

Abstracts

Day One

Wednesday 1st July

Presentations 1

10:30-12:00

Wednesday

Room 1: Chaired by Endre Danyi

Wednesday 10:30-12:00

Natalie Gill

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

A case of standardising space and standardising bodies: how numbers get done.

This is an account of living in tension; an account where irony is seen as an effect of living with and holding together contradictions. Drawing on fieldwork at a local authority waste collection office, I follow the material practices of producing data that travels from the streets of Lancaster to the Department of Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) as Performance Indicators. Attention to these practices reveals the work of standardising a body in the co-production of both a surveyor and the surveyed. I argue that John, the surveyor in the story, lives with the tensions and interferences that these standardising practices of number production bring, and that in his irony, these contradictions are not resolved into larger wholes.

Anna Maria Mann

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

A carrot is a carrot is a carrot? Specificities and differences of food

Food Studies investigate the relationship between food and individuals, social groups or nations. They ask how the reproduction of social class is linked to taste or what role a cuisine plays in the construction of a national identity. They distinguish carefully between different forms of the social, the individual, the family, the political movement, the organisations, the modern state, etc. But what about food? What about the 'food object'? After all, what is a 'food object'? This paper assumes that differences and specificities of food are done in practice. It focuses on the activity of cooking and uses recipes as one account of the activity. A collection of carrot cake recipes will be analysed in regard to 'specificities' and 'differences'. Which specificities of food objects, bodies, tools, situations and preparation methods get tangible through the cooking process? And what can the recipes teach us about the 'food object'?

Peter Denenberg

Applied Social Science
Lancaster University

A child-centred study of foster care

'Increasingly acceptance of the principle of children's involvement is being turned into practice through a variety of participation activities across a range of organisations.' (Every Child Matters: Change for Children) This project assumes that children's participation is most important in the lives of vulnerable young people. By asking children to give their own accounts of experiences in current foster care evidence is being sought of the extent to which children participate in the organisation of foster care under the auspices of private fostering agencies and social service departments. Some methodological issues that arise from research in this social domain will be described. These include the ways in which policy change has had an impact on gatekeepers together with some of the challenges of working with children to produce data that is fit for the purpose of providing situated knowledge of foster care. The data so far collected will be discussed in terms of emerging themes which, at the time of writing this abstract, include the continuation of sibling and other family relationships in foster homes, the agency and resistance of young people in care and some features of the language and reflexivity of the young people. Finally, an attempt will be made to assess the extent to which the evidence being gathered seems likely to support the claims of participation being put forward in Every Child Matters.

**Room 2: Chaired by Erkan Ali
Wednesday 10:30-12:00****Gemma Wibberley**

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

A day in the life of a domiciliary carer

"it's absolutely shattering ... I'm up at quarter to 6 ...cos I have 8 miles to go to my first call, and I start at 7 o'clock... I get home and I have couple of hours [off] at lunchtime [then I go back out and] do the teas,... then I've got to go right through for the night, I mean I've got lovely clients, there's one, and about 8 o'clock she's 'right get the kettle on, you're having your tea , get something to eat'... [I finish] usually about quarter to 10" (domiciliary carer, original emphasis)

This presentation will reveal a day in the life of a domiciliary carer. These are paid workers who go into elderly people's houses, and undertake activities that enable the elderly person to remain in their own home. These tasks can include administering medication, bathing, dressing, feeding, house cleaning and general companionship. An ethnographic research approach is being followed which enables domiciliary carers to describe and explain their work, which is typically invisible to those outside the sector due to its performance within the private domestic sphere. As we follow the domiciliary carers through their working day we are exposed to the long days, the constant travelling, the variety of tasks performed, the skills required, the stresses and the satisfactions that the job entails, as we can begin to see from the quote above.

Chun-Yu Lin

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

A study on the transnational marriage spouses in Taiwan

Over the last few years, the numbers of marriage immigrant increase rapidly in Taiwan. Among them, the highest percentages are come from Mainland China. The foreign spouses who come from South East Asian countries, such as Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand came second. However, the political and social issues that serve to demarcate mainland Chinese spouses from

other South East Asian spouses are different. The paper probes how the policies affect the transnational marriage spouses in Taiwan.

James Tomasson

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

'Adaptable' and 'Durable': Contradictions in the Materiality of Decorative Wooden Flooring

Wooden flooring is commonly found throughout many British homes today, either in the form of solid and veneered boards or as a design motif emulated by non-wood materials such as linoleum and laminate. Despite its popularity, however, wooden flooring and, more broadly-speaking, floors in general, have been considered too banal to warrant much critical sociological thought during recent decades. Based on field work from a larger project investigating domestic practices, consumption and rural heritage, and building on Shove's (2008) idea that the social sciences have neglected to pay attention to the actual materials of material culture, this paper explores some of the reasons why households acquire real wood or laminate flooring. Although a commonsense approach might suggest that, as a 'fake' and therefore less expensive alternative to natural wood flooring, laminate is conceived as a 'second best' option for those who cannot afford the real thing, I demonstrate that such a reduction down to class distinction is both too simplistic and inaccurate. Instead, by revealing some of the underlying motivations that households consider, the paper asserts that the traits of the flooring materials themselves, such as durable, adaptable or convenient, are not pre-determined but rather come about in relation to each other, often in ambiguous and contradictory ways.

Room 3: Chaired by Anna Portman
Wednesday 10:30-12:00

Tony Carton

Alcohol and Drug Studies
Wellington Institute of Technology

Autonomy, Collaboration and Evocation: the governing aspect of a substance abuse treatment apparatus and the dispersal of responsibility through motivational interviewing.

I address how the practice known as motivational interviewing commonly used in the alcohol and other drug treatment field serves as an apparatus of governmentality, to position client and clinician amenable to forms of governance conducive to a particular neo liberal context. A number of technologies used in the practice of motivational interviewing were subjected to a discourse analysis. The materials contained written artefacts such as summaries, diagrams, articles, mathematical devices, screening tools and acronyms, all of which were analysed to assess their discursive effects on clinicians and clients. It was found that these artefacts acted as devices of governmentality in that they simultaneously produced the client as an active self-governing autonomous subject and a professionalized clinician implicated in the creation of that subject client. The client is reconstituted, having active responsibility for self-care. The clinician interpellates the client into this project through various micro-practices. I conclude that, although alcohol and other drug workers pride themselves on the emancipatory nature of their calling, they enrol in a project that is politically conservative and individualising. Alcohol and other drug workers, in order to honour the ethos of their profession, which historically has addressed the effects of marginalisation, inevitably recommending the collective in addiction recovery, need to interrogate the micro practices whereby they have become enrolled in an individualising, depoliticising/politicising project. This neo liberal project acts to split clients from older indigenous communities of understanding to an individuality based on the hyper rational and prudential self.

Nicola Spurling

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Being a Sociologist in the UK: the university and the daily path- life path dialectic

My PhD explores the career biographies and everyday practices of academic sociologists during the period of UK university reform since 1979. This paper focuses on one aspect of this broader project and explores the importance of institutional and departmental context for the everyday activities and career paths of the academics in my study. My practice-based approach (Reckwitz, 2002) presupposes that it is in the performance of everyday activities that institutional and social structures are reproduced, and that practices 'routinized types of behaviour' form the locus of analysis. Drawing on Pred's (1981) concepts of 'daily path' (the consecutive activities that take us through the time-space of each day) and 'life path' (the longer-term institutional roles with which each individual is associated), this paper explores the thesis that one mechanism by which everyday practices (which culminate to make a career) change is when activities that dominate the 'daily path' no longer contribute to the 'academic role'. The difference in the 'daily path' of academics at the different research sites (four different 'types' of university) suggests that institutions can be important mediators of policy, or alternatively, 'enablers' of other activities and other long term projects (than those handed down by Government). Further the interaction of the daily path and life path mean that for an individual the institution is vital to the kind of sociologist they can be, both now, and in the future.

**Seminar Room 15: Chaired by Leon Moosavi
Wednesday 10:30-12:00****Eline van Haastrecht**

Amsterdam School for Social Science Research (ASSR)
University of Amsterdam (UvA)

Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas: a boundary object in the making?

The concept of biodiversity was first introduced in the 1980s. Efforts to operationalise the concept in nature conservation and policy have strongly focused on the implementation of protected areas. A strong case can be made for the potential of biodiversity as a boundary object (cf. Star & Griesemer 1987) in the policy process: the concept can be explained in many ways, allowing people with different backgrounds and perspectives to co-operate. However, the fact that biodiversity can be interpreted in a variety of ways also throws up barriers to the policy process: the mobilization of the concept is complicated by a constant questioning of what biodiversity 'is'. In my study I look at biodiversity in a specific context: the designation and implementation of networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the European Union. In the present paper I will take a closer look at the 'Valencia Declaration on Marine Biodiversity', a statement given out by marine scientists during the first World Conference on Marine Biodiversity last year (Valencia, Spain, 2008). The declaration can be seen as a scientists' plea to policy makers to give priority to the protection of marine biodiversity through the design of networks of MPAs. However, the statement seemed to spark frustration with people working in environmental management practice. A closer look at this case will give me a chance to explore how scientific knowledge, the object of policy and policy itself are co-produced, and the extent to which 'biodiversity' succeeds or fails in bringing people together.

Adela Kubickova

Department of Health and Social Studies
The University of South Bohemia (USB)

Chosen aspects of fatherhood in post modern society.

The classification of society is going through changes at the moment. According to some authors, contemporary society has already evolved into post modern society. It has abandoned old traditions and is entirely based on individuality and the autonomy of the person. Yet, there are certain spheres where tradition is required. One of them is the need for sharing roles in the family. In particular, participation by the male in family planning appears as a suitable means for the improvement of relationships between couples and their children. Gender sensitive breeding is a good way of supporting responsibility in family planning by men and women, and leads them in equal negotiation on questions of parenting. Although the testimonies of the Czech citizens suggest a positive approach to changes in the traditional division of family roles, the setting of requirements and the expectations of society are still heading towards the practice of roles according to gender stereotypes.

I have been interested in these problems since my Bachelor Thesis "The male's family status as a factor influencing child development", continuing with my Master Thesis "The Role of The Male in Family Planning" during my studies at The University of South Bohemia in Czech Republic. My current post graduate research is focused on health and social aspects of fatherhood and it is supported by GA JU (Grant Agency of University of South Bohemia) with a project "Fathers Rights" reg.num. 012/2008/H. I'm interested in Reproductive Health, Family Planning and Parental Alienation Syndrome. I have used both qualitative and quantitative research methods in my work. I would like to improve my skills in processing research data grounded in a solid theoretical framework in my current study. My chosen topic and planned research method are quite new in Czech Republic and there is no good scientific reflection regarding this topic. This seems to be a good opportunity to discuss this topic with students and specialists from other countries

Julia Bennett

Sociology
University of Manchester

Community, Memory and Tradition

Drawing on findings from a previous Masters dissertation (2008) and work underway on a PhD this paper explores attachment to community of place through memories of the annual re-enactment of a local tradition - Walking Days, also known as Whit Walks. These are a Sunday School tradition largely confined to the North West which, due to lower church and Sunday School attendances have died out in many areas but still take place in and around Wigan, the site of this research. Walking Days were chosen as an embodied, performative practice giving rise to shared memories. Traditions are part of the circularity of everyday life giving it a particular, local narrative rhythm. Links are forged from childhood between time, place and other people through the embodied action of walking and the mnemonic practices of the stories told. This community narrative is constantly being reworked; it is constituted of the identities of its members as well as constructing those identities. Rites of passage are marked through the banners, contributing towards the growth of a self-identity within the community, placing people in their milieu. The PhD project will examine the concept of a sense of belonging through a strong inter-generational attachment to a particular place community. Collective memories are transmitted through the generations, through family and the wider community and through places. Where ěa member of my family's probably lived in this street since the turn of the century... everybody knows everybody, but it's part of the community... ě does this create stability, trust and a sense of belonging or oppression, conformity and a lack of mobility?

**Seminar Room 23: Chaired by Shireen Chilcott
Wednesday 10:30-12:00**

Lisa Ashmore

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Conflict, Theft, Misinformation and Pregnancy: A Reflexive Account of Relationships in the Field

Ellis (2007) has described three types of ethics: procedural, situational and relational. In this paper I will demonstrate how the three types of dilemma are interconnected. The paper will draw on examples from ethnographic fieldwork at two UK hospitals during periods of technological change. They demonstrate the multiplicity of roles performed by the ethnographer from confidante, resource, bystander, friend, lunch buddy and observed. The aim of this reflexive paper is to acknowledge the production of the researchers own knowledge, as well as that of the participants. It demonstrates that during fieldwork, ethnographers do not play the mythical role of distanced, privileged, neutral, bodiless observers of mythically naive natives (Traweek, 1995, P.1). How the researcher reacted in each of the situations, either with empathy or antipathy depending on commonsense notions in the field, affected the way in which the participants responded to her and hence the ways in which she was accepted by them. The paper will demonstrate that it is possible to perform this reflexive analysis of relationships in the field without 'sinking into a self-absorption that negates the possibility of knowledge other than self-knowledge' (Davies, 1999, P.199). Throughout the course of ethnographic fieldwork, the situated body becomes part of the procedures and the relations between participants. To deny this is to deny intuition, feelings, and position as part of the research relationship.

Lia Kinane

Centre of gender and women's studies
Lancaster University

Constructions, silences and erasures of the 'country' woman in the present day Irish Countrywomen's Association

The imaginings of rural Ireland has contributed to homogenous national identity in a country that has seen considerable changes in the last twenty years. This image remains static in popular imagination despite the changing environment. Interviews that I conducted with I.C.A. members revealed the changing circumstances and identities of women in rural Ireland. The overall aim of this paper is to examine the narratives told about rural women in the recent past and the women of today. This paper explores the tension between the construction of a modern Irish woman and the imaged community of the Irish Countrywoman Association. This examination is based on research conducted with members of the association in 2006. In this paper I explore question other whether rural women's identities been reconfigured or erased, vis a vis the construction of a modern Ireland and a modern Irish woman. In particular it examines how the intersection of Irish femininities and class is configured against the background of rural Ireland.

David Mansley

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Contentious Politics in Britain, 1990-2010

This research is concerned with how contentious politics has changed over the last twenty years as a result of various Acts of Parliament. Contentious politics is a term that covers democratisation, collective violence, political opportunities, and protest policing. This paper presents some early findings taken from interviews with senior police officers, activists, and civil liberties organisations.

Presentations 2 13:45 – 15:15 Wednesday

Room 1: Chaired by Jen Southern Wednesday 13:45-15:15

Allison Hui

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Crafting mobility footprints: following the performance practices of enthusiasts

In the burgeoning literature of what has been called a mobilities paradigm, scholars have been investigating what happens when we follow and start from the movement of people, things, and ideas. This paper emerges from a study that shares these concerns about mobilities, and asks how, in particular, mobilities interact with and indeed compose leisure practices. Rather than considering leisure activities through the lens of a work/leisure split, or from the vantage point of interpersonal interactions, this paper argues that leisure activities involve individual performances of practices in which particular mobilities coalesce. Drawing from case studies of patchwork quilters and birdwatchers, this paper will analyze the way in which enthusiasts, through a series of individual performances, create a personal history of practice that has its own mobility footprint.

Anna Portman

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Darwin200: Representations of Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin. National hero? Scientific Genius? God-Killer? On the bicentenary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of 'On the Origin of Species', a nationwide celebration of Darwin is in progress. But how is Darwin being depicted? By whom? And why? My research addresses these questions from a sociological perspective focusing on the phenomena of collective memorialisation to try and determine what our remembrance of Darwin and our scientific past says about us today.

Jun-Hua Lin

Department of Geography
University of Sheffield

Delight Dangers: another urban modernity in Taiwan

For most of emerging countries, modernisation is the main scheme to answer the challenge from other countries and to establish competitiveness in the world. To them, modernity means a break that makes contemporary condition different from the traditional condition in environment, economics, politics, culture, social condition and so on (Harvey, 2003). Usually, it must demonstrate a positive image of development and growth. Meanwhile, modernity also refers to a series of risks of modernisation. In Ulrich Beck's theory (Beck, 1992), he sees the reaction to modern risks as a force to reshape the society and its social order; and also a sort of force that can lead the society to a modern condition. Taipei 101, as a highest modern skyscraper, is a construction built for safe, convenient and multiple services, including services in business, consumption and tourism to the masses. As a spectacular, it represents the modernisation of the city; it also crowns the city as a modern and global one because of its extraordinary height. Though, September 11 attacks, 331 Earthquakes, illegal extreme sports, like urban climbing and

B.A.S.E. jumping, have brought threats through the building into the whole city and people's everyday life, from the very first beginning of the construction. The conclusion will indicate another urban modernity that not only labels advantaged and positive historical breaks, but also relates to the dreadful/dangerous events. And through tangling with these events, people can recognise his/her city from the dark and dangerous modernity rather than the positive modernity.

Room 2: Chaired by Julien McHardy Wednesday 13:45-15:15

Louis Neven

STePS

University of Twente

Desired, defied, diminished; diversity of users in technological tests.

In technological testing a balance needs to be struck between repeatability and representativeness. As Downer (2007) has shown, on the one hand results need to be reproducible, controllable and comparable, but on the other hand, results also need to represent the complexity of the world outside the laboratory in order to be relevant. In technological tests involving test users, the characteristics of and differences between various users, i.e. the diversity of users, is often an important but also highly complex part of reality which researchers want to represent. Based on a case-study of laboratory and field tests with a human-interaction robot and older test users, this paper analyses the way in which researchers dealt with diversity of users in technological tests. Though the researchers wanted to encompass diversity at the start, there was an incremental reduction of diversity as the project progressed, by focusing on a specific kind of older user, keeping out unwanted input and quantifying results. In the end, the representativeness, the desire to encompass the diversity of older users, gave way to the practical and methodological needs of controllable, comparable and repeatable research. Thus the meaning of diversity changed from desirable at the start to something which stood in the way of proper research at the end. As the added complexity of test users further widens the gap between representativeness and repeatability in technological tests, this reduction of diversity raises questions about the possibility of and responsibility for encompassing user diversity in technological research and design processes.

Li-Wen Shih

Department of Sociology

Lancaster University

Engaging in Reproductive Technology: A Case Study of Prenatal Screening and Testing in Taiwan

The main concern of this research project is to examine how Taiwanese pregnant women experience prenatal screening and testing (PST) and how PST is generally practiced in Taiwan. My interest starts with how a pregnant woman engages with PST. This not only do with how a pregnant woman goes to a clinic to undergo some checks; I argue that engagement in PST constitutes a series of relations to the pregnant women, techniques, professionals, foetus and decision making. The 'relation' in this project refers to the social relation and the relation to the techniques and knowledge. Central to my main concerns, there are two issues which I want to discuss in this project. First, how engaging in PST connects women's relations to professionals and the foetus. Secondly, how pregnant women practice their understandings of PST and interact with their social networks and the professionals, for example, when they receive some information from the hospital or a positive result on specific testing. This project believes that the difference both on cultural background and health policy cause Taiwanese pregnant women's experience on engaging PST different from other Western countries.

Shireen Chilcott

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Explaining Occupational Segregation by Gender in the Construction Industry

Women's participation in the labour market has increased markedly over the last three decades (National Statistics online 26/9/2008). However, this has not resulted in an equal distribution of workers across occupations despite, the introduction of sex equality legislation in the mid 1970's (Bagihole 2002). Women remain vastly under-represented amongst many construction occupations such as bricklaying, electrical work and plumbing, although they have made inroads into others such as town planning and architecture (LFS April-June 2007). This paper asks; what are the causes of occupational segregation by gender in construction? In order to address this question, I contrast human capital theory and some of its variants, against all other theories that emphasise forms of discrimination and social closure. Human capital theory is based on the premise that individuals are paid according to their level of education and skill, and that because women typically spend less time in the labour market than men, they have less of an incentive to invest in accumulating human capital. Discriminatory and social closure theories argue that women are treated unfairly in the labour market because of individual and institutional prejudices. Such prejudices result in women's confinement to low-paid, low-skilled, predominantly female occupations, regardless of their skill and education. Drawing on specialised human capital theory, a variant which holds that the gender pay gap is due to traditionally male occupations requiring higher levels of specialised training than traditionally female ones, I explore the possibility that women might be under-represented in certain occupations in construction because of specific problems in accessing and acquiring 'specialised' rather than simply 'higher' levels of education.

**Room 3: Chaired by Gemma Wibberley
Wednesday 13:45-15:15****Emre Tarim**

Sociology
University of Edinburgh

Financial Markets as Storytelling Organizations

In this paper, I offer a novel sociological approach to financial markets by conceptualizing them as storytelling organizations. Financial markets are interaction and exchange based organizations more than anything else. They are enacted in relations of exchange among actors and narratives that surround those relations and exchanges. Because stories are not told in a social vacuum, they also reveal important sociological aspects of settings where they are told such as belief systems, customs, social hierarchies and networks. Stories are thus where financial markets come into flesh. In the first part of the paper, I propose four types of stories with concrete examples from the markets. The first two types of stories are called momentary and technical stories. These are concerned with making sense of events in and out with financial markets and devising an appropriate script for action. The third and fourth types of stories are called internal and grand stories, which present financial markets under different lights. While internal story collects and circulates the experience of being a market actor among a specialized audience, the 'grand story' attempts to enact financial markets as a legitimate social institution per se in the eyes of the general public. In the second part of the paper, I dwell on methodological issues of conceptualising financial markets as storytelling organizations. I present participant observation and document analysis as two major data collection methods. Then, I look at a range of narrative methods that can be utilized to analyze the four types of stories proposed.

Rafi Grosplik

Sociology-Anthropology

Ben-gurion University

From 'staged authenticity' to 'liquid authenticity' - Chinese food in Israel of the Glocalization era

My paper deals with analysis of cultural globalization trends comprising cultural representation of authenticity, exoticism and ethnicity as expressed in Israeli culinary culture, focusing on the case of Chinese food. In the past, eating in a Chinese restaurant was considered as refined and cosmopolitan dining. From the middle of the 90's, changes occurred in the way Chinese food was manufactured and consumed. In the first years Chinese food was produced, stereotype representations of Chinese authenticity were used with methods that can be defined as "staged authenticity". Later, a process of "MacDonaldization of the Chinese food" began when the food was produced according to the neo-liberal market decree: standard production and marketing of a small variety of products based on the familiar and accessible tastes of the Israeli consumer. Beginning with the second half of the 90's, Chinese food began to be marketed in a hybrid form incorporated with other Far East kitchens. In this form, the ethnic identity of Chinese food was compromised. The postmodern era offers a composite of identities which can be associated to Chinese food. This process demonstrates the transfer of pure authentic culinary cultural identity to cultural identities that include ethnicity and authenticity combined with westernization and globalization. Today, Chinese food in Israel is served under the absence of monolithic ethnic identity and points to a dialectic process of de-ethnicism on one hand with re-authenticism on the other hand and a move from "staged authenticity" in the modern era to "liquid authenticity" in the postmodern era.

Jonathan Bean

Architecture

Berkeley

Getting Cozy

I will present work in progress related to my doctoral research on coziness. I will be spending part of the summer in Denmark conducting a study of the concept of hygge -- which is usually translated to English as "coziness" -- as it is constructed in Bo Bedre magazine. This study will complement earlier ethnographic work on hygge in the contemporary Danish home. In the coming year I will extend this research with comparative work on the concept of coziness at home and in popular media in the United States. My work engages with theories and approaches from Science and Technology Studies. I am interested in understanding coziness because an exploration of the concept makes it possible to understand the process through which material artifacts are transformed into the abstract concept of home.

Seminar Room 15: Chaired by Anna Mann

Wednesday 13:45-15:15

Sabine Ootes

Department of General Practice/ Medical Ethics

Academic Medical Center/University of Amsterdam

Giving presents in long term mental health care: re-presenting the relationship between caregiver and client

Clients of mental health care often have weak social networks; in which caregivers hold key positions. To analyse how these clients relate to caregivers, I investigated situations in which clients offer presents to their caregivers. In the literature, three relevant repertoires are described

for analysing the relationship between caregiver and client in this situation. In these repertoires, clients and their presents are represented either as patients with psychiatric symptoms, consumers paying for care, or as contractual parties breaking a contractual agreement. In all these repertoires giving presents is problematic. Ethnographic fieldwork led to the identification of a fourth, undertheorized repertoire for analysing the relationship. In this fourth repertoire the client does not emerge as patient, consumer, or contractual party, but as a personal relation of the caregiver. Subsequently, a present offered can be taken as a gift in the Maussian sense of the word: an appeal to the caregiver to enter a reciprocal, personal relationship. I think that this repertoire provides a valuable alternative to the existing ways of representing the relationship between caregivers and clients and the meaning of the present. Adding theoretical weight to this repertoire might convince policymakers to adopt a new perspective on the relationship between caregivers and clients of long term mental health care and thereby help strengthen the social networks of clients.

Andjelka Mirkov

Department of Sociology

University of Belgrade

The Concept of Community in Urban Sociology

The history of the idea of community in Urban Sociology will be presented. Robert Nisbet considers the concept of community to be one of the five essential unit ideas in Sociology. However, there are different stages in the history of the idea of community. Ferdinand Tonnies introduced the opposition Community - Society. He saw the difference in the type and intensity of interpersonal relations. The community is strong and permanent connection between individuals, that stems from their organic will. Ferdinand Tonnies had significantly influenced the representatives of Chicago school who made strong contribution to the study of local communities in large cities. In this way, the concept of community came in usage in Urban Sociology. In the mass society focus was on the study of city and society as global phenomena, and the scientific interest in local communities within the city has dropped. Lately it is coming to the restoration of this concept. This came primarily from the practical reasons. Knowledge about community is crucial to an effective action and improvement in the quality of life in the city. In the end, it is necessary to point out the ambiguity of the term of community in contemporary society. At first, the community has been considered to be spatially organized. However, the intensification of social contacts in the distance due to the development of mass-media communication, as well as greater spatial mobility of population, have led to the fact that the concept of community is significantly expanded.

Presentations 3 15:45-17:15 Wednesday

Room 1: Chaired by Endre Danyi Wednesday 15:45-17:15

Liv Gish

Management Engineering
Technical University of Denmark

Idea work in product development - a political process?

An increasing focus on companies' ability to innovate has developed over the last decades. Especially the early innovation activities also named 'front-end innovation' are of interest because they are considered as being crucial to the whole innovation process. Focus in this paper will be on the early innovation activities, in particular idea work. Ideas come from a variety of sources such as: Management, Operations, R&D, Sales & Marketing, Customers, Suppliers, Competitors, Universities, Government regulations etc. But how do they emerge and develop? Through an analysis of a case story about the 'A' labelled Alpha Pro circulation pump developed by Grundfos, I will offer an understanding of how ideas get going and gain momentum in an organization. I will suggest that the actors involved in idea work and their interaction such as negotiating different understandings of what constitutes a qualified idea as well as the continuous mobilization of support to their ideas among a range of players should be key elements. Furthermore, I will stress that the work with ideas is an intricate affair involving complex interaction between many different organizational functions, knowledge domains and actors with differing perspectives on design and innovation. My analytical perspectives will include an STS approach and political process theory.

Leon Moosavi

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Coming out of the closet: Muslim converts experiencing the intersections of Islamophobia, Racism and Sexism

In this paper I will discuss some of my findings from my PhD research on the experiences of Muslim converts in Britain. For this research I interviewed 37 Muslim converts from Greater Manchester about various topics including race, whiteness, visibility, belonging, transition, performance, Islamophobia and so on. In this paper I will focus on some of the fascinating discoveries I made regarding the Muslim converts experiences of 'coming out of the closet' so to speak. I will also discuss some of their experiences of Islamophobia which had important intersections with other forms of prejudice, primarily sexism. I hope to provide some valuable insights that establish useful links with studies on other minority groups.

Erkan Ali

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Image, text and narrative: visual sociology and the question of authorship and representation

Drawing on a key theme of my doctoral topic, which explores variations in the relationship between text and image, this paper offers a comparison of two studies in visual sociology. The first of these is Douglas Harper's Good Company (1982 [2006]); the second is A Seventh Man (1975), a collaborative study by John Berger and Jean Mohr. Though relatively old (Harper updated his original text), both of these studies are shown to have relevance to the social world today. In addition, from a sociological point of view, both studies contain and even share some general themes, which correspond not only to well-known concepts (such as Foucault's 'technologies of power' and 'panopticism') but also to photography itself as a sociological practice. Identity is the central theme which is common to both works. And in quite contrasting ways, it is the relationship between text and image in these studies which affects the representation, the identity, of the subject(s) depicted. In fact, the differences between these styles of representation, I argue, are achieved by another linked theme: that of 'distance'. Importantly, distance, in this case, is referred to in a versatile way, and has as much to do with the psychological as with the spatial sense, the former being a particular affect of the camera.

**Room 2: Chaired by Jenn Tomomitsu
Wednesday 15:45-17:15****Anna Boden**

Geography
Lancaster University

Integrating intergenerational relations and geographical gerontology: Shifting the gaze to older generations

Following sociological understandings of generation, social geography has become preoccupied with the concept of intergenerationality and its implications for the more relational experiences of childhood and youth. Intergenerationality is a term recently reconceptualised in human geography, described as a useful mechanism for developing understandings about how generational groups construct their identities either in 'sameness or difference' or 'identifications or disidentifications' with one another. These intergenerational relations are considered increasingly important in contemporary society, where processes of detraditionalisation and individualisation are more pervasive and are resulting in theories of identity crisis. Geographers have begun to examine gaps in this literature, which include a lack of attention to extra-familial relations and how they are enacted spatially. In this paper I suggest that the implications of intergenerational relations for middle to older generations have been ignored despite the fact that old age is culturally variable and influenced by interactions with younger generations. I draw upon my PhD data collected from qualitative interviews from men who are grandfathers to show that extra-familial relations are important to older people and that the field of geographical gerontology can be expanded should the gaze be turned to them.

Ebru Thwaites

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Intellectual Paradigms in Turkey: A Case of Catch-up Academia Through the Lens of Bourdieu

Science is a social praxis. The genealogy of Turkish social sciences can be read as a case of dependent integration. This paper locates the academic community in Turkey within the global organisation of the social scientific community by outlining various aspects of its dependency. In

particular, it examines the hierarchy of disciplines, defined in terms of their utility to nation and state building, the hierarchy of universities defined in terms of their distinctive roles in fostering these disciplines, and the hierarchy among universities based on the countries that provided their respective models of university organisation. The paper draws on the founding concepts of Bourdieu's sociology, the notions of the field, habitus, *illusio* and capital, to characterise dependency. Overall, the paper treats social science as a "discursive mode of state building" and traces the development of Turkish social sciences in a particular set of historical development and state building trajectories.

Lucy Easthope

Division of Medicine
Lancaster University

Is it normal to have nightmares? The Technologies of Recovery and their role after disaster

In the summer of 2007 a south yorkshire community, like many parts of the UK, was severely flooded. Families spent 18 days living in the local leisure centre and over a year in caravans. I have been conducting ethnographic research within the area since August 2007 and was fortunate to gain access to many of the events and places. The presentation will draw on accounts from interviews and field notes and an analysis of images to offer initial findings about the ways in which what I've termed 'technologies of recovery' are interpreted in the field. These technologies would include such items as official guidance, templates and checklists and are supplied by government departments to those acting to 'recover' communities from disasters. Influenced by the work of Erikson, Harada, Goffman, Pink, Mort and Convery, my aim has also been to capture the everyday; the personal items that are missed, and the places that are lost or compacted.

Room 3: Chaired by James Tomasson

Wednesday 15:45-17:15

Nelson Turgo

School of Social Sciences
Cardiff University

Laway lang ang Puhunan (Saliva as Capital): Surviving Capitalism in the Neoliberal Age

While what goes on during fishing might not be different years and years ago save for the introduction of new technologies of fishing, what transpires before and after fishing have been transformed dramatically and this is the crux of this chapter. I am most interested primarily in the core four concepts of *ibala-balanse* (transferring balance from one person to another), *pai-paikot* (revolving capital), *pakinabangan* (profiting from one another) and *pakisuyuan* (mutual helping out) that characterize the dynamics of local capitalism in a fishing village in the Philippines. Underpinned by the meta discourse of *ilaway lamang ang puhunan* ('saliva as capital') I would like to look at how market transactions while adhering to the capitalist mantra of maximum profit and the production of surplus value accommodates kinship relations and different societal affiliations that affect, re-structure and re-frame capitalist transactions. Thus, what is produced in this local capitalist market is a regime of production that puts premium in the desire to amass profit and maintain harmonious social relations which is of course not tenable within a system that is impersonal and profit-oriented. Fish trading then becomes a stage that simultaneously caricatures and upholds the values of capitalism. It produces complex relations of negotiations that is both predatory and empowering. While it could be that at the end of the day, it is still the capitalists which get the bulk of the profit, the lesser groups of fish mongers and fishermen 'survive capitalism' by constructing creative ways of advancing their welfare through schemes and practices that undermine the structured ways of reaping economic rent in a conflicted industry like fishing.

Rong-Xuan Chu

Education

University of Edinburgh

Learners' and Teachers' Views on Error Correction in the Microcosmic Society

There has been a debate on error correction (EC) in classroom learning over the past two decades. Early researches focus on a general argument about whether, which, when, and how errors should be corrected. In recent studies the light is mainly shed on a specific technique of EC, 'Recasts'. Little attention, however, has been paid to the long-overlooked question of who should provide correction. Above all, learners' views are barely concerned in the literature. To bridge the gap, this study explores both Taiwanese learners' and teachers' views about EC in classroom learning. The results of the interviews show a number of discrepancies between learners' expectations and teachers' beliefs. All learners expect to be corrected every error they make. Among a variety of corrective techniques, 'explicit correction' is their favourite. Intriguingly, teachers' beliefs and actual behaviours do not satisfy learners' needs. Teachers claim that albeit they often correct students, it is impossible to have every single error remedied. Instead of 'explicit correction', 'repetition' technique is most widely and frequently used. Most surprisingly, the results are in contradiction to recommendations from some researchers. These findings clarify some EC assumptions which are mostly based on theoretical inferences. The findings also help us to arrive at a better understanding of learners' and teachers' opinions on classroom learning. By indicating the differences amongst literature, teachers' beliefs and learners' views, hopefully this study can be regarded as a valuable addition to the existing literature. I purpose that future studies can be directed towards the interaction between micro-and macro-societies. That is, how educational policies affect teaching and learning behaviours.

Jen Southern

Department of Sociology

Lancaster University

Lines of flight: Place-making in motion

In this paper I will use arguments from the sociology of mobility to reflect on the relationships between movement and locative media, using the flight of balloons, kites and light aircraft to explore embodied aerial perspectives. Methods of flight become metaphors for the mediated experience offered by panoptican and panoramic devices, when GPS and sat nav allow us to think in both plan view and as embodied traveler. Echoing the experience of the balloonist, the kiter and the aviator, the GPS device creates different readings of landscape, investments in gravity and knowledge of the texture and hardness of the ground. Using Ingold (2000) to discuss place making through movement I will go beyond de Certeau's enunciated city to argue that it is the static nature of the tall building, rather than its distance from the ground, that produces a reading of disembodied distance. Saint Exupery (1939) describes flying a mail plane over the Sahara, with an experiential reading of landscape and maps for emergency landings. From a balloon there is always a constant reading of the real terrain below, and an imagining of the friction of landing. Contrary to expectations, the balloon ride is not a disembodied experience, it rather provides a rupture in our usual experience of gravity, allowing space for a reflection on both the view from above and the friction of the ground. With reference to Thrift (2004) and Hutchins (1995) I will argue that location aware technologies provide us with similar opportunities for reflection and engagement with embodied practice, in which movement and flow contribute to our construction of a sense of place.

Seminar Room 15: Chaired by Lia Kinane
Wednesday 15:45-17:15

Riikka Homanen

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Maternity health care in transition. Institutional ethnography on Finnish changing care practices

The Finnish maternity and child health care (MCH) system is undergoing a vast organizational change that stems from challenging prevailing policy guide-lines. It has been recommended that instead of focusing on medical screening and children already born, care work should direct attention to the psycho-social environment of the child(-to-be), in this case the social unit of 'the family', to prevent future problems. Various interventions have been developed in an effort to bring about change in the existing practices of MCH. This paper examines the various ways in which the idea of a family-oriented care is realized in the practices of MCH by focusing on one specific intervention. The purpose is to explore, from the viewpoint of the clients' agency, the implementation of the family-oriented MCH clinic in one large city in Finland. In the model in question the changes that the MCH system has been subjected to include: the integration of the so-far separate clinics of maternity and child health care, and new working methods focusing on psycho-social support. The methodological orientation of the study is institutional ethnography, and the primary data analyzed are video tapes and observations from MCH clinics. Analysis shows that care work in general is organized in terms of temporality, practicality and taking into account the differences amongst clients. This further suggests that the implementation of new working methods is equally as complex in practice. These kind of multiple 'logics' produce multiple 'clients', who are granted different kinds of agency in accordance with a given situation.

Ozlem Tastan

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The transformation of social policy around the discourses of 'poverty alleviation' and 'social inclusion': Turkish case

Inclusive Social Policies': Hegemonic Attempts and New Governmentalities as the Welfare Regime in Turkey Transforms During the last decade, social policy has escalated in the policy agenda of Turkey, as capturing attention to a degree that have not been witnessed before, and being articulated in the context of a new discourse. This has also meant a transformation process for the social policy through a series of reforms. In this presentation, I will critically examine the current rise and transformation process of social policy in Turkey through a two-folded process: On the one hand, I will focus on its new discourse, which is a particular articulation of the notions like social inclusion, social solidarity, active state policy as well as an articulation of communitarian values and market oriented individualist agency. Deconstructing through critical discourse analysis, I will look at the 'state-society' imaginary and 'subject positions' that are constructed by this discourse. In the second part, the other fold of the examination will be brought fore: I will reflect on the implications of this imaginary in terms of its relations with the broader reform context that it is a part of, that is, the second generation reform wave on the state and the labour market, which goes on since 1999 with the aim of regulating/consolidating the transformation to neoliberal market society in Turkey. Drawing on the Gramscian hegemony theory as well as rethinking the 'governmentality' concept in the post-fordist social context, I will discuss the implications of this 'state-society' imaginary and subject positions with regard to the concerns for social and political management of poverty in the contemporary consolidated market economy in Turkey, through hegemonic projects and mechanisms of consent, normalization and coercion. The governance model of political regulation will constitute the particular axis around which this critical evaluation will be undertaken.

Joris Schapendonk

Human Geography

Radboud University Nijmegen

'My mobile is my address': Analyzing sub-Saharan African migration towards Europe with an interconnected mobilities lens

Unsurprisingly, the bulk of mobilities studies has focused on Western contexts of transit lounges, business centers and airplane flights. Altogether, in these fast lanes of the world, mobilities play prominent roles; we fly, email, and talk at the very same time. However, this study criticizes this elite-like focus by arguing that in an African context, mobilities are as vital for social life as they are for Western businessmen. If mobilities studies aim to go beyond sedentarist metaphysics it should rather start from an African perspective than simply omitting the dynamics of this continent.

To illustrate this, the migration process of sub-Saharan African migrants heading for Europe is investigated. Hereby migrant's corporeal mobility is interlinked with other forms of mobility (communication, mobility of third persons etc.). The analysis is based on interviews with so-called 'transit migrants' near the European border and recently arrived migrants in Europe. Moreover, some respondents are 'followed' over time by the means of 'polymorphous engagements' (telephone interviews and messenger chats).

The study shows that communication means help migrants to (re-)act flexibly on changing situations. Moreover, it outlines that not only migrant's routes are non-linear, so are the processes behind these routes; every movement or connection influences the possibilities of further movements and connections (Mol and Law 2002). This underlines that migration cannot simply be understood as a smooth transition from a 'home-country' to a certain destination; aspirations may change 'en route'. Moreover, it argues against the finiteness of migration; for many migrants their final destination changes into nothing more than another place of departure.

Day Two

Thursday 2nd July

Presentations 4 09:30-10:30

Thursday

Room 1:Chaired by Julien McHardy

Thursday 09:30-10:30

Carissa Hoareau

Department of Politics

University of Exeter

My robotic friends, can I interest you in a bit of culture? Sure, as long as it's meaningless.

In this paper I am going to outline two notions of culture that fit with the possibilities of robots. One is memetics which argues culture is copied and selected through imitation for no other reason than to copy itself. The other is a semiotic approach which is interested more in symbolic action. First I am going to suggest that within artificial life there are sufficient conditions which allow one to analyse forms of culture taking either a memetic approach or a semiotic approach. Second I am going to show why it is that these approaches fit with the possibilities of robots. I shall do this using an example from the Bristol Robotics Laboratory which looks at the emergence of artificial culture. Third I shall suggest that looking at culture in the nonhuman can call into question the validity of the category of culture as a human property. At the same time, however, if it is taken first and foremost to be a human property and then lifted out to be tested on other creatures it also has the possibility of essentialising the notion of culture a priori, thereby neglecting to see the process of cultural formation. In conclusion it will be shown how culture works as one of the most powerful yet plastic concepts used to differentiate between the human and the nonhuman.

Anna Borisenkova

Centre for Fundamental Sociology

State University - Higher School of Economics

Narrative Foundations of Social Science

The aim of the paper is to focus on the discursive and textual peculiarities of sociology, on the way the language and its rules structure the meaningful entities of a scientific knowledge. According to this approach (shared by social scientists and philosophers of different schools as J. Alexander and I. Reed, M. Foucault, H. White and others) scientific knowledge is presented as a language manifestation, taking the form of texts, performances and enunciations. The language theory of science is fruitful, and plenty of concepts aimed at analyzing knowledge could be developed. However in the paper I propose a broad explanatory scheme for social science that is narrative in its foundations. In the base of this approach lies the assumption that sociological theory can be reduced to a plot of a story building. The narrative model focuses on such inner characteristics of knowledge as meaning, coherence and causality. The conceptualization of narrative is developed via theoretical tools: 'meaningful configuration'; 'emplotment' (P. Ricoeur); 'narrative sentences' (A. Danto); 'narrative explanation' (R. Aron). A particular attention will be paid to the processes of sociological explanations of social events and actions which make the application of narrative obvious. Thus providing a relevant conceptual scheme and empirical examples the paper will point out a possible philosophical approach towards social science.

Room 2:Chaired by Alison Hui

Thursday 09:30-10:30

Marjorie Filliastre

Sociology - CERLIS

Paris Descartes - La Sorbonne

On which conditions adolescence and energy saving go together ?

Today, energy savings are required by several international policies, which wonder how could they aim to raise public awareness on their energy-consumption. As teenagers represent future customers and citizens, they are also embedded in a society of goods, while at the same time they are targeted by messages in favour of a more sustainable society. How do they deal with this situation? This study is based on a qualitative research made in France, gathering 20 teenagers aged from 15 to 20, either in high-school, and all living with their parents. Interviews and observations were conducted both in the family home and outside. In addition, pictures were taken to see their environment. Thereby, the analysis of their practises and representations gave us the tools to understand the importance the energy flow has in their lives. Taking into account that teenagers are using energy all the day through out their material culture (mobile phone, Ipod, laptop), our study is based on three main questionings. Which functions has energy in their everyday habits? How does their pursuit of comfort impact their energy practises? To what extent are they ready to change their own lifestyle to have a more responsible consumption?

Silvia Toccoli

Sociology

University of Trento

Open access and the situated field of physics

This work aims to analyze Internet-related technologies, in particular Web-based ones, connected with the Open Access movement. Over the years those technologies have been conceptualized from different points of view, according to the different role that technology assumes, especially in the everyday work of scientists. The Web was developed to make it simpler for academics, particularly High Energy Physicists (HEPs), to share experimental data and sources of information: the technical structure of first-generation websites was deeply entangled with the communication practices of physics. Nevertheless, once the Web entered into use by a variety of actors, the Web, drifted from the Berners-Lee and Calliau first intention, becoming a way to increase cooperation among people with different interests and situations. My point is to go back to the use of the Internet by HEPs and evaluate the relation between universalistic claims about technology and its situated use (Avgerou, Madon, 2004). The increasing use of the Internet and the Web since the mid-'90s has brought about the emergence of a purely scientific and academic set of political claims in scientific communication, known as 'Open Access' (OA). Put simply, its advocates consider the Web as affording a substantial number of social and technical characteristics that can help scientists to behave in a more productive way, referring to a concept of science similar to the one introduced by Robert K. Merton (1952) in his first sociological study of science. Supporters of OA initiatives argue that the role of traditional academic journals, with their high costs and well-defined centers of power, should change, because the Web affords a new form of scientific communism, making available for free all published material to everyone who has an Internet connection. The claims by the OA advocates refer to a universalistic approach to Web technologies, discarding the situated institutional system that relates to the pattern of technological adoption. In this study, I try to understand the situated practices that have brought scientists to endorse the Open Access way of publication by coming back to the origins of the Web, i.e. HEPs. Data collected in this study does not confirm the universalistic and general claims by OA advocates, for example in the Budapest Open Access Initiative, but instead reveal scientists doing their work, concerned about rapidity of communication and sharing the costs of expensive machines. In conclusion, the situated analysis of the innovation in the use of

technology, like the Web in its original place, High Energy Physics, has shown how universalistic claims have to be evaluated empirically to take into account the institutional field that surrounds the adoption of technologies.

Room 3:Chaired by Erkan Ali
Thursday 09:30-10:30

Anita Bacigalupo

Sociology

University Milano-Bicocca

Passing Passengers. Theoretical Interpretations of Driving Licence

Despite the symbolic importance of automobile in everyday life, the process through which people become drivers is almost a neglected topic. This presentation will use two different theoretical contributions to comprehend the transition from passenger to driver. The first branch of study, focused on individual experience, refers to Van Gennep's concept of rite of passage. In this perspective, driving license is considered as a ritual in which involved people change their status. The second approach belongs to Foucauldian interpretation of the connection between knowledge, events and objects. The focal point here is the discursive mechanisms which regulate driving licence. The latter is seen as a dispositif of policing and disciplining the driving practices. The presentation will be based on empirical data, e.g. interviews and participant observations, gathered among pupils and instructors in four driving schools in the city of Milan. Learners' narratives will be employed to investigate if the usage of the ritual as analytical category is significant in this area of study. Accounts from instructors and field notes, both collected during driving lessons, will be used to better understand the apparatus which constitutes the process of driver's social construction.

Kusminder Chahal

Sociology

The Open University

Racist 'hate' crimes: How useful is 'hate'?

In recent years there has been much talk about 'hate' crimes against, for example, minority ethnic, disabled, gay and lesbian individuals and communities. The local state apparatus employs 'hate crime co-ordinators' and 'hate crime caseworkers' to monitor 'hate', support clients and work with other local agencies to prevent 'hate'. This paper will question how useful is this term ('hate') for describing racist events in local neighbourhoods and for offering a transformative process through which differences can be positively valued. How do 'victims' of 'hate' talk about racist events and what lessons can be learned from these narratives to understand the capacity of 'hate' to speak to their experience.

Seminar Room 15: Chaired by Jen Southern
Thursday 09:30-10:30

Jenn Tomomitsu

Department of Sociology

Lancaster University

Re-constructing Nano Imagery: Exploring Embodied Representational Practice and the Art-Science Collaboration

Recent scholarship in science and technology studies (STS) has demonstrated the inseparability of subject/object in practices of representation, as well as the ways in which bodily enactment participates in the localized production and understanding of digital objects in scientific imaging. While it would seem that digital data lacks material tactility, various STS studies show how

visibility is produced in and through such acts as gesture or corporeal involvement with the computer screen, further contributing to debates about the shifting dynamics of agency. This paper builds upon this theoretical terrain by exploring the relationship between the material and the visual within practices of visualization at the nano scale. Drawing from ethnographic field work at the Lancaster Environment Centre in 2008, the paper will outline a case study involving a collaborative nano imaging project between a scientist and a visual artist. Through an analysis of how digital microscopic scans of plant pollen and spores are translated into an artistic form, the focus will be on how methods for understanding and communicating invisible data is managed through practices of bodily engagement.

Sam Friedman

Sociology

University of Edinburgh

Rehabilitating Discredited Culture: The Endurance of Distinction in British Comedy

At the Edinburgh Festivals, which together constitute the largest arts festival in the world, the Bourdieusian homology between class and cultural taste has been particularly enduring. Traditionally showcasing only the 'high' performing arts, Festival attendance has been synonymous with the upper and middle classes. However, in recent years, this arena of distinction has been disrupted. Although audiences remain predominantly drawn from the cultural elite, there has been a significant rise in the production of 'low-brow' comedy. Following other trends in elite consumption of popular culture, the leading sociological explanation for this phenomenon is the 'cultural omnivore thesis'. This theory posits that symbolic hierarchies underpinning cultural consumption have largely collapsed and dominant groups now have expansive cultural portfolios which incorporate both high and low culture. This paper is based on preliminary research that seeks to critique the 'cultural omnivore thesis', arguing that its quantitative bias fails to examine both the specific practice of elite culture consumers and how popular arts such as comedy may have changed over time. Traditionally denigrated in the 'academy', British comedy has undergone a significant transformation since the 1980s 'alternative comedy' movement. New 'high art' genres of critical, intellectual and surrealist comedy now dominate the Festivals and have subsequently been appropriated and consecrated by dominant groups. Such elite consumers of comedy are also rarefying their consumption by transposing their distinctly 'disinterested' aesthetic style to consume comedy in a manner inaccessible to those with less cultural capital. By examining the contemporary rise of comedy, this paper therefore suggests that an updated version of Bourdieus distinction may still be relevant.

Presentations 5 11:00-12:30 Thursday

Room 1: Chaired by Jen Southern Thursday 11:00-12:30

Kichan Lee

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

Remembrance of state violence: Memories, Representation and Dark Tourism in South Korea

Since 1993, a civilian government's coming into power after the collapse of military regimes in South Korea, there has been a tsunami of its dark past: military sexual slavery by Japan; the Korean elite's collaboration with the Japanese occupiers; civilian massacres during Korean War; the military regimes' violence against ordinary people as well as democratic activists and so on. Even though there had been lots of testimonies, petitions and literary representations before regime change, the reckoning with its troubled past has become a political agenda after the second civilian regime had established in 1998: several special laws were established and independent commissions were brought into action. The May 18 Uprising, which is also called the Gwangju Democratisation Movement, is one of the most tragic incidents. Rising up against the second coup d'etat citizens of Gwangju took control of the city and tried to build a commune from May 18 to May 27 1980. Troops quelled the Citizens Militia and over 200 were killed. It gave a motivation to the democratic movements in the 1980s and has been memorialised; represented in various ways until now. How is the Uprising remembered, represented and received? This paper attempts to answer this question by exploring the National Cemetery for the Uprising and its narrations and artistic representations; observing the interactions between the 'Park' Cemetery and the 'tourists'; the guides of the memorial and the visitors; interviewing and analysing online and off-line guestbook.

Chih-Tung Huang

Science Studies Unit
University of Edinburgh

Scientific understanding of justice?: The rhetorical boundaries in the research of environmental justice

This essay applies Gieryn's two concepts of boundary-work, 'expansion' and 'exclusion', to observing 'Environmental Justice' (EJ) scientific research. Analysis of the application of boundary-work in the field of EJ science shows that similar phenomena noted in Gieryn's case studies can be found in these three EJ waves. Broadly, three consecutive waves can be identified in the history of EJ according to their similarities in terms of scales of analysis, statistical methodologies, and most importantly their common focus. The first wave focused on the fact of exposure, and has been successful in helping the movement to gain political momentum and support. However, before long the second wave of research began to challenge the authority of the first in order to legitimate its own claims and to monopolize available resources. By not only criticizing the evidential credibility of previous research but also requiring a radical methodological shift from the fact of exposure to the causality of exposure, this new second wave has established a boundary between itself and former research. The third wave came along in about the year 2000 with the institutionalization of EJ, when William Bowen advocated a budding decision-making approach. The boundaries demarcated by Bowen in this third wave are especially clear.

He used labels such as 'poor quality, and 'armature' to discredit the legitimacy of previous research. He was also successful in excluding theoretical researchers from the science of EJ. Even though science may not be a 'reliable friend' anymore, we suggest that EJ movement still need science to provide a scientifically or 'really' necessary way to foster equal distribution of environmental quality.

Marisol Sandoval

ICT&S Center

University of Salzburg

Social Theory-Foundations for a Critical Inquiry of Contemporary Media

This paper discusses the importance of Marxism for the analysis and critique of contemporary society, which is characterized by an increasing importance of new technologies, media, and information. The following questions are posed: "What characterizes Karl Marx's method of critique?" How can Marx's method of critique be applied to the critique of media and information in contemporary capitalism? I argue that dialectic is a central element of Marx's method of critique. The following three dimensions of dialectical analysis and critique are identified: a) The dialectic of immanence and transcendence b) The dialectic of theory and practice c) The dialectic of the critique of theory and the critique of society In this paper, Marx's dialectical method of critique is applied to the critique of media and information in contemporary capitalism. This requires to: a) Analyse the immanent contradictions of the capitalist media system and to come up with alternative visions that transcend the negativity of the existing repressive media reality. b) Connect the theoretical critique of capitalist media and information industries to struggles for the realization of an alternative media system within an alternative societal framework. c) Criticize the dominant political economic theories of media and information as well as the corporate practice by which these concepts become material reality. The overall goal of the paper is to show how various dimension of Marxian critique can be methodologically applied and actualized for criticizing contemporary media and informational capitalism.

Room 2: Chaired by James Tomasson

Thursday 11:00-12:30

Shafiuddin Mohammed

Business Studies

Nizwa College of Technology

Sociology and its impact on society

What is Sociology? Sociology is defined as the scientific study of society and human behaviour. Sociology is a part of social sciences. The study of sociology aims at analyzing the patterns of human behaviour, deriving their causes and speculating the future of the behavioural patterns in society. Sociology is a branch of the social sciences that uses systematic methods of empirical investigation and critical analysis to develop and refine a body of knowledge about human social structure and activity, sometimes with the goal of applying such knowledge to the pursuit of social welfare. Sociology is a broad discipline in terms of both methodology and subject matter. Its traditional focuses have included social relations, social stratification, Importance of Sociology Sociology is regarded as a branch of social sciences. It deals with the analysis of social behaviour that shapes society and thus, is a field that covers a very broad knowledge base. Sociology tries to determine the laws governing human behaviour in social contexts; it is sometimes distinguished as a general social science from the special social sciences, such as economics and political science, which confine them to a selected group of social facts or relations. Society is not independent from the sociology since it is a part of the sociology. So Sociology plays a vital role in the development of society. Every change in the society directly depends on the sociological values and how they are accepted by that society.

Karen Boll

Department of Organization
Copenhagen Business School

Tax compliance behavior; durability, invisibility and distributed action in the Danish tax authority.

The Danish tax authority collects taxes from over 600,000 businesses every year. The tax authority knows whether these businesses are either good or less good at fulfilling the requirements from the tax authority. However, what the tax authority has less knowledge about is how the businesses' tax compliant behavior is created in the individual businesses. With a point of departure in this problem I have interviewed a number of bookkeepers, business owners and auditors to get insights into the construction of tax compliance behavior. From the interviews it appears that the tax authority is a durable strong actor which influences the tax compliance behavior of the businesses. But at the same time the tax authority is perceived as an invisible actor by the bookkeepers and business owners. What also appears interesting is the way the tax authority distributes action and hereby tries to influence the businesses' tax compliance behavior. The paper will discuss the concepts of durability, invisibility and distributed action presented among others by Bruno Latour. How can these concepts help to understand tax compliance behavior and how might my empirical findings challenge the concepts. Former studies of tax compliance behavior have taken their outset in either theories about economic rational agents or in cognitive approaches, where values, moral, ethics etc., have been seen as central drivers for compliance. In contrast, the approach suggested in the paper focuses on understanding tax compliance behavior as an effect of the arrangements of different actors. The paper will explore how such an approach can help us to understand how tax compliant behavior is enacted in the businesses' daily administrative practices.

**Room 3: Chaired by Shireen Chilcott
Thursday 11:00-12:30****Beth Washburn**

Sociology
York University - Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Technology, Domesticity, and the Spread of Convenience Foods

Food, culture, politics, and technology intersect dramatically in the post World War II North American adoption of processed foods. This paper explores the ways that gendered advertising, the second wave feminist movement, and the capitalist ideologies of efficiency and convenience are interrelated and implicated in the cultural acceptance of processed foods. In particular I query the historical coincidence of the emergence of technologically altered foodstuff alongside the second wave feminist movement's disdain for domestic labour.

My perspective on technology follows that of Ursula Franklin by thinking about technology as both a mindset and a practice that is intrinsically linked to capital and relations of power. Technology thus conceived is inseparable from culture and socially accepted values and behaviours. My analysis of convenience draws substantially on the work of Elizabeth Shove who compels readers to understand the 'sociotechnical transformation of collective conventions' (Shove, 2003:4). I argue that we must address the gendering and associated devaluing of food labour, as well as the cultural imperatives of efficiency and convenience, in order to make sense of the dominant contemporary North American food culture.

The contemporary food landscape is littered with the ubiquity of processed foods: environmental degradation, outrageous carbon emissions, and overflowing landfills. The need to question the place of food within contemporary social, cultural, and political landscapes speaks to the dominant alienated relationship between field and plate. This relationship is a complicated recipe of the gendering of food labour, temporal constraints, and a capitalist ethic of efficiency.

Endre Danyi

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The body of the politician

The term 'body politic' as used by Thomas Hobbes in the 17th century refers both to the collective that becomes one entity through political representation, and to the representative who stands for that collective. In political theory, however, the term is mostly used in the former sense, while the latter is often neglected. The representative as a corporeal entity may be the subject of anecdotes and biographies, but is hardly ever present in academic debates on governance, democratisation, or public participation. We know that Napoleon was an insomniac, Franz Joseph had a strict and boring diet, and J.F. Kennedy suffered from several chronic diseases, but what this has to do with the way politics as a practice is imagined remains rather unclear. This paper aims to contribute to ongoing discussions about materiality and politics by focusing on the body of the politician. Based on ethnographic research conducted in the Hungarian Parliament in April and May 2008, it examines different conceptualisations of 'good representation', and the ways in which they are shaped by the physical characteristics of the human body.

Yi-Ping Cheng

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The domestic consumption in Taiwan

This article focuses on how we interact with the material world in everyday practices at home. I also try to connect social structures and social actors, in order to picture the forest and the trees. In this research scheme, I attempt to locate home and the material world as social and structural existence. In addition, I will try to describe how the individual acts between these two systems. We might be able to picture that the analysis framework of my thesis dialectic through social structure and social actions. Then, walking through this framework, we could generalise into several key concepts which are domestic area, material culture and the practice of everyday life which was related to consumption and appropriation. This article certainly tries to draw the tendency of domestic industry in Taiwan; also to interpret social actors interact with material world. Article states research logic in this manner, firstly, research background, namely presents the social and economical background in Taiwan; secondly, housing condition which specifically focuses on housing condition indicators in Taiwan; thirdly, company analysis-- household industry, namely briefly introduce domestic industry condition in Taiwan; fourthly, literature review which connects with previous theories and concerns, and then finally, research design which the part to describe how researcher design to practice this research.

Seminar Room 15: Chaired by Nicola Spurling

Thursday 11:00-12:30

Gail Crowther

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The Haunting Double & Sylvia Plath: A Re-visioning of Otto Rank

'You are not I - but I am You' (Rank 1971:15) Doppelgangers feature in folklore, anthropology and literature; uncanny doubles that seemingly act as contradictory forces for the ego offering simultaneously both immortality and death. Otto Rank studies the double from a psychoanalytic viewpoint arguing that the double can take two forms ñ a physical likeness or an ego-likeness. Either way, he claims, the double represents our thanaphobic fears. This paper aims to explore how certain readers of Sylvia Plath appear to draw on this notion of the double. From readers who claim to look like Plath (or actually are Plath) through to readers who claim Plath is their ego double, that she is able to speak their own thoughts. Tracing the history of the double from shadowy mirror-images, water reflections and menacing, tormenting spirits, through superstitions

and folkloric tales we will explore the underlying features of these doppelgangers and furthermore why some readers of Sylvia Plath engage themselves in this doubling.

Julien McHardy

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The making of users

Who is this creature ñ the user. Through which tales and doings are users made and kept alive. This article follows the traces of users through articles by Redström (Design studies), Frank & Shah (Innovation studies) and Pantzer (Consumer studies) to investigate in what kind of world users live, how dynamic they behave and how they are constituted. There are different kinds of users actual, imagined and potential users, fixed in time or dynamically evolving that are commonly confused. This confusion however might not only be due to theoretical inconsistency but reveal the very role of users in design to establish and hold still the subject of design. Users are then devices that translate difference into manageable singularities. Users, like any Other, lie partly in the eye of the beholder. Michael Callon's work on how researchers make their subject helps to shade light on how designers constitute their users establishing themselves as 'obligatory passage points' in the process. Users then are nowhere straightforward representations but highly political devices. A possible way out is to shift the focus from users to the fields where they are constituted. Redstroem most outspokenly expresses a frustration within design about the limitations of users. He suggest to focus on use instead. Redstroem like much of the design debate however opposes users with 'real people' and 'real needs' failing to see that any Other is dynamically constituted. In conclusion this paper suggest that a focus on practices and their material components could provide a way of representing use and users as dynamically co-evolving processes.

Tom Roberts

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The Narrative Nature Of Scenarios

A presentation which looks at the narrative nature of scenarios and futures methodologies. In unearthing the origins of scenarios and futures research more generally, I aim to expose the embedded partiality that exists in futures research methods, and demonstrate how they can reify existing decisionmaking power relations determining participant selection, involvement and expertise. I conclude by suggesting a hybridized methodology which goes someway to redressing the partialities of futures research methodologies and takes a more open approach to research participation, participatory engagement and expertise.

Presentations 6 13:45 – 15:15 Thursday

Room 1: Chaired by Peter Denenberg Thursday 13:45-15:15

Dimitri Mader

Philosophy
Humboldt University of Berlin

The normative implications of Margaret S. Archer's concept of agency

In my paper, I explore how Margaret S. Archer's concept of agency can be effectively applied to analyse and criticise domination in modern societies. In doing so, a special emphasis will be paid to forms of structural constraint. Firstly, the normative implications of Archer's approach have to be examined on a conceptual level. Are her concepts value-free analytical categories or do they imply normative presumptions? Furthermore, how could her concept of agency be used as an analytical frame for empirical studies on lay normativity? Finally, what - on the grounds of Archer's theory - can be said about the conditions of the possibility of emancipation? In order to answer this questions, I will elaborate on the relationship between Archer's concept of agency and the 'ability to act' (Handlungsfhigkeit), as developed by the German branch of critical psychology (Holzkamp). It will be demonstrated that the two approaches have a lot in common, but can also benefit from each other.

Saara Kupsala

Department of Sociology
Lancaster University

The politicisation of food consumption: exploring the meanings of farm animal welfare in everyday consumption practices among Finnish organic consumers

In recent years, farm animal welfare issues have become increasingly contested and politicised. Farm animal welfare concerns have been an important part of the wider phenomenon of ethical consumption and the development of a diversity of alternative food networks, such as organic farming and local food schemes. However, despite this heightened public interest in animal welfare, livestock production issues have tended to receive only a minor attention in the studies on ethical consumption. Consequently, our understanding of the meanings of animal welfare in consumption politics is still rather minor. In this paper, I am exploring which kinds of meanings consumers attribute to farm animal welfare and alternative consumption, based on an interview study with organic consumers in Finland. I will discuss about the relationship between other-regarding and self-regarding concerns in consumers' reasons to buy organic products. In particular, I am interested in how the consumers' experiences of animal farming, their conceptions of animals and their perceptions of livestock production has lead to feelings of moral responsibility when doing their consumption choices.

Room 2: Chaired by Gail Crowther Thursday 13:45-15:15

Basak Tanulku

Department of Sociology

Lancaster University

'Which one is the best?' An exploration of social relations in two gated communities in Istanbul.

This presentation is based on my PhD research in which I analyse two gated communities built by the same developer company in different locations of suburban Istanbul. Gated communities have generally been compared with nearby towns which are considered to be lower in terms of socio-economic status. Instead, I look at how residents differentiate themselves with the residents of other gated communities which are seen as rivals. Based on the interviews with residents in two gated communities, I show that socio-economic difference is the most important factor which shapes the perception of other gated communities. I argue that residents compare themselves with gated communities considered to be higher in terms of socio-economic status by using their higher morality, sociality and humane relations. Morality is shown in terms of the source of the wealth and the likelihood to earn with labour rather than illegal ways or inheritance. Social relations are shown in terms of neighbourly attitude in contrast to the gated community considered as 'higher' which has cold or inhumane relations. The moral way of earning money and the higher level of social and humane relations lead residents to accept their lower economic conditions. They also minimize their distance between higher gated communities. At the end of the paper, I contribute to Lamont's 'symbolic boundaries' (1992) by showing that morality is associated to class relations.

Ditte-Marie From

ENSPAC (Environmental and Spatial Change)

Roskilde University (RUC)

What are you telling me, child? You're happy AND you're fat?!

Overweight and obesity is a growing tendency in Denmark too. The prevailing political conclusion on the matter is: Expansion on the waistline equals expansion on the state budget due to low labour capacity and high costs on social services and health care. Where the food industry finds profit potential in the population's love for (good) food, the State fears chaos and a need to act before the so-called obesity epidemic becomes uncontrollable. Prevention must begin, and children seem reasonable to influence at an early stage. Governmental health priorities are reproduced in local council family programmes where children and their parents are offered a chance to gain inspiration and knowledge about a healthier lifestyle and are provided tools to re-establish a better health attitude. When scrutinizing children's health attitudes, knowledge and behaviour (which I have done my conducting photo-elicited interviews with around 25 children), it becomes clear that a variety of mechanisms in children's everyday life and social environment determine and characterize their self perception of a happy and healthy life. These mechanisms constitute a health understanding that is characterized by a somewhat larger complexity and not least they divert from the professionals' health beliefs. This paper presents some of the main discussions of my Ph.D.-project on childhood and health understandings by asking the overall question: Does family orientated health promoting programmes help bend the obesity curve, and according to who's understanding of health is it possible to become healthier and live a good life by participating in state financed courses?

A.Thushel Jayaweera

Sociology

University of Bristol

Working conditions , work stress and job performance: Experience of hotel workers

The amount of research on issues related to work performance of hotel workers is limited. This qualitative study explored the impact of working conditions and work stress on job performance. The paper presents data based on a total number of 24 in-depth interviews conducted with hotel employees in a selection of luxury hotels and ten month period of participant observation in a luxury hotel in England. The strongest link between working conditions, work stress and job performance are firmly established. Findings provide evidence that performance of workers are

negatively influenced by the working conditions such as poor organization and the physical environment, long hours of work, low pay, night shifts and excessive work load. In contrast, working conditions such as good relationship with colleagues and managers, feedback received from their supervisors and career development opportunities available in the hotel positively influenced job performance of hotel workers. Although certain level of stress enhanced job performance, excessive stress obviously caused performance related problems in their daily work for hotel workers. Stress related issues mainly reported to arise from having to deal with emotional aspects of the job role, work overload, fatigue and sleep disturbances caused due to long working hours and night shifts. This study further identified turnover intention which is a performance related outcome caused due to unsatisfactory working conditions was high among most of the male workers who worked at kitchens. Implications of the empirical results and suggestions for further research are discussed. Keywords: hotel workers, job performance, luxury hotels, working conditions, work stress.