

NEW DIRECTIONS

**ANNUAL SOCIOLOGY
POSTGRADUATE STUDENT-STAFF
CONFERENCE**

19 -20 APRIL 2018

**PROJECT ROOM 1.06
50 GEORGE SQUARE**



NEW DIRECTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & INFO

THE NEW DIRECTIONS TEAM


Mingyu Cao
Mini Chandran Kurian
Emily Mann
Dr Lisa McCormick
Derek Morris
Haiyan Wu
Xin Zhang

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Lizzie Robertson
Marie Storrar
Session chairs, panellists and presenters

WIFI AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Use your eduroam password to log on to the network.

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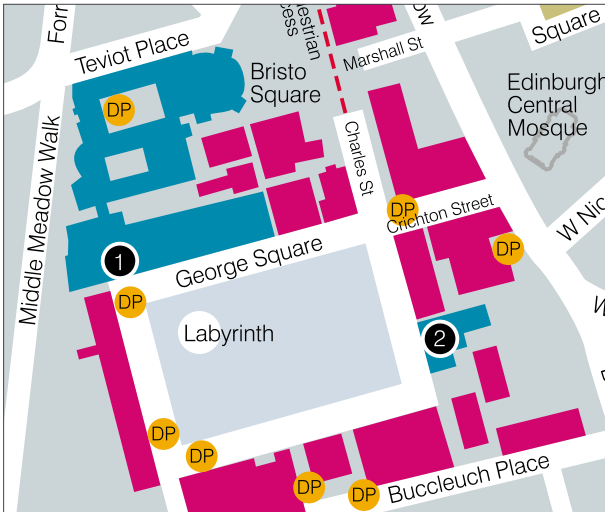
LOCATION GUIDE

All conference sessions, the lunches, and the closing reception will be held in the Project Room 1.06 in 50 George Square.

The conference dinner on Thursday, 19 April is in the Ground Café of the Chrystal MacMillan Building (15a George Square).

NEW DIRECTIONS

KEY VENUES



1 Chrysal Macmillan Building

2 50 George Square

DP Disabled parking

THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Sign in and coffee (Project Room 1.06) |
| 9:30 – 9:40 | Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Jonathan Hearn • Dr Lisa McCormick |
| 9:45 – 10:45 | Student presentations: Movement and change in society <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Rhys Howell</i> In sight and in mind: Reconceptualising social responses to marine energy projects • <i>Rebeca Topping</i> Rethinking 'natures' around water and mining • <i>Xin Zhang</i> What prevents consumers from making sustainable choices in clothing consumption? |
| 11:00 – 12:20 | Student Presentations: Opportunity and identity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jamie Smith</i> Care is not basic: A posthuman approach to fundamental care • <i>Taija Roiha</i> Gender, social class and artistic work of contemporary writers and authors in Finland • <i>Ziye Wang</i> The use of national language policy in constructing nationhood: Taking the construction of the Chinese nation in Xinjiang as an example • <i>Anne Marie Champagne</i> Beauty and the breast: Mastectomy, materiality and the iconicity of gender |
| 12:30 – 13:15 | Lunch (Project Room 1.06) |
| 13:15 – 14:30 | Panel: Transnational family practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mario Alvarado (PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh) • Dr Nikki Dunne (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh) • Prof Lynn Jamieson (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh) • Dr Mary Holmes (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh) |
| 14:45 – 15:45 | Student presentations: Political tensions and transitions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cristian Luguzan</i> The emergence of Romanian networks of collective action • <i>Alexandra Scott</i> Eurasian regionalism: Challenges of transgovernmental co-operation in highly politicised environments • <i>Dominik Želinský</i> The only true philosophers: A sociological analysis of underground philosophy seminars in communist Czechoslovakia |
| 16:00 – 17:30 | Keynote lecture Professor Giseline Kuipers (University of Amsterdam) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is sociology ready for media society? Reflections from research on humour, beauty and cultural inequalities |
| 18:00 – 20:00 | Conference Dinner (CMB Ground Cafe) |



FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2018

| | |
|---------------|--|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Sign in and coffee (Project Room 1.06) |
| 9:30 – 10:45 | <p>Panel: Academic freedom and the situation in Turkey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Ceren Şengül (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh) • Dr Sophia Woodman (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh and BAK Edinburgh Committee Member) • Tebessüm Yılmaz (PhD Candidate at the Department of Diversity and Social Conflict, Humboldt University) |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <p>Student presentations: Spaces of transconnectivity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Mini Chandran Kurian</i> Return migration of the Indian diaspora: Notions of home and belonging • <i>Hong Yang</i> The study of intimacy construction between inter-ethnic couples of Chinese women and British men in the information age • <i>Mario Alvarado</i> The limits of multiculturalism |
| 12:15 – 13:15 | Lunch |
| 13:15 – 14:15 | <p>Student presentations: The arts in digital society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sicong Zhao</i> Popular music socialising on Chinese musical mobile social applications • <i>Kath Bassett</i> The (digitally augmented) world of Harry Potter in Edinburgh: Methodological considerations for studying mediated pop-culture tourism and location-based gaming • <i>Damian Cheung</i> Becoming amateur: Investigating the intersectionality of becoming an EDM musician in the global art world |
| 14:30 – 15:45 | <p>Panel: Envisioning the social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Angus Bancroft (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh) • Dr Arek Dakessian (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh) • Dr Nichole Fernandez (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh) • Dr Tod Van Gunten (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh) |
| 16:00 – 17:20 | <p>Student presentations: Feminist narratives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Marta Kowalewska</i> Working with Romani women in Central and Eastern Europe: Developing a decolonial, intersectional and feminist methodology • <i>Rebecca Helman</i> Post-rape subjectivities • <i>Clarissa Chen</i> Gender inequality in Chinese rural high schools • <i>Sangwon Park</i> Gender equality for whom and for what? The case of girls' education in Rwanda |
| 17:30 – 18:30 | Closing reception |



NEW DIRECTIONS

2018 CONFERENCE FULL PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 19 APRIL 2018

9:00 – 9:30

Sign-in and Coffee

Project Room 1.06

9:30 – 9:40

Welcome

Prof Jonathan Hearn (Head of Subject Area)

Dr Lisa McCormick (on behalf of the New Directions Team)

9:45 – 10:45

Student presentations: Movement and change in society

Chair: Dora Jandric

Project Room 1.06

RHYS HOWELL

In sight and in mind:

Reconceptualising social responses to marine energy projects

This PhD set out to explore the factors which shape social responses to marine energy. In particular, it aimed to challenge the assumption that marine energy would not suffer public opposition as projects would be 'out of sight and out of mind'. Following ethnographic research on a Hebridean island, and public dialogue workshops in six Scottish communities, the PhD concludes that publics respond most positively to marine energy projects situated

inshore because they offer the greatest potential for community benefits. Marine energy developers and planners should therefore seek greater community engagement and characterise projects as 'in sight and in mind'.

Keywords: marine energy, social responses, community benefit

Supervisors: Dr Claire Haggett, Dr Rachel Howell and Dr Simon Allen (School of Geosciences)

REBECA TOPPING

Rethinking 'natures' around water and mining

Peasant communities have been affected by mining activities, generating conflicts over water quality with serious implications for their livelihood, well-being and health. I argue that, despite several cultural and political barriers, the role of indigenous women's organisations, through social movements, is providing an effective contribution to conflict prevention and resolution by advancing ecofeminism, encouraging grassroots participation and producing better strategies. I analyse their agency, social networks and community participation towards securing land and water rights. I conclude that conflicts will not be resolved while the water and environment of peasant communities continue to be threatened.

Keywords: women's social movements, water, mining

Supervisors: Dr Angelica Thumala and Dr Niamh Moore

XIN ZHANG

What prevents consumers from making sustainable choices in clothing consumption?

Fashion has changed from a limited phenomenon to a race joined by the vast majority. My research aims to understand consumers' perception of fashion – their understanding and attitudes towards sustainability in fashion – to explore the impact associated with environmental and ethical issues within the fashion industry on clothing consumption. A focus group will be employed before a film screening of the documentary *The True Cost*, and follow up interviews will be conducted to examine the impact that the film has on the audience. Previous studies indicate a gap between ethical attitude and buying behaviour. This research will examine the barriers that prevent consumers from making sustainable fashion choices.

Keywords: fashion, sustainability, consumption

Supervisors: Dr Rachel Howell and Prof Lynn Jamieson

11:00 – 12:20

Student presentations: Opportunity and identity

Chair: Amy Andrada

Project Room 1.06

JAMIE SMITH

Care is not basic: A posthuman approach to fundamental care

'Basic' care is understood as a reductive term describing complicated acts which constitute fundamental care. The concept of emotional labour in nursing continues to gain popularity, yet there remains a paucity of research into the phenomenology of nurse work as emotional

PRESENTATIONS

labour. Existing research suggests causality between educational attainment in nursing and higher-quality care without considering the structural relations of nurse work. This presentation will discuss qualitative and structural approaches to positioning nurse work from (pro)feminist and post-anthropocentric perspectives.

Keywords: nursing, gender, emotional labour

Supervisors: Dr Angus Bancroft and Dr Rosie Stenhouse

TAIJA ROIHA

Gender, social class and artistic work of contemporary writers and authors in Finland

My presentation will provide a general overview of my PhD research, which handles the topic of contemporary Finnish writers' and authors' artistic work from the viewpoint of gender and social class. My main research questions are: How are gender and social class experienced by writers with respect to their artistic work? How are these experiences narrated? I understand experience as an intermediary concept between the personal and the structural. From a methodological point of view, I ask: How could the lived conditions of class and gender – and their consequences – be better studied and understood?

Keywords: artistic work, social class, gender

Supervisors: Dr Sanna Karkulehto and Dr Miikka Pyykkönen (University of Jyväskylä). During the visit in Edinburgh: Dr Lisa McCormick and Dr Dave O'Brien

ZIYE WANG

The use of national language policy in constructing nationhood: Taking the construction of the Chinese nation in Xinjiang as an example

In 2009, Xinjiang's capital city Urumqi witnessed a series of severe ethnic riots, which revived an ongoing debate in China centring on second-generation ethnic policy for minority regions. Since 2010, promoting the usage of Mandarin Chinese has become a policy in Xinjiang's compulsory education. Scholars such as Ma Rong and Hao Shiyuan believe that this is an effective measure to strengthen the identity of the Chinese nation, while others, especially in the diasporas, claim that this aims to eliminate national minorities' culture. In this dissertation I will examine whether this new policy can be said to help multi-ethnic groups in Xinjiang to construct the identity of the Chinese nation, or whether this will have the opposite effect.

Keywords: language policy, Chinese nation, Xinjiang

Supervisor: Dr Gëzim Krasniqi

ANNE MARIE CHAMPAGNE

Beauty and the Breast: Mastectomy, materiality and the iconicity of gender

In this paper I illustrate three pathways by which changes to the body and embodied gender identity take place and become materially iconicised: the visual, the sensual and the discursive. Drawing on biographical interviews with breast cancer survivors, I show how materiality figures and is figured by the dialectic of the beautiful and the sublime along each of these pathways such that it is rendered as (1) a form that socially reconstructs the iconicity

of the breast, (2) a sense that restores the iconicity of the breast's discursive depths, and/ or (3) a discourse that re-articulates the iconicity of the breast. My research builds upon previous studies that examine the relationship between materiality and meaning, body and embodiment, and gender signification. While many of these studies shed light on how the social contingencies of material integrity and embodied performance can obfuscate or illuminate the polysemy of gender in social life, my research starts with, but moves beyond, the witnessable interactions of social life to chart individual processes by which iconically structured meanings of gender "interact with bodies and identities in the production of new embodied selves" (Shapiro 2010:181). In doing so I reveal how the iconicity of the breast, enlivened at both the level of individual experience and social life, constitutes a fecund reservoir of meaning structures that can potentially spur cultural change. For these structures not only have the potential to make transgressive bodies comprehensible and thus citable, they also have the potential to render them pleasurable and thus inhabitable.

Keywords: gender, subjectivities, materiality
Supervisor: Prof Jeffrey Alexander (Yale University)

12:30 – 13:15

Lunch

Project Room 1.06

13:15 – 14:30

Panel: Transnational family practices

Chair: Mini Chandran Kurian

Project Room 1.06

How do transnational families create 'familyhood across borders'? How do families provide emotional support for their members and the community through return visits and remittances? How do they sustain a virtual or proxy presence? How is kin-keeping maintained through technologies such as Skype to facilitate 'emotional streaming'? Drawing on their research, panellists will compare their findings and consider the particular challenges involved in researching transnational family practices and the part they play in nurturing intimacy across vast distances. The central issues to be explored in this conversation are: how the transnational context accommodates multiple expressions of identity that may run contrary to ideas of political cohesion; how multigenerational family relationships shape and are shaped by international migration for care work; and how such practices impact notions of home and belonging.

- Mario Alvaredo (PhD candidate at the University of Edinburgh)
- Dr Nikki Dunne (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh)
- Dr Mary Holmes (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh)
- Prof Lynn Jamieson (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh)

PRESENTATIONS

14:45 – 15:45

Student presentations: Political tensions and transitions

Project Room 1.06

Chair: Yuji Shimohira Calvo

CRISTIAN LUGUZAN

The emergence of Romanian networks of collective action

Half a million Romanians took to the streets in early 2017 in protests against corruption. This was praised as a victory for civil society. These events are the latest expression of a revival in Romanian civil society. By integrating civil society and social movement theory, I will explore the emergence and relative success of the largest post-communist Romanian social movement. Taking into account the context of a relatively weak Romanian civil society, my research explores how this development has been facilitated by computer-mediated communication (CMC), though building collective identities and facilitating solidarity.

Keywords: social movements, civil society, computer-mediated communication

Supervisors: Dr James Kennedy and Dr Hugo Gorringe

ALEXANDRA SCOTT

Eurasian regionalism: Challenges of transgovernmental co-operation in highly politicised environments

The growing cost of the war on drugs – particularly for the worst-affected transit countries such as those in Central Asia – is driving the law-enforcement agencies in the region to put more emphasis on collaboration and to adapt to the proliferation of transnational crime. Despite the fact that regional co-operation between Central Asian countries has been growing, they are very careful, if not suspicious towards each other and of initiatives supported by Western powers, particularly those that aim to facilitate political transitions. I ask if in a polarised political context, transgovernmental co-operation is an effective tool to combat transnational crime.

Keywords: Transnationalism, regional co-operation, Central Asia

Supervisors: Dr Angus Bancroft and Dr Andy Aitchison

DOMINIK ŽELINSKÝ

The only true philosophers: A sociological analysis of underground philosophy seminars in communist Czechoslovakia

This presentation explores the under-researched topic of unofficial, or 'underground', philosophy seminars in Czechoslovakia. I explore the cultural logic that underpinned the decision to participate in these meetings and collectively pursue academic interests despite a considerable threat from the state forces. Through a critique of current approaches to the study of intellectuals (such as those of Collins, Gross, and Baert), I develop a proposal for a novel sociology of intellectuals based on insights from hermeneutics and the Strong Program-style cultural sociology.

Keywords: communism, cultural sociology, hermeneutics

Supervisors: Dr Lisa McCormick and Mr Ross Bond

16:00 – 17:30
Keynote lecture

Project Room 1.06

PROFESSOR GISELINDE KUIPERS

Is sociology ready for media society? Reflections from research on humour, beauty and cultural inequalities

I find that sociologists, sociological theory and sociological practice tend to operate as if it were still the 1960s. Surveying the major journals, you will find that in issue after issue, media is hardly ever mentioned, and most research uses concepts, tools and methods that were developed for a time when letters and newspapers were the major forms of long-distance communication. I find it puzzling that sociologists have been so slow in taking up this major change, and I think it affects the quality and relevance of our work. I will reflect on this problem using results from my own research with the aim of drawing lessons for the field of sociology in general.

Giselinde Kuipers (PhD, University of Amsterdam, 2001) is Professor of Cultural Sociology and Chair of the Sociology Department at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands. She is the author of *Good Humor, Bad Taste: A Sociology of the Joke* (2006/2015) and numerous articles in Dutch and English on culture, globalisation, media, taste and cultural inequalities. She has done research in various European countries and the US, studying how cultural standards are shaped in increasingly transnational fields, and how these standards affect everyday social interactions and inequalities. From 2009 to 2015, she was the principal investigator of the ERC-funded research project 'Towards a Comparative Sociology of Beauty'.

18:00 – 20:00
Conference Dinner

CMB Ground café 15a George Square

Please join us for a hot buffet meal in the Ground Café area of the Chrystal Macmillan Building at 15a George Square. The meal is free for sociology students, sociology staff and guest speakers. Vegetarian, vegan and gluten free options will be available.

FRIDAY 20 APRIL 2018

9:00 – 9:30

Sign-in and coffee

Project Room 1.06

9:30 – 10:45

Panel: Academic freedom and the situation in Turkey

Project Room 1.06

Chair: Derek Morris

Academic freedom is increasingly under threat as more academics around the world encounter intimidation, persecution and censorship by state and non-state entities. This panel will focus on one situation in particular: Turkey. We will explore how people can respond and help their fellow academics and colleagues, putting a spotlight on initiatives at the University of Edinburgh.

- Dr Ceren Şengül (Recent graduate, University of Edinburgh)
 - Dr Sophia Woodman (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh and BAK Edinburgh Committee Member)
 - Tebessüm Yılmaz (PhD Candidate, Department of Diversity and Social Conflict, Humboldt University)
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11:00 – 12:00

Student presentations: Spaces of transconnectivity

Project Room 1.06

Chair: Justin Ho

MINI CHANDRAN KURIAN

Return Migration of the Indian Diaspora: Notions of Home and Belonging

The recent phenomenon of return migration by the highly-skilled Indian diaspora in the UK has received very little attention in migration literature. My PhD research addresses this gap in scholarship. I use qualitative research methods to analyse the settlement experiences of returning transnational families inside gated communities in India who continue to utilise transnational networks and enjoy a 'simultaneity of belonging' even after their return. The study critically investigates the returnees' notions of 'belonging' and 'home', the role of network enablers, the family's attempts at 'place-making', and whether this is the end of a cycle or if re-migration follows.

Keywords: return migration, transnational families, belonging

Supervisors: Dr Nasar Meer, Dr Radhika Govinda and Prof Lynn Jamieson

HONG YANG

The study of intimacy construction between inter-ethnic couples of Chinese women and British men in the information age

The transnational relationship is a fast-growing global phenomenon in which many Asian women are involved. The research aims to explore the intimate relationships of inter-ethnic couples of Chinese women and British men and determine whether social media usage has an impact. Quantitative methods will be used to analyse participants' demographic features, family information and socio-economic features. Qualitative research methods,

especially in-depth semi-structured interviews, will be adopted to explore potential tensions existing between inter-ethnic couples in terms of familial, cultural and financial problems, and measures adopted in intimacy construction. The study aims to provide a more insightful analysis of gender, family, and social cohesion in a global setting.

Keywords: inter-ethnic relationship, household tension, intimacy construction
Supervisor: Prof Lynn Jamieson

MARIO ALVARADO

The limits of multiculturalism

The way multiculturalism is configured helps to solve some conflicts between communities, but it opens the door to another kind of issue. The liberal framework that multicultural theory assumes, the way it understands how social unity should be achieved, the categories it uses and some other theoretical assumptions, such as a non-distant link to contractualism, set the limits of what multiculturalism can and cannot achieve.

Keywords: multiculturalism, identity, social unity
Supervisors: Dr Steve Kemp and Dr Mary Holmes

12:15 – 13:15

Lunch

Project Room 1.06

13:15 – 14:15

Student presentations: The arts in digital society
Chair: Elisabeth Cuénod

Project Room 1.06

SICONG ZHAO

Popular music socialising on Chinese musical mobile social applications

Music socialising is not a new thing. However, in recent years, popular music socialising on mobile social applications has become the new social trend in China and is becoming more popular, especially among the younger generation. Music socialising refers to the social activities that are based on music, and musical mobile social applications refer to the mobile applications that focus on music and have social networking attributes. The presentation will focus on demonstrating what popular music socialising is in China and investigates from a music sociology perspective how people conduct music socialising activities on different musical mobile social applications.

Keywords: music socialising, mobile social applications, sociology of music
Supervisor: Dr Nick Prior

PRESENTATIONS

KATH BASSETT

The (digitally augmented) world of Harry Potter in Edinburgh: Methodological considerations for studying mediated pop-culture tourism and location-based gaming

This presentation will be used to outline my research project which will unpick the emergent relationship between the 'geoweb', urban sociality and lived experience in Edinburgh in the context of Harry Potter tourism and the forthcoming mobile, location-based Harry Potter: Wizards Unite game. This project will pay special attention to the intersections between 'online' and 'offline' practices and interactions. More specifically, I will discuss the methodological issues I am confronted with as I prepare to enter the field and engage with this technological event and cultural moment.

Keywords: geoweb, mobile location-based gaming, urban sociality

Supervisors: Dr Kate Orton-Johnson and Dr Karen Gregory

DAMIAN CHEUNG

Becoming amateur: Investigating the intersectionality of becoming an EDM musician in the global art world

Electronic Dance Music (EDM) musicians, including DJs and producers, are usually considered "faceless" as pieces of music are seldom affiliated with the musicians' appearances or vocal delivery (McLeod, 2001). However, it is observed that prominent musicians in the global EDM scene are predominantly white men. What are the sociological factors contributing to various degrees of prominence in becoming and/or succeeding in becoming an EDM musician? Specifically, what are the opportunities and obstacles faced by aspiring amateur DJs from different racial, gender and class backgrounds? Inspired by Howard Becker's theoretical framework of Art Worlds (1982) and Ruth Finnegan's anthropological study of The Hidden Musicians (2007), I propose to draw on a primarily ethnographic account of the process of becoming an EDM musician, which will hopefully generate a sociological depiction of our current global EDM culture.

Keywords: contemporary EDM culture, interactionality, socialisation

Supervisor: Dr Nick Prior

14:30 – 15:45

Panel: Envisioning the social

Project Room 1.06

Chair: Emily Mann

How does 'the visual' function as an epistemological metaphor for researchers trying to make sense of their topic? What are the benefits and drawbacks of using visualisation as a tool in network analysis? How does visual sociology enhance our understanding of material cultural artefacts? From cigarette-rolling papers in Lebanon to political elites in Mexico, our panellists reflect on their own research to addresses how an emphasis on the visual, 'envisioning the social', enhances sociological research.

Dr Angus Bancroft (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh)

Dr Arek Dakessian (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh)

Dr Nichole Fernandez (Recent sociology graduate, University of Edinburgh)

Dr Tod Van Gunten (Sociology staff, University of Edinburgh)

16:00 – 17:20

Student Presentations: Feminist Narratives

Chair: Órla Murray

Project Room 1.06

MARTA KOWALEWSKA**Working with Romani women in Central and Eastern Europe: Developing a decolonial, intersectional and feminist methodology**

This paper argues for the application of intersectional feminist ethics and decolonial theories when developing methodologies for working with Romani women in Central Eastern Europe. Such an approach would supplant the intention of ‘working for’ or ‘speaking for’ Romani women with ‘speaking with’ – implying an ethics of responsibility that does not demand resemblance or ‘integration’ as the basis of recognition. Through such a methodology, and with a focus on localised, lived experience, the research then aims to examine multiple, contested histories of knowledge production and pathways towards social justice and feminist futures for Romani subjects.

Keywords: feminist methodologies, Roma activism, intersectionality

Supervisors: Dr Angus Bancroft, Dr Radhika Govinda and Dr. Gëzim Krasniqi

REBECCA HELMAN**Post-rape subjectivities**

The construction of certain instances of rape as abhorrent and others as ‘acceptable’ is central to understanding patterns of sexual violence against women in contemporary South Africa. Despite the enshrinement of gender equality in the constitution, rates of sexual violence remain alarmingly high. This PhD explores how the inequitable discursive and material politics of sexual violence shape individual post-rape subjectivities. In drawing on my own experiences, alongside the experiences of other womxn, the study aims to investigate the ways in which post-rape subjectivities are shaped by intersections of race, class and sexuality, among other categories of identity.

Keywords: sexual violence, rape, South Africa

Supervisors: Prof Kopano Ratele (University of South Africa), Prof Tamara Shefer (University of the Western Cape), Prof Lynn Jamieson (University of Edinburgh)

CLARISSA CHEN**Gender inequality in Chinese rural high schools**

Gender inequality in relation to educating Chinese young individuals is significant. Gender identity does not only influence how Chinese rural youth receive their education, but the education itself, when applied to what gendered youth in rural China become, has a long-term influence on their roles in society. High school, and its education outcome as a significant life transition for rural citizens, both play a significant role leading to their future life. Therefore, it is necessary to see the meaning of gender difference in education to help improve education for rural youth in China.

Keywords: gender, inequality, education

Supervisor: Dr Sophia Woodman

PRESENTATIONS

SANGWON PARK

Gender equality for whom and for what? The case of girls' education in Rwanda

Developing countries have invested in girls' education and reduced gender parities in schools and in the workforce. However, little light has been shed on the reality of women's lives beyond numbers. This research explores the narrative accounts of women to ascertain how girls' education shapes women's lives, drawing upon the case of Rwanda, the most gender-equal developing country on paper. The study aims to address 1) how education shapes women's agency in public and private spheres of life; 2) the discrepancy between women's legal rights and their ability to exercise them; and 3) what gender equality means in the context of Rwanda and in the field of international development more broadly.

Keywords: development, education, gender

Supervisors: Dr Radhika Govinda and Dr Jean-Benoît Falisse

17:30 – 18:30

Closing reception

Project Room 1.06



NEW DIRECTIONS



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
School of Social and
Political Science