterritorialization, nomadism and rhizomatic transgression'. Instead of following suit, or attempting to critique this 'embrace' by arguing that systems such as Autocam could be seen as aiming at homogenising, sterilising and re-territorialising control, I ask what such a system says of the place it is being designed for.
Mobilities research offers many descriptions of travel practices and attitudes. I ask what Autocam might have in common with these accounts, in its blurring out faces in the footage or mapping patterns amongst anonymous crowds.
This paper looks at airport surveillance technologies as seeking to coordinate and harmonise travel, security and privacy, much in the way that Adey has presented previous attempts to adapt and commoditise security measures as being aligned with the pre-existing travel categories of standard and business class.

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Participant: Giulio Mattioli
Institution: Università degli Studi di Milano Bicocca
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Title: Claim-Making in Transport & Social Exclusion Research: Is There a Right to Drive and Pollute?
Abstract:
High and increasing levels of mobility and car dependence are among the main determinants of the surge in transport-related greenhouse gases emissions worldwide. At the same time, these very same trends have led scholars and policy-makers to focus on the social exclusion of "transport disadvantaged" sectors of society – often identified as those who are less mobile and/or do not own cars and are thus unable to participate "normally" in a mobile society. While scholars in this field of research have produced a remarkable amount of empirical evidence on unequal patterns of transport behaviour, they have however generally avoided to make explicit claims about distributive justice. In this paper, I argue that it is useful to analyse the research literature on transport & social exclusion in a critical way, distinguishing between transport inequality (as mere description) and injustice (implying a normative evaluation of "how things should be"). Drawing on a framework put forward by Gordon Walker in the field of environmental justice, I discuss some

forms of claim-making that are current in the transport disadvantage literature, trying to make explicit their distributive justice implications. I then draw on data from the German and British National Travel Surveys to illustrate how different notions of "transport justice" correspond to very different environmental outcomes: while assuming that the car as such is an indispensable tool for social inclusion directly leads to environmentally unfriendly resolutions, minimum standards of accessibility seem to provide more scope for reconciling environmental and social concerns in the field of transport.

Bron Szerszynski

Participant: Ghayas Chowdhury
Institution: Lancaster
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Title: British Muslim Environmentalism: A Preliminary Attempt at Classification

Abstract:
The UK population claims to be overwhelmingly Christian (71.8%); however half of all non-Christians follow the Islamic tradition (National Statistics Online, 2010). The paper observes the contribution of Muslims to environmentalism in the UK and provides a typology for the study of British Muslim environmental organizations.
The paper begins with a discussion of how Ramadan (2006) derives and makes a justification for his typology for the classification of contemporary Islamic thought. This then leads onto outlining the various categories within Ramadan typology.   The paper then attempts to put this discussion into the research context.
The next part of the paper outlines the discourses of the organizations in terms of institutional background, human relations with nature and responses to modernity. To put these discourses into the context of Ramadan typologies, the paper explores three significant questions. To what extent do the Muslim environmental organizations in the UK refer back to the scriptural sources of the Islamic tradition i.e. the Qur'an and the Sunna? Secondly to what extent do the organizations relate to rational elaboration? Or to what extent do Muslim environmental organizations intersect both the textual tradition and rational elaboration?
The paper in the last section evaluates Ramadan typology for classifying the discourses of the environmental organizations. Finally, a typology of the environmental organizations is revealed that bases its foundation on Ramadan. Finally the paper consider the future implications for this typology of the British Muslim environmental movement.

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Participant: Rebecca Ince
Institution: Salford
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Title: "Retrofitting the City: The Role of Knowledge in Transitions to Low Carbon Futures" - Research issues and reflections.

Abstract:
Cities house over 80% of the UK population and are responsible for the majority of domestic carbon emissions from the UK, thus attracting considerable attention in emissions reduction plans. However, the existing urban infrastructures of energy and housing are arguably incredibly complex, interlinked socio-technical systems that prove very difficult to change at a large scale. Adopting the multi-level perspective on socio-technical transitions, this research seeks to compare some of the domestic low-carbon retrofit projects emerging at community level in different city contexts and the forms of knowledge exchanged during project delivery. Its purpose is to examine the role of these community level projects in wider transition strategies, and to begin to identify the ideal social and political conditions for facilitating the transition to low carbon cities.
At this early stage of the PhD, the researcher is occupied by defining the research design, reviewing the body of literature, and selecting cases for comparison. Hence,

this presentation seeks not to report empirical findings, but to give an overview of the emerging themes, including visions, values, and social norms; technological transitions, governance and policy instruments; and the role of markets in urban low-carbon strategies. It will also share and discuss the methodological and ethical issues encountered from a personal and practical viewpoint. These include the use of theoretical approaches from an extremely wide range of disciplines, identifying selection criteria for cities and projects, and the positioning of the researcher, as an active campaigner and volunteer in one of the case study organisations.

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Participant: Stephen Jackson
Institution: Lancaster University
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Title: Examining the Securitization of Climate Change
Abstract:
"In recent years, the view that climate change is a national and international 'security threat' has grown significantly, and discerning the 'security implications' of climate change has become a major objective for many analysts, think tanks, and policy makers. In the United States, several recent publications have forcefully argued that military and intelligence organizations should focus more intensely on the potential threats that climate change is thought to pose. Similarly, EU institutions have also begun to view climate change as a major security concern, framing it as a force that threatens European security and interests. They and their U.S. counterparts set these concerns against a backdrop of catastrophic visions of the future, scenarios of a future in which complex political and social conflicts –e.g. terrorism, immigration flows, nationalist and religious fundamentalism, the erosion of democracy, etc. – become increasingly determined or 'driven' by climatic forces.
This characterization of the relationship between climate change and society is increasingly expressed for instance, through such terms as 'climate refugees' and 'climate wars' in which environmental dimensions to conflicts become the primary ways of framing them. I will argue that although grounded in legitimate fears about global environmental crisis, such representations of climate-society relations emphasize the causal role of natural forces in conflict at the expense of the role of policies, ideologies, global political economy, power, and human decision making. And while it is perhaps no surprise that such dimensions are marginalized within military discourse, 'climate security' thinking nonetheless exerts a significant influence the way in which catastrophic futures are imagined in mainstream culture. Guiding my critique of these policy narratives is an underlying concern for the possible political consequences of thinking about climate change (and nature) as something we are 'at war' with. In contrast to professionalized attempts to turn predictions about the future into a kind of a science – so that social and political forecasts are seen to follow logically from raw scientific data and climate models – my research questions the assumption that catastrophic visions of the future can somehow be value-free, objective, and non-ideological."

Participant: Marton Fabok
Institution: Lancaster
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Title: Nuclear Power after Fukushima in Hungary: Discourses, Networks and Policies

Abstract:
Immediately after the Fukushima accident struggles over interpretations started - and still continuing. The different national contexts in Europe are displaying vast variety of meanings and reactions. In Hungary meanings of nuclear power were contextualised of the pride about the existing nuclear power plant as a national achievement from the socialist era, credence of technoscientific expertise and reliability of cheap energy.

The public discourse about Fukushima demonstrates that these discourses cannot be approached only linguistically, but strongly connected to existing social relations. The paper concentrates on the organisations and the national and international network of organisations in mobilising discourses about nuclear power. The nuclear plant operator company is not only economic organisation, but it is entangled with industry associations, advocacy groups, research institutions and even strongly connected with the regulator, and this network is playing an active political role in the public sphere. On the other hand a complex network of local activist groups, think tanks and powerful international organisations, struggles for its own legitimation and an alternative framing of nuclear power. These networks integrate also the spheres of media and policy-making, and playing a crucial part in decisions about enlarging the nuclear capacity of the country by building a new plant.

The paper draws on the insights of science, technology and society (STS), management and organisational studies (MOS) and cultural studies in the understanding of how networks of organisations mobilised discourses and policies in interpreting Fukushima. The methodology involves discourse analysis, ethnographic experiences and interviewing.

Sylvia Walby

Participant: Susie Balderston
Institution: Lancaster
Email: s.balderston@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: What Works after Hate Crime and Rape? Exploring Collective Interventions and Outcomes with Disabled Women

Abstract:

This paper considers the efficacy of interventions with disabled and Deaf women after disablist hate crimes and rape. There is a pressing need for accessible interventions; disabled women may be between twice (Smith, 2008) and four times (Martin et al, 2006) more likely to experience sexual and domestic violence than non-disabled women, with greater harm after hate crimes (Iganski, 2008). Given the escalating nature of these attacks and the costs of domestic violence (Walby, 2004), prevention and early intervention are crucial (Resnick et al, 2005).

Yet, significant institutional barriers and structural inequalities (Young, 2009) often result in exclusion of disabled women after domestic violence (Hague et al, 2010) and hate crime (Roulstone, Thomas & Balderston, 2011). Mainstream interventions for victims are predicated on troubled neo-liberal, individualised provision, with ineffectual counselling by volunteers (Rose et al, 1999) and problematic target-hardening (Hope, 2008). Statutory services after rape may be seen as less independent or victim-focussed than third sector interventions (Robinson & Hudson, 2011).

In contrast, collective methods to resist victimhood from feminisms may be up to five times more successful in gaining conviction outcomes than rape projects in public services (Robinson & Hudson, 2011).   The paper shows how these feminist approaches and advocacy models can be appropriate and cost-effective after disablist hate crime and rape. In user-led, accessible and culturally competent spaces, disabled and Deaf Survivors can take their own agency and move on after violence to independent living and inclusion (Lowicki and Pillsbury, 2004) as, 'Happy women,' (Taylor & Pugh, 2010).

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Participant: Melanie Goisauf
Institution: Institute for Advanced Studies / University of Vienna
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Title: Doing Gender - Doing Violence: How Gender Matters Within Violent Relationships

Abstract:

The aim of my paper is to address some relationships between partner violence and the accomplishment and reconstruction of gender, and explores the question, how partner violence is gendered, and how gender matters in violent behaviour. Whereas there is a broad debate about the roots, motivations, and impacts of violent behaviour, the answer to the question about how gender matters within violent heterosexual relationships vary depending on which theoretical approach of understanding gendering processes is used. To understand partner violence I want to introduce a practice theoretical framework, which tries to overcome the action-structure opposition, and focus on embodied knowledge, bodily doings and shared practical understandings as the key conditions of sociality. For the analysis of how

partner violence is gendered I refer to two concepts, which also mark the contradictory poles of the practice theory framework: Bourdieu's work (2005) is useful to understand power relations and shared understanding of social practice beyond single situations, but is limited in understanding the concrete practice of doing gender while doing violence. Here, Ethnomethodology can help to understand meaning making in interactions and the way people use these doings to reproduce social order. The focus is on how practices contribute to the reproduction of gendered social structures. The empirical work of my project includes interviews with experts in the field of prevention and intervention, interviews with persons who perpetrated and experienced violence, and ethnographic observations and narratives conducted in a women's shelter.

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Participant: Jude Towers
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: j.towers1@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: The Measurement of Violence Against Women: Contributing New Knowledge Through a Re-Conceptualisation of Traditional Quantitative Analytic Practices
Abstract:
The measurement of social phenomena has always been theoretically and methodologically problematic requiring the operationalisation of extremely complex social relations into a relatively simple idea which can be quantified in some way: after nearly 50years, the measurement of violence against women (VAW) remains both highly problematic and highly controversial.
To date, the vast majority of work has concentrated on the development of the survey instrument to capture the 'truest' possible measure of VAW: little work has concentrated on the analysis itself and the contextualisation of findings to contribute to the measurement of VAW.
This paper reports on the findings of an in-depth analysis of the British Crime Survey (BCS) which, through the disaggregation and reconstruction of data, results in a clearer understanding and better representation of UK women's experiences of gendered violence: in particular a re-conceptualisation of the technical frame of 'missing data' enables the acknowledgement of and engagement with three very different phenomenon: nonresponse: nondisclosure: and invisibility. Traditionally, only nonresponse is routinely recognised by analysts and is dealt with by the application of technical solutions which 'neutralise' the influence of such 'missing data' in the analysis. This paper argues that the other two forms of 'missingness' (nondisclosure and invisibility)require recognition, extraction from the technical frame of nonresponse and inclusion, rather than technical neutralisation, in data analysis in order to robustly measure VAW and thus contribute new knowledge to the emancipatory goal of ending violence against women.

Participant: Jeanette Rowley
Institution: Lancaster
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Title: Gender, Violence, Interlinked Oppression and the Economy
Abstract:
This paper explores how interlinked oppressive structures in society support and maintain a dominant violent ideology in the interests of the economy. It identifies the interlinked oppression of humans and other animals and illustrates how human violence and animal cruelty are features of current social organisation. The paper draws on feminist (eco-feminist) observations as well as those of the movement for the rights of other animals in order to highlight how dominant ideology reflects an imposed belief system which relies upon violence.

In order to explain the relationship between human violence and the oppression of other animals, the paper examines, the eco-feminist relationship between, ""meat"" and violence against women, (Adams, 1990; Kheel, 2008) studies regarding the way in which cruelty to other animals relates to violent crime (Lindsay, 2007), and the ways in which the economy is underpinned by a state supported imposed belief system (Nibert, 2004; Torres, 2007; Joy 2010). The paper argues that state supported violence disguises itself through structural mechanisms which maintain and promote a false ""natural necessary and normal"" perspective. The paper examines the way in which the interlinked oppressions of current dominant ideology can be challenged.

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Participant: Philippa Olive
Institution: Lancaster
Email: p.olive@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: What's In and What's Out? Classifications of Violence in Health's Information Infrastructure
Abstract:
The context for this paper is that domestic violence, a form of gender-based violence, is declared a major public health issue and that as a major health issue it is not inconceivable to imagine that there is an information infrastructure to monitor health consequences of domestic violence in health populations. The International Classification of Disease (ICD) is the global standard in operation for translating health experiences into categorical codes for intra and international statistical analyses of health. In this paper I present a qualitative analysis of ICD classifications of violence in operation and the degree of presence of the form of gender-based violence known as 'domestic violence' in hospital-based administrative health data in England. Drawing on a sociology of diagnosis I consider the epidemiological account of domestic violence in health data as 'diagnosis-as-consequence' and introduce qualitative interview data from two critical points along the 'diagnosis-as-process' to 'diagnosis-as-consequence' trajectory that troubles 'domestic-violence-as-category' and thus the health data. These two critical points are the interface between patient, clinician and health record and the interface between health record, clinical coder and code generation. Through my analysis of 'domestic-violence-as-category' and category thresholds I begin to unravel the diagnostic work of complex systems – the

bodies, agencies and people that intersect and by degrees work to absent the presence of domestic violence in health experiences from health data.

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Maureen McNeil and Celia Roberts

Participant: Lisa Lindén
Institution: Linköping University
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Title: Enactmens of the HPV Vaccine in the Swedish Medical Journal Läkartidningen

Abstract:
Drawing upon the result from a discourse analysis of the Swedish medical journal Läkartidningen, I will discuss how the HPV vaccine in Sweden is enacted in multiple ways. Inspired by Annemarie Mol's (2002) concept of the body multiple, I discuss how the discussion of the HPV vaccine in Läkartidningen enacts various HPV vaccines, presenting it as a solution (and a non-solution) for a multiple set of articulated problems such as cervical cancer prevention, increased sexual risk taking behaviors and as a mean to make the Swedish cervical cancer screening program more cost-effective and quality secured. I also make use of a feminist new materialism approach to discuss the HPV vaccine as a discursive-material phenomena (e.g. Barad 2007). I focus on how the HPV vaccine is produced relationally to other phenomenon and materialities such as human bodies, cervical cancer, genital warts, the Pap smear and the HPV test, but also how it is entangled with cultural notions of gender, sexuality and nationality. In exploring the HPV vaccine as a material-discursive phenomena, I argue that it is possible to highlight other aspects of the HPV vaccine than it as merely a gendered governing technique, acting through discourses of self-management of risk and health and targeting adolescent girl bodies. Accordingly, I argue that a focus upon agential matter rather than gendered passive matter makes it possible to discuss the vaccine as more than merely as a mean for control exertions that regulate women.

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Participant: Taslima Sultana Mirza
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: t.mirza@lancs.ac.uk
Title: Doctors and IVF Clinics in the Disursive Practices

Abstract:
The paper will illuminate the discourses of childlessness that emerged in the interviews with the ART practitioners of Bangladesh. Also how the clinics of Bangladesh portray IVF and ICSI and the childlessness in their advertisements, in their reception areas, in the pamflates and the discourses of childlessness, they implicated in those will be examined here. I also trace discourses employed by IVF and ICSI practitioners and consider their strategies in practicing IVF and ICSI within various legal and religious restrictions and conventions. All IVF and ICSI clinics are the result of private entrepreneurship of the doctors accept the few big private hospitals. So how these practitioners combine the economic challenges and the services that they want to provide within the socio religious boundry will be a concern of this paper.

Participant: Charlotte Barlow
Institution: Liverpool
Email: charlotte.barlow@liv.ac.uk
Title: Partners in Crime: "Coercion Into Crime" as Part of the "Continuum" of Domestic Abuse
Abstract:
This paper discusses 'coercion into crime'. This conceptual framework asks questions about the role that women play in male-female criminal collaborations. It is centrally concerned with whether or not such women are independent agents exercising a rational choice, or effectively coerced into behaving the way that they did. In the first section of this paper I shall summarize the literature concerned with criminal couples. In the second section I will review and critically assess the works of Stark (2007), Kelly (1988) and Richie (1996), with a view to considering what light their respective theoretical framework might throw on the notion of 'coercion into crime'. In the final section of this paper I shall explain how these ideas have informed my integrated theory of 'coercion into crime'. In this I propose that if a criminal partnership involves an intimate, heterosexual relationship, which is characterised by control, infatuation and/or violence, then the woman may have been coerced to engage in criminality by her male partner/accomplice. Despite coercion being an acknowledged pathway into criminality, it is yet to be understood as part of the continuum of domestic abuse, meaning that it is neither incident-specific nor independent of other methods of abuse (Kelly, 1988). Additionally, I suggest that 'coercion into crime' is in and of itself a continuum, in which women can be physically, psychologically or economically coerced or enthralled by their partner.

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Participant: Ali Hanbury
Institution: Lancaster
Email: alihanbury@yahoo.co.uk
Title: Creating Consent: The Role of Pharmaceuticals in (Young) Women's Decision-Making Regarding the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Vaccine
Abstract:
The HPV vaccination programme has been available to young women in the U.K. since 2008. As of September 2012 the drug used to protect against various strains of the HPV will be Gardasil, the vaccine developed by the pharmaceutical company Merck & Co.
This presentation with outline the broad scope of my PhD thesis entitled 'Teenage sexualities: young people, the HPV vaccine and healthy subjectivities' and explore some key themes centred round the role of the vaccinated young women and/or their care/consent givers in the vaccination programme. Central to this will be a concern around the issues of (un)informed consent as analysed using information available from the Merck & Co.'s Gardasil website.
I will explore the affects of the website and interrogate questions surrounding the information provided in enacting consent. I am particularly interested in the construction of consent and positioning of parents and young women and this is leading me to give a focus to the material-discursive, social, technological etc. practices utilised in the marketing of the vaccine. Notions of an ideal audience, the

body, social/cultural factors, of risk and protection; and the creating of (un)consenting women will also be introduced.

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Participant: Sabrina Squires
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: s.squires1@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Difference Economies: The Role of Class in LGBT and Queer Politics
Abstract:
My research explores how class is understood in relation to LGBT and queer sexualities, where these perceptions come from and how they influence the treatment of class in LGBTQ politics. In this paper I will discuss my fieldwork (still ongoing), which involves observations of LGBTQ political groups based in London and Manchester who focus on class related issues, as well as interviews with those involved. There has been little research on class and LGBTQ sexualities, with class often not perceived as a central axis of difference in LGBT and queer lives due to sexual minorities not constituting a specific class position (Seidman, 2011). On top of this, much of the research that does focus on both LGBTQ sexualities and class has highlighted tensions between them. For instance, queer theory, which has been heavily influenced by poststructuralism has been critiqued for not paying enough attention to inequality whereas theories on class, which have traditionally been more influenced by Marxism have been equally criticised for not paying sufficient attention to difference (Taylor, 2010). I am interested in how discourses such as these influence perceptions about the role of class in LGBTQ politics and how notions of privilege or under-privilege might manifest themselves in the strategies and discourses adopted by LGBTQ political groups. I will also discuss difficulties I experienced researching class, particularly concerning different understandings of class and how it can be determined, as well as issues related to differences and commonalities between myself and the research participants during the fieldwork process.

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Participant: Oscar Javier Maldonado Castañeda
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: maldonad@exchange.lancs.ac.uk
Title: Transits, Regulation and Mattering. The Development of HPV Vaccination Policies
Abstract:
In 2009 the World Health Organisation (WHO) published a position paper recommending the use of Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a tool for the control of Cervical Cancer. When the position paper was presented the HPV vaccines (Gardasil® and Cervarix®) already had been licensed in more of 90 countries. Morever different public vaccination programmes were running in the Global North, while in developing countries just had begun to open the discussion about their use and cost-efectiveness. Possibly the WHO position in not the beginning of the Global policy but it is the culmination of technical and political efforts for assembling one.

The HPV vaccines are presented as the latest tool against cervical cancer, an innovation beyond cervical screening. This relationship is the result of the establishment of demographic and epidemiological facts as well as the promotion of agendas around cancer control, sexuality and women rights. The devices for making these relationships are diverse, including data construction, interest groups activism, governmental regulation and health diplomacy.

The problem of the HPV vaccines and the vaccination polices cannot be separated. It is necessary to think the relationship between policies and the materialities engaged. This paper discusses about the relation between policy order and technical domain in the case of HPV vaccination global policy. The policies are engaged with different materialities in the establishment of control strategies for cervical cancer in local realities. In these realities the national boundaries matter because of the restriction that the political orders may impose in the transit and circulation of persons and things.

This paper analyzes the construction of HPV vaccination global policy, presenting as case studies the experiences of Colombia and United States of America. The main question is: how does the HPV vaccine leave the laboratory and become a public health tool? I discuss about the complex network of relations that support HPV vaccination policy, as well as I identify the negotiation spaces in which public problems face science and technology knowledge and where policies are defined in this case.

In this paper I would like to describe how HPV Vaccine is crafted as a matter of concern and the materialities behind this process. I would like to analyse how ""these locations, knowledges and matters interfere with one another; and how they co-exist in various forms of relation, tension and disjunction"" (Moser 2008: 99). In particular I am going to focus in the analysis of epidemiological studies about types of HPV and cervical cancer and its relation with the globalisation of HPV vaccines and the different policies related. These studies are a key factor in the co-production of gender, disease and in the transits of vaccines and policies through national-state boundaries.

Tim Dant

Participant: Damla Tonuk
Institution: Middle East Technical University
Email: damlatonuk@gmail.com
Title: Chaning Practices in Everyday Life: The Social Life of Plastics from Bakalite to Bio-plastics

Abstract:

Materials have a central role in accomplishing daily practices, and hence in the organization of daily life. Every material has its own history, which is in mutual relationship with the social context in which it is shaped. Every material is introduced by different technologies, product forms and advertisements and each has brought about specific ways of interaction, practices and organization of daily life, as well as being influenced by these. For example, plastics, and recently introduced bio-plastics, along with new production methods which enabled production of innovative furniture and household goods, led to a new organization of daily life and new practices of cleaning, shopping, cooking, eating and disposing, both within and outside of the domestic sphere. However, the materials of which things are made have rarely attracted attention in the social sciences. This thesis will inquire into the relationship between plastics and society to provide better understanding of a) the intricate relationships through which a material moves along societies, b) how users interact with the materials of which things are made, and c) how practices are produced and reproduced in relation to the materials which things are made of. For this purpose the social and technical history of plastics will be combined with a field study focusing on changes in practices related to the newly introduced bio-plastics. The results are expected to provide insights on how practices might be changed related to materials, where such insights might be discussed for sustainable consumption studies.

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Participant: Adrian Leguina
Institution: University of Manchester
Email: adrian.leguinaruzzi@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk
Title: How Much Stratified is Musical Consumption Today? Conceptual Considerations and Empirical Evidence from Contemporary England

Abstract:

It is recognized that today musical taste is not as powerful social marker as before. Some authors argue that music today are produced and consumed as commodities. However, we recognize this claim as a reflection of the need for update theoretical conceptualization according to the cultural openness that the musical domain and technologies provide to people today. Consequently, this paper proposes an analysis of the musical domain which includes simultaneously the aforementioned features within classic conceptions of musical taste, consumption, knowledge and participation in terms of what, how and how many genres people prefer. This study postulates that research must emphasize not only on include more cultural indicators or use better methods but it has to look for understand how social differences are shaped through the action of choose or buy any cultural item. Consequently, it is suggested that a conjoint approach from R. A. Peterson's cultural omnivore perspective, concepts from T. Katz-Gerro's cultural voraciousness and M. Savage

cultural experts con help us to understand how music act as contemporary social marker. This document is broadly structured as follows. Firstly, theoretical and conceptual overviews are presented. Secondly, preliminary results from statistical analysis to data from cultural practices in England are show. Finally, discussion and implications related to previous research are proposed.

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Participant: Angela Loxham
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: a.loxham@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Shaped by War (Memorabilia): IWM North, Materialities, the Past and the Self
Abstract:
This paper engages with debates about the formation of memories and, in particular, how memories about a nation's past are crucial in forming present-day identities. The particular focus here is on the role of museums within this but, rather than the traditional focus on vision, the focus is placed on the experience of the material, such as the role of architecture and objects. This particular work takes the Imperial War Museum North as a case study, to argue that the potential that its deconstructivist architecture offers for forming feelings about war, in the past and the present, is strong. However, this is very much thwarted by the other efforts of the museum, which attempt to forge an atmosphere of comfort, in order to resonate with everyday experiences. In particular, space will be devoted to the place of the shop within this, including a comparison with the experience of space here and in the wider museum, and a discussion of the objects on sale. Gift shops are largely ignored within museum studies but it will be argued that, as the first and the final place encountered within the museum, allowing the repetition of familiar consumption activities, as well as providing visitors with the ability to take material objects home, shops play a vital role in forming memories. Souvenirs, in turn, because of the enduring impact of human-object interaction, do not only shape ideas on the past but help to form the self in the present.

Anne Marie Fortier

Participant: Shihong Weng
Institution: Freie Universität Berlin
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Title: The Response Model of Government Decision-Making

Abstract:
With the rapid development of Internet technology, Internet political participation is increasingly becoming an important influence on government decision-making in China. Purpose - The objective of this paper is to illustrate how government responds to Internet political participation. Design/methodology -The writer aims to use an exploratory multi-case study. With the cases of government decision-making, the perspective of Internet political participation theory, this study focuses on the Response Model of government decision-making under Internet political participation. Findings - The study reveals the affect mechanism of Internet political participation on the government decision-making: power and information, and the own logic of China - communication mechanism. This paper then analyses four Response Models of government decision-making under Internet political participation, i.e. ostrich mode, cuckoo mode, Queen Bee mode and mandarin duck mode. Based on the network participation theory and empirical analysis, the possibilities and ways between the network participation and government decision-making from conflict to negotiation are discussed. Practical implications -The study will help to realize Internet political participation orderly and legally, as well as enhance the effectiveness of governance.
Key Words：Internet political participation; government decision-making; Response Model

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Participant: Polina Kluchnikova
Institution: Durham University
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Title: We Wish you Merry Christmas(es) and Happy New Year(s): Common Past, Immigrant Present and Modes of Self-Presentation of Russian-Speaking Migrants of Great Britain

Abstract:
The Russian-speaking community in Great Britain is quite an undefined group with unstable boundaries and a still-shaping image. The examination of the ways its new celebration traditions are being established may lead to a better understanding of both how the translation process of cultural heritage of the home country is organized and what mechanisms are involved in a wider acculturation within the new settings. The focus of the paper is therefore not only on the certain set of practices that are viewed as common for celebrating a feast but more on their symbolic meanings as well as norms and values which are accentuated and objectified in those practices within the celebration.
The paper discusses what social memory on the celebrations is shared, how it is integrated into a wider discourse of the pre-migration past and how it influences the way to deal with the present experience in other cultural environment. This leads to the examination of the image of the current celebrations constructed by integrating in the new environment, their possible symbolic ambiguities and the ways to interpret

or avoid them. Given this, it then looks at the ways the collective identity of Russian-speaker migrants is shaped by interacting with other ethnic groups using self-presentation techniques and involving transnational ties.

Based on the stock of over 80 interviews, supplemented with the field notes taken predominantly in the north-east of the UK, this paper aims to contribute to current explorations of multiculturalism and cultural hybridity.

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Participant: Clay Garland
Institution: Lancaster University
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Title: The Azure Card: Welfare, Control and Neoliberal Governmentality
Abstract:
This paper will report on the progress of an ongoing Masters dissertation on the governance and control of asylum seekers in the UK. There are a number of different organizations, public and private, with stakes in the "asylum market", which utilize a range of techniques in order to work towards sometimes conflicting goals. Using Foucault's writings on power, biopolitcs and governmentality as a theoretical and methodological guide, I will consider these techniques as continuous with wider architectures of power in modern society.

The Azure Card is one such technique; a prepaid credit card with a weekly limit operated by a private company, but used to deliver state welfare to those asylum seekers whose claims have been denied, and who have exhausted all rights of appeal, but are recognised as unable to leave the country. Introduced in response to criticism that the previous scheme (delivering support in the form of supermarket vouchers) was inflexible, the card offers minimal improvement. In fact, I argue that – as well as financial concerns – a desire to exert *more* control over asylum seekers was the driving impulse behind the card's implementation.

Taking this alongside the recent history of asylum welfare in the UK, I will show that the Azure Card is another technique in the framework of neoliberal governmentality. I will also examine the seeming contrast between a policy which so severely limits people's freedom, and a discourse (liberalism) which advocates governing *through* freedom.

David Tyfield

Participant: Ulrike Zschache
Institution: Lancaster
Email: u.zschache@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Legitimating European Governance? Media Debates on the Common Agricultural Policy in Germany and Spain

Abstract:

Since the establishment of the European Union (EU) as a political entity two decades ago and the subsequent 'normative turn' in European studies, there is an ongoing and highly controversial discussion about the legitimacy of European governance. A crucial aspect in the legitimacy debate is the question about the emergence of European(ised) public spheres as central fora of public discourse, democratic opinion and will formation and political accountability. Despite broadly shared skepticism about the formation of Europeanised public spheres, recent research suggests that European discourses are stimulated in those fields where extensive power is transferred to the EU. The aim of this paper is, thus, to study the extent and forms of Europeanisation of domestic public discourses by drawing on the example of the German and Spanish mass media debate on the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) as one of the EU policies with substantial supranational prerogatives. In contrast to many previous studies, the paper shows extensive media coverage of EU policy-making and a high participation of EU representatives in domestic media debates. However, with regard to the ideas about the 'right' and appropriate agricultural policy for Europe, nation state-centred interpretations continue to shape the discourse significantly, thus leading to multiple, path-dependent stances towards the CAP. These findings suggest that domestic media discourses still lack a common European frame of reference and commonly shared interpretations about legitimate forms of European governance. Accordingly, it can be assumed that the EU continues to depend widely on the legitimacy transfer from its member states.

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Participant: David Ellis
Institution: University of Liverpool
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Title: Culture, Economy and the Normalization of Debt

Abstract:

Previous global economic crises were often brought about in the context of a failure, or rapid decline, of the productive capacities of the predominant mode of accumulation in the capitalist system. In contrast, the recent (and ongoing) economic crisis has been framed as a consequence of widespread personal indebtedness which has acted as both a cause and catalyst of the collapse of financial institutions. In the UK alone, total personal indebtedness has grown considerably - from just £50 billion in 1980 to in excess of £1 trillion by 2010 (Bank of England, 2012). This paper will conceptualise the issue of personal indebtedness from the perspective of the Cultural Political Economy approach to examine the interdependencies between economic strategies at an institutional level, the mediation of these strategies through discursive construction and personal financial practices. Such an approach will highlight the role of institutions and regulation in the construction of economic practice as 'normalised' behaviour. Drawing on the recent work of Botterill (2010), I

will conclude by presenting an illustrative example of how the content of banking advertisements evolved during the second half of the 20th Century; from the initial emphasis on fiduciary relationships in the 1950s, to the foregrounding of 'friendliness' during the surge towards mass-banking in the 1970s, and on to the advertisements of the 1980s and 90s appealing to individual acquisitiveness.

Monika Buscher

Participant: Rebecca Fish
Institution: Lancaster University
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Title: Borderline Personality Disorder and Women with Learning Disabilities
Abstract:
Borderline Personality Disorder is a controversial and gendered diagnosis.   My research with women with mild/moderate learning disabilities who live on locked wards looks at the different ways this diagnosis is used and talked about. I will present conflicting views of the diagnosis, from psychiatry and feminist writers, as well as using quotes from my interviews with staff and service users.

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Participant: Connie Golsteijn
Institution: University of Surrey
Email: c.golsteijn@surrey.ac.uk
Title: Crafting Treasured Digital Media
Abstract:
People nowadays accumulate vast amounts of digital media, such as photos, e-mails, and information on social networks. Media archives and employed organization schemes are often underdeveloped, which results in people having difficulties knowing what media they have, being unable to find their media, and hardly accessing their media. Studies have shown that as a result few digital media are considered treasured or special, and digital media are infrequently used in practices such as reminiscing or storytelling. This PhD in human-computer interaction aims to design novel solutions for cherishable digital media, increasing the potential of digital media to be accessed and used. Specifically, this will be done through the facilitation of 'digital craft', the novel creation or augmentation of digital media, because an initial study has shown that craft, or self-creation, is a strong indicator for treasuring digital media. A study of craft in the physical domain will be employed to identify design opportunities for digital craft and study how notions of craft may be transformed in the digital realm. Through the development of novel design solutions that encourage crafting of digital media the aim is to make digital media more cherishable, and encourage active use and selection of digital media to use in digital craftwork and media to discard, and thus limit the digital overload.

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Participant: Katja Schoenian
Institution: Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)
Email: schoenian@ihs.ac.at
Title: Global Portals - Local Practices; An Ethnographic Software Study on Intranet Applications
Abstract:
Contemporary work practices increasingly transpire through a variety of communication devices, such as computers, mobile phones, messenger services, video telephony, etc. My dissertation investigates this scenery by examining the ways in which intranet software is applied in distinct work settings. Adopting a

practice-theoretic research perspective, my study explores how different locales and the activities therein configure the intranet.

Asking how the intranet is enacted in a variety of settings, my research is intended to shed light on contemporary work practices distinctive to so-called 'knowledge societies'. It aspires to contribute to this rather theoretical discourse by showing how knowledge generation, closely coupled with the application of a particular technology, takes place empirically.

At the summer conference in Lancaster, I would particularly like to discuss the increasing application of intranet software: since a couple of years, companies across different countries and industries implement intranets. This kind of software is part of a certain understanding of organisations and technologies assuming organisations to consist mainly of groups of people whose behaviour is going to change through the technology. I am going to reflect on this understanding of organisations, and furthermore, on the expectations and hopes this kind of technology is laden with. I do so in relation to interviews I have conducted with software developers and in the context of my case study on the intranet in a company working in the telecommunication industry.

Secret Gardens

Dangerous Ambiguity

Participant: Sarah Chafer
Institution: University of Hull
Email: s.j.chafer@2006.hull.ac.uk
Title: Staff Perceptions of Self-Harming Behaviour in People with Learning Disabilities

Abstract:

There has been a shift in recent years from trying to behaviourally manage self-harming behaviour in people with learning disabilities to trying to elicit the reasons why individuals engage in the act of self-harm., however, it is felt that there is a gap in the literature in terms of looking at psychosocial factors that may influence this self-harming behaviour. The factors chosen for the purposes of this study are expressed emotion (EE) and attributions.

This study employed a cross-sectional, within-group design with a non-random sample of participants. Forty-two participants working within private and local authority residential homes were recruited, and completed a battery of questionnaires and semi-structured interviews designed to measure EE, attributions, and perceived level of self-harm exhibited by the person with learning disabilities. Data will be analysed using Pearson Product Moment Correlations and multiple regression analyses. Hypotheses for the study are as follows:

- There will be a significant relationship between EE and severity of self-harm in people with learning disabilities.
- If there is a relationship between EE and severity of self-harm, it cannot be accounted for by level of learning disability as a moderating variable.
- Critical comments and hostility dimensions of EE will be more strongly associated with severity of self-harm than the emotional overinvolvement dimension of EE.
- Attributions will relate to EE in that participants who are high in expressed emotion will perceive the self-harm as internal to the client and uncontrollable by the client.

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Participant: Liviu Alexandrescu
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: livalg@yahoo.com
Title: Mephedrone, Assassin of Youth: The Rhetoric of Fear in Contemporary Drug Scares

Abstract:

In this paper I will look at how mephedrone, the most popular 'legal high' sold freely in the United Kingdom until its classification as a high risk drug, in April 2010, was constructed by the British popular media as a 'moral epidemic' that threatened the very symbolic heart of the nation - its youth. News of teenagers committing suicide after taking the drug or dying of overdose had been flooding the pages of newspapers for months when, under huge media pressure, the government decided to ban the substance despite the lack of solid scientific data on the medical and

social risks it posed. Drawing on Teun van Dijk's (1999, 2005, 2011) socio-cognitive approach to critical discourse studies, I will try to show how in its attempt to influence national policy the media largely responded to the new drug problem with panic discourses that perpetuated the old 'war on drugs' ideology, choosing to frame mephedrone as an agent of death and moral downfall even when its destructive influence was questionable. In this perspective, an event model made of multiple layers of historical drug scares and repressive drug policies shaped the metaphors and narratives used by the media to codify a sense of threat and by the audiences to interpret the symptoms of a social pathology.

Different Bodies

Participant: Benjamin Bowman
Institution: University of Bath
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Title: The Heroes and Heroines of International Football Migration Theory
Abstract:

This paper is presented as a work in progress tracking theories of international football migration, and the ways that deeper investigations into constructions of gender within football migration might enrich future research.

This paper identifies a variety of theoretical approaches to the politics of migration applied to the international flow of athletes playing, or seeking to play football in the globe's professional leagues. By looking in depth at the role of the sport's heroes and heroines, the paper discusses how football migration theory, much like football itself, follows boundaries that divide masculinity and femininity, men and women. Using these heroes and heroines as illustrations, it suggests ways from the researcher's point of view that football migration theory, as a specific branch of critical football theory, might better address gender.

It concludes that football migration theory, much like the sport itself, is just beginning to address the variegated concepts falling under the broad term of gender, and suggests ways that future researchers might include understandings of gender politics in their research of football migration.

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Participant: Selina Ellis Gray
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Title: Manifesting the Dead: Online Bereavement Practices Outside of Traditional Boundaries
Abstract:

A widespread position that normalises the sequestration of death has taken on some canonical qualities in the literature (Stanley & Wise, 2011). Core texts - for example, Blauner (1966), Ariès (1977), Mellor & Shilling (1993) and Giddens (1991) - which place death in a taboo, invisible, marginalised position are being frequently referenced in secondary literature as factual positions on the necessarily hidden and carefully delineated practices of death, dying and bereavement (Stanley & Wise, 2011).

Although death may have been considered sequestered by scholars, the dead themselves can co-habit with the bereaved through their perpetual absence and virtualised presence (Van Doorn, 2011). Ultimately, their presence becomes manifest and can be known through the mourning practices instigated in coming to terms with the ruptures created by loss.

This paper considers how these ruptures and presence of the dead are manifesting more widely than the literature would suggest, looking in particular at the digital dimension of death. I raise tentative examples of where the dead are present, not only within the previously acknowledged online memorialisation or commemoration sites but within a wider array of Internet software platforms which are being appropriated by the bereaved to make visible the ruptures instigated by loss. I suggest that these developments potentially reflect Tony Walters' (2008) assertion

that the dead do have a strong presence that is reflected in a mass of practices that overflow traditional boundaries.

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Participant: Lukas Ertl
Institution: Institute of Education, University of London
Email: l.ertl@ioe.ac.uk
Title: Diverse Young Adults Engaging with their Uncertain Futures
Abstract:
Using a capability approach perspective as pioneered by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum I want to push our understanding of aspirations more fully. Beyond criticising the rhetorics around aspirations as individual attributes on the basis that aspirations are structured by social inequalities I want to use a normative framework to show that the question of how the process of engaging with our futures is important for the FE students and of broader concern for a learning culture that ought to enhance the opportunities of its members. To do so, I conceptualise aspirations according to the two "architectonical capabilities" "practical reason" and "affiliations" (Nussbaum, 2011) which are concerned with the planning of one's life and the conception of a good as well as the ways how we are treating and treated by others. I attempt to examine which aspirations regarding the labour market and education are mentioned by young men and women in FE and how they are expressed, negotiated and reflected on differently in relation to and structured by their social interactions. I conducted 12 problem-centred interviews with FE students (spring 2011) and will interview the same students again (in spring 2012) using a case-study approach to be able to interpret the reasons why students decide to take part in a FE course and how they express, negotiate and reflect on their aspirations in relation to the subjective constraints and opportunities that are evident to them.

Participant: Emils Kilis
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: e.kilis@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Intellectuals as Policy Makers: The Role of Social Science in Political Decision Making
Abstract:

By marginalising other forms of esoteric knowledge science has acquired the dominant role in the knowledge economies of European societies. The political consequences and policy implications of this play a prominent role and have been given detailed treatment in much recent work in the field of Science, Technology and Society. 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 statistical data, risk assessment reports and predictions based on mathematical models. The consequence is that little attention is paid to the social and political sciences themselves. This paper looks at the example of the author's home country Latvia and explores the policy uptake of expertise produced by the social and political sciences and analyses the various argumentative and institutional strategies in which such expertise is deployed. The paper is devoted to two distinct yet interrelated questions. The primary focus of this paper is on confrontations between different forms of expertise in political debates and decision-making, with particular emphasis on the epistemic weight that knowledge(s) produced by social scientists carry in such contexts. The secondary focus is on the political and epistemic heritage of a single-party state and its role in shaping expertise-driven policy making in present-day Latvia.

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Participant: Sertac Timur Demir
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: s.demir@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Istanbul through the Projector: How is the Urban Experience of Istanbul Cinematized?
Abstract:

This paper is an attempt to capture how Istanbul is described through film. In other words, the ontological relationship between the city and film is discussed in the context of Istanbul. As the cinematic city has usually been represented as a tourist or exotic city in various research, my aim in this research is to shift the axis of Istanbul studies from centre to corners, from visible to hidden details, from stereotypes to urban experience. For this purpose, I analyse seven different films that may help to reveal and classify the urban life of Istanbul. I`Immortelle (The Immortal) is the first film that shows how Istanbul, which was the pride of the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, turned into the city of melancholy that nobelist Orhan Pamuk described in his book, Memories and the City. This film offers an opportunity to reconsider the stereotypes about Istanbul. Politiki Kouzina (A Touch of Spice), the second film I analyse, is a story of Greek citizens who are deported from Istanbul to Athens. The film and the mass deportation issue are important in terms of seeing how Istanbul, a multicultural city, becomes, in due course, a race-oriented and one-dimensional city.

One of the determining factors in Istanbul`s urban life is the internal migration that began in the 1960s. Eskiya (The Bandit), the third film, focuses on the lives of migrants who came from Anatolia to Istanbul. Fourthly, Koprudekiler (Men on the Bridge) zooms in on the lives of those who are pushed away from the centre to the margins of society. This film, which can be evaluated under the heading of hybridisation, may make the people who constitute the majority of Istanbul's population more visible. Uzak (Distant), the fifth film, identifies with Istanbul. The film is analysed to address the alienation issue that can be seen as one of the results of previous problems (deportation, migration, marginalisation, etc). In the sixth film, Kac Para Kac (A Run for Money), I discuss how money changes people and the city itself. This film deals with the economic relations between Istanbul and its inhabitants. 11`e 10 Kala (10 to 11), the seventh and last film I analyse, raises the question of `what is the memory of the city?`. The film also reveals the earthquake risk in the city as a cause and effect relationship. Briefly, all these films and the research itself summarise some remarkable social and urban issues that have emerged, particularly in the last four decades, in Istanbul.

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Participant: Dorota Opyd
Institution: University of Liverpool
Email: dorothyp@liverpool.ac.uk
Title: What are the Foundations of Difficulties Responsible for Women's Underrepresentation in the House of Commons and the Sejm of the Republic of Poland?

Abstract:
Many years have passed since women obtained voting rights. Although the role of women in political, economic and social life has largely increased, they are still relatively poorly represented in top managerial positions and rarely reach the areas of authority.

Why is research on women politicians valuable in today's society? Is their representation in government worth fighting for? As Ross (2000) illustrates:
Rather than being viewed as lone mavericks who at best operate as honorary men and at worst functions idiosyncratic (but powerful) leaders guided by whimsy and their menstrual cycle, women politicians are now viewed as legitimate foci for analysis (Ross, 2000:319).

In her article, Ross shows sense of reality in a most humorous way that cannot be dismissed, and she demonstrates the duty to human democracy to explore gender equality (or perhaps more correctly, inequality), regarding the most powerful function in our society: politics.

This comparative in nature project carried out across two countries: UK and Poland, investigates the roots and foundations of gender inequality in national politics and also explores the ways in which these difficulties are experienced. The study illuminates the position, perception and backgrounds of society's thoughts on women's political careers and explores the reasons for gender inequality in the political elite across the House of Common and the Polish Sejm. This research would give indications of another way to promote women's political success, by establishing the foundations of barriers and by indicating how to overcome these in the future.

Qualitative Knitworks

Participant: Bethan Evans
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: b.evans2@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Primary School Teachers' Attitudes to Music: Bridging the Gap Between Personal Narratives and Shared Social Understandings
Abstract:
In current times of change and uncertainty for primary schools, curriculum issues inevitably come to the fore. Within the arts, this has led to the publication of several government documents championing music education. The rhetoric of these stresses the crucial importance of music for our cultural heritage and the ways in which quality teaching leads to an established and celebrated musical community. However, the perceptions of teachers in the field are often quite different, where music can pose unique anxieties, challenges and fears. If we are to improve teaching in music within the context of diminishing funding, it is necessary to examine teachers' perceptions and how these impact upon classroom practice. This involves unpicking the ways in which attitudes develop, considering a complex combination of: past experiences; the construction and prioritisation of narratives and memories; the social influence of colleagues; and the wider shared understandings within both the culture of the institution and the broader society beyond.
It is the exploration of different levels of understanding that provides the real crux of my research. My presentation will focus on some of the challenges I have faced with this multi-level approach, as well as the benefits it can confer by allowing deeper understanding across individual, institutional and societal levels. Current teachers need to be given a voice and allowed to speak freely about their own experiences and perceptions; my approach allows teachers' stories to be heard, and explores features of narrative and discourse in order to start to unpick some of the threads.

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Participant: Shireen Chilcott
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: s.chilcott@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: The Gender Composition of Architecture, Town Planning, Electrical Work and Plumbing
Abstract:
This thesis asks 'why are there more women in the highly skilled professions of architecture and town planning, than the lesser skilled trades of electrical work and plumbing?' To answer this intellectual puzzle a comparative analysis of the four occupations was undertaken, with reference to two theoretical frameworks, which have been mobilised by researchers to explain gendered labour market inequalities. One is human capital, which is based on the premise that men make more of an investment in education and work-based training than women. The other is social closure, which suggests that women's access to certain jobs is blocked.
I found that whilst women negotiated access to specialist human capital in architecture and town planning in similar proportions to men, in electrical work and plumbing apprenticeships, men vastly outnumbered women. My research suggests that the prerequisites attached to accessing electrical work and plumbing apprenticeships, acted as mechanisms of social closure which impeded women's

entry. I argue that in relation to apprenticeships in electrical work and plumbing, specialist human capital and social closure are more interconnected and overlapping than previous research suggests.

My research also revealed that mechanisms of social closure are more effective at restricting women's access to, and advancement along, the occupational pipeline in electrical work and plumbing than in architecture and town planning. Further, in order to bypass mechanisms of social closure, the female electricians and plumbers I interviewed, turned to self-employment, as opposed to working for an employer, and secured their workloads through their networks of contacts.

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Participant: Alexandra Vinson
Institution: University of California – San Diego
Email: ahvinson@ucsd.edu
Title: "The First Patient": Examining the Role of the Cadaver in Contemporary Medical Education
Abstract:
Cadavers have been sought after as a teaching tool in medicine for the past several hundred years. One might expect that reliance on cadavers would decrease as computer simulations have become more advanced; after all, cadavers are expensive, messy, and working with them is thought to be traumatic for students. Furthermore, cadavers do not resemble live human bodies and the act of dissection is not comparable to surgery. Yet cadavers persist as a teaching tool. What then is the role of the cadaver in contemporary medical education? While cadavers themselves have been considered for their similarity to other bodies in medicine, primarily that of the brain-dead or surgical patient, sociologists have tended to favor examining the broader anatomy lab experience as the students' first opportunity to experience and manage the intense emotions associated with death. These cadaver studies emphasize the role of emotion management in professional socialization, but the cadaver lab is also a space of practices-students do, after all, learn to "do" dissection-and it is also a space of learning medical ways of thinking about bodies. In this paper I will present an ethnographic description of the anatomy laboratory. By applying a practice-oriented approach that links daily actions to cultural knowledge, I will examine the practices and knowledges that coalesce around the body of the cadaver. I will focus on the students' preoccupation with clean versus dirty spaces and objects, the multiple resources students draw from to learn anatomy, and how students learn the practice of dissection.

Participant: Andrew Otway
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: a.otway@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: A New Rhythmanaysis
Abstract:
Rhythmanalysis concerns the analysis of supposedly natural cyclic repetition (rhythm) and more metronomic linear repetition, and their inevitable interaction. Rhythmanalysis is not only the Henri Lefebvre's 'new science': it has a marked poetic aspect, and spans the humanities and the social sciences.
Two chapters from Lefebvre's posthumously published Rhythmanalysis: space, time and everyday life look at urban rhythms from two apparently opposed approaches - the static and the mobile (recalling E.A. Poe's story 'The Man in in the Crowd'). A combination of these is proposed for a future rhythmanalysis of the French port of Marseille based partly on experiences form a recent quasi-touristic 'reconnaissance' of this city.
A new Rhythmanalysis would draw on the notion of psychogeography of the Situationist International and its walking practices rooted in French Surrealism and the tradition of the flâneur ; it would also draw on more recent British psychogeographical writing and film-making by, for example, Iain Sinclair (London Orbital).
It would involve the analysis, using as a point of reference the polyrhythmic body of the rhythmanalyst, of certain chosen everyday urban phenomena which demonstrate rhythm or repletion in some way such as people walking and driving, flora and fauna, the working week, night and day, etc. These will be analysed in their spatial context of (mostly public) places within the city - streets in the city centre and suburbs, sea-port and air-port, parks, shopping centres, car-parks, and also in temporal context over a period of, for example, seven days.

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Participant: Matt Buckley
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: m.buckley1@lancaster.ac.uk
Title: Resistance: A Life...
Abstract:
We are not yet thinking otherwise. Perhaps we have become intoxicated or complacent towards our adversary. The fact that the majority of our actions and thoughts become incorporated into the systems of power concerns me and should concern us all. Still, however, resistance flows through our sociological thought. It is for this reason that we should hold firm our belief in the potential of our thought to resist. In this presentation I will discuss the complexities of resisting in an era where our adversary has developed into a multiplicity of adversaries. I will also present some interesting theoretical approaches in order to develop praxis of resistance.

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Participant: Carly Guest
Institution: Birkbeck College
Email: carlyguest@yahoo.co.uk
Title: 'And Then the Last One is My Mum': Mothers, Bodies and Time in Women's Accounts of Becoming Feminist

Abstract:
This paper considers the account of one woman and the haunting presence of her dead mother in her narrative of 'becoming feminist'. Drawing on feminist women's visual and oral narratives, it uses the work of Annette Khun, Avery Gordon, Elizabeth Freeman, Clare Hemmings and others to explore the ways in which feminism(')s past 'bumps into' feminism(')s present. Specifically, it asks how we are to reconcile the foregrounding of the mother/daughter relationship in women's personal accounts with the highly problematic telling and retelling of feminism's history as a familial, generational and matrilineal drama. Through the exploration of one woman's story of 'becoming feminist' this paper traces the presence of the mother in education and work choices, personal and political identifications. It asks how the familial, and in particular the maternal, structures women's complex responses to feminism and explores the emphasis on the feminist mother's body as the vehicle for the transmission of a feminist politics. The women's stories reveal affective and temporal investments in feminist politics; in this particular account the relationship with the feminist mother it intricately bound to the narrator's personal and political identification with a particular feminist time. Taking account of the historical and social setting of the temporally situated account prompts questions: Does the challenge of locating the self in historical time account for the desire for a feminist heritage that so often falls back onto familial and generational metaphors? How are women forging new relationships with feminist time through well-rehearsed and weary familial and generational metaphors?

Globalitis

Participant: Satya Savitzky
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: feed4ward@btopenworld.com
Title: The Regulation and "Production" of Sea-Space(s)

Abstract:
'Geographically', writes William Langewiesche, the ocean 'is not the exception to our planet, but by far its greatest defining feature' (2004: 3) - three-fourths of the world's surface-space is sea-space. Doubtless due to most people spending most of their time on land however, the seas have received comparatively little sociological or social scientific interest. 'Society', even when conceived as decentred or territorially unbounded, is implicitly figured qua fundamentally terrestrial formation, its key sites and political/geographical 'centres' on land. The sea is cast as the relatively uninteresting space in between the land, where the 'real action' unfolds. But this paper follows Phillip Steinberg (2001: 489) and asks: 'what would happen if we foregrounded the spaces across which people… commodities, information and capital… move, so that they became conceived of as something other than the residual spaces that are left 'outside' society?

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Participant: Nathan Matthews
Institution: University of Wales, Newport
Email: nathanmatthews1780@gmail.com
Title: Global Digital Tourism: UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Abstract:
Advances in the use and dissemination of ICTs have presented new challenges and opportunities for the global tourism industry. Mauro Guillén and Sandra Suárez (2005, p.681) have observed that 'the growth of the internet has captured the imagination of users, policymakers, entrepreneurs, corporate managers, military strategists, social commentators, scholars and journalists'. Policy at local, national and international level has been devised to regulate and exploit the opportunities offered by ICTs in many aspects of life.
My research provides an overview of the development of digital policy on local, national and international levels and examines how such strategies impact upon the tourism management of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, with specific reference to the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape and comparable industrial sites. The research identifies various themes present in policy at all levels and considers the meanings and implications of such themes for World Heritage Site stakeholders.
The research argues that government and international organisations have displayed increasing levels of attention towards the role of digital technology in society. Policies have attempted to address the global and domestic digital divides with the overarching aim to achieve socio-economic regeneration on local, national and international levels. The tourism and heritage industries have increasingly recognised the potential of ICTs and are beginning to implement new strategies utilising ICTs to achieve their objectives.My research considers the meanings and the reasons for such policy and how World Heritage Site managers intend to bring about economic regeneration, inclusion, education and enfranchisement through digital media.

Participant: Chen William Liu
Institution: Lancaster University
Email: william.liu@hotmail.co.uk
Title: Institutional Loopholes and Guanxi: Resource Allocation in Rural-Urban Migrants

Abstract:

Guanxi (关系; guan xi, roughly means relations) is a key to understand Chinese society. Generally guanxi is an interpersonal connection upon which people exchange emotional and material supports. Scholars generally agree with the significance of guanxi in 'successfully completing any task in virtually all spheres of social life' in Chinese society. But it is still not clear what makes it important and how it works. In contrast to most modern societies where formal rules are regarded as mainstream in regulating people's behaviour, in China, the fastest growing economy in the world, why and how is guanxi, a trait from the past, still that strong? This study suggests that institutional arrangements facilitate and encourage the reliance on guanxi to complete any tasks. Formal allocation rules conflict and are full of loopholes which the government officers can manipulate. The states and their agents are the de facto controllers over tremendous formerly-collectivised resources without sufficient accountability. They deploy formal rules and guanxi for their own interests. This study limits scope to the rural-urban migrants, and focus on their essential resource of urban life. Rural-urban migrants set a good example of the contrast between the people with and without guanxi. Guanxi can help them to become elites in urban societies, enjoying much better living standards than even local residents; those without normally can only take the 3D (dirty, demanding and dangerous) jobs, before eventually going back to where they are from.

Don't forget to visit the homepage of the Intellectual Party 2012, which will be updated with pictures from this year's event and...

come and visit again!

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, Debra Ferreday, Anne-Marie Fortier, Greame 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. And Adam Fish joins us in August!

Centres in the Department:

Centre for Economic and Social Aspects of Genomics (Cesagen)
Centre for Gender and Women's Studies (CGW)
Centre for Mobilities Research (CeMoRe)
Centre for Science Studies (CSS)
Centre for the Study of Environmental Change (CSEC)
Cultural Political Economy Research Centre (CPERC)
UNESCO Chair in Gender Research

Applying to visit

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:

- the right to attend MA courses (subject to availability);
- visiting PhD students may be able to take Faculty Research Training Courses;
- membership of and borrowing rights from the library;
- an email account and access to networked computers;
- the right to attend departmental seminars, colloquia and other activities;
- supervision by academic staff who agreed to accept you.

To make an application you will need:

- A completed University of Lancaster postgraduate application form (available from Rachel Verrall)

- Scanned copies of relevant academic certificates and transcripts
- A research proposal detailing your PhD work
- A covering letter explaining what you hope to do while you are at Lancaster (courses to be attended, any individual supervision requests etc), and stating the timing and duration of your intended visit
- Contact details of two referees who know your academic work
- For non-native English speakers only: official documentation of your competence in English

For home and EU PhD students in 2012-2013 there is a fee of £3828.00 per year or £12,000.00 for non EU students (pro-rata rates apply).

Full details at: http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/sociology/prospective/phd/visiting.htm

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

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.

We hope to see you again soon!