



# ESSEX SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021–2022



Celebrating achievements of our research students, academic staff, and alumni!

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 28 April 2022 Annual Fuller Lecture: Professor Nasar Meer, University of Edinburgh: <u>Crisis Ordinariness and Racial Justice</u>
- 4 May 2022 Criminology Away Half Day
- 10 May 2022 Research Away Day
- 11 May 2022 <u>Sociological Perspectives on the War in Ukraine</u>
- 17 June 2022 Professor Nigel South's Retirement Conference

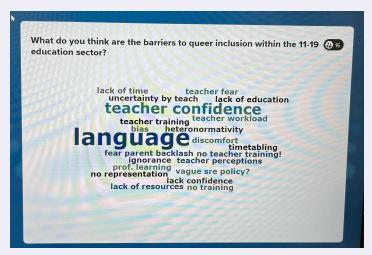
# **OUR RESEARCH STUDENTS**



# Ej-Francis Caris-Hamer

Work that I have been doing this term include:

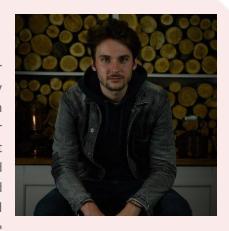
• Presented my research at BERA (British Educational Research Association) conference: Gender & Sexuality in Educational Settings: An event for PGRs and ECRs. Amazing what you can include in only 10 mins and an interactive element as well. Here are the results of the word-cloud I asked the audience to be involved in.



 Dr Laurie James-Hawkins, Dr Helen Rand, Dr Veronica Lamarche, Natasha Richards and I successfully won a grant with YUFE (in partnership with Essex University) for a research project evaluating effective sexual consent training.

#### Robin Brooker

I was fortunate to swap part of the cold British winter for the warmer climates of the San Francisco Bay area. During the months of January through late-March, Prof of Medicine and of Epidemiology and Population Health, John Ioannidis, hosted me at the Meta-Research Innovation Center at Stanford University (METRICS). The visit, supported by the South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS), was an energising, educational and unquestionably fruitful experience. I learned a lot about my field (prompting a realisation that I know next-to-nothing about my field) and networked with scholars undertaking pioneering and leading work in the



areas of research integrity, peer review, statistical methodology, and reproducibility/open science.

As well as sharing my PhD research with world-leading experts in the field of metascience and receiving useful feedback, I started working on several research collaborations, including a metanalytical study of investigations of the impact of journal editorial board gender equity on journal performance, a descriptive piece exploring the statistical content of Canadian psychology undergraduate degree programmes, a systematic appraisal of the reporting quality of umbrella reviews, and a large-scale algorithmic evaluation of the prevalence of transparency and reproducibility indicators across the social sciences literature. As part of these collaborations, I am working with researchers at METRICS, the University of Amsterdam, METRIC-B at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Karolinska Institutet and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. I additionally joined the Political Psychology Research Group (PPRG) at Stanford University for their fascinating weekly workshops, and I am collaborating on a project with my supervisor, Prof Nick Allum, and Prof Jon Krosnick of the PPRG, investigating the prevalence of questionable research practices in the disciplines of Sociology and Chemistry. I hope to have some pre-prints to share later this year.

In addition to this, I have started a research assistant role on a collaborative project between ISER and Essex County Council, which will involve the development of an employability checklist.

# **OUR ACADEMIC STAFF**

#### Professor Linsey McGoey

I have published two journal articles recently. McGoey, L. (2021) 'Philanthrocapitalism and the Separation of Powers.' Annual Review of Law and Social Sciences 17 (1): 391-409, and McGoey, L. (2021) 'Hiding the Rentier Elephant in Plain Sight: The Epistemology of Vanishing Rent' Sociologica, 15 (2): 75-93. I'm giving three invited lectures this April. The first is with Concordia University, Montreal (via Zoom), on 'Epistocracy and Oracular Power: Applying an Ignorance Framework to the New Authoritarianism' (link: Linsey McGoey- Epistocracy and Oracular Power:



Applying an Ignorance Framework to the New Authoritarianism (concordia.ca). The second two talks will take place in person in Paris (fingers crossed! Travelling to give a talk in person will be a first for me since the pandemic made us all Zoom-bound). These seminars, each titled 'The Epistemology of Ignorance,' are taking place at the Centre de Sociologie de l'Innovation (CSI), Mines ParisTech, PSL Research University on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and at Ecole Normale Superieure (ENS) on Friday, April 8, 2022.

#### Professor Eamonn Carrabine

I have had a chapter published in a book, the reference is: Carrabine, E. (2022) 'After the Fact: Spectral Evidence, Cultural Haunting, and Gothic Sensibility', in Fiddler, M., Kindynis, T. and Linnemann, T. (eds) Ghost Criminology The Afterlife of Crime and Punishment. New York: New York University Press.





#### Professor Colin Samson

With Cathy Duxbury of the LSE (and a Research Fellow in ISC at Essex), I co-authored an essay for *The Conversation* (9 February) called 'Our Meat Obsession is Destroying the Planet' <a href="https://theconversation.com/">https://theconversation.com/</a>

Our-meat-obsession-is-destroying-the-planet-the-solution-is-to-change-how-we-see-animals-169875 . It looks at the connections between industrial meat production and climate change. We argue that if there was more global

understanding of indigenous hunting peoples' approach to the relationship between humans and animals and the natural world, some of this could be at least mitigated.

The article was apparently the fourth most-read article from Essex academics in *The Conversation* last month (see below).

Research Engagement report  To see your institution's top articles, authors and commenters, visit your Institution  Dashboard.				
View your institution da	shboard			
Engagement this	month			
150,988	<u>5</u>	127	<u>0</u>	
	Articles this month	Comments this	Post publication	
Reads this month		month	engagements	
		month	engagements	
Engagement - all		8,394	engagements	

Your most read articles	Reads
Cod 'supergenes' reveal how they are evolving in response to overfishing	23,444
By Tom Cameron — February 15, 2022	
Meta: Nick Clegg is doing the same useful job for Mark Zuckerberg as he did for David Cameron's Tories	11,988
By Peter Bloom — February 18, 2022	
ASMR: what we know so far about this unique brain phenomenon — and what we don't	10,699
By Giulia Poerio — September 15, 2020	
Our meat obsession is destroying the planet – the solution is to change how we see animals	<u>8,778</u>
By Catherine Duxbury and Colin Samson — February 9, 2022	
Twitter's algorithm favours the political right, a recent study finds	<u>5,774</u>
By Shoaib Jameel — January 31, 2022	

# Dr Boroka Bo

#### Forthcoming publication in Population, Space and Place:

"Tell Me Who's Your Neighbor and I'll Tell You How Much Time You've Got: The Spatiotemporal Consequences of Residential Segregation"

Relying on data from the United States Census and the American Time Use

Survey (2010-2017), we examine how residential segregation influences per
capita discretionary time availability in Los Angeles, New York City, and Miami. We find a sizable
disadvantage of being Latinx for discretionary time availability. Non-Latinx Whites have 182 extra hours
of per capita discretionary time per year than do Latinx individuals. Both within-neighbourhood and
adjacent-neighbourhood influences matter. In most neighbourhoods, segregation is correlated with
having more discretionary time. Individuals in highly segregated areas have approximately 80 more
hours of discretionary time per year than those living in diverse areas. This suggests that in addition to
socioeconomic, cultural, and well-being benefits, ethnic enclaves may also impart temporal advantages.
However, we find that there may be diminishing marginal returns with increasing segregation in
surrounding areas. Sociodemographic characteristics explain over one-quarter of the variance between
segregation and discretionary time availability.

#### **Upcoming talks:**

BSA: "Good Time, Bad Time: Socioeconomic Status and the Cultural Repertoires of Time Scarcity in Retirement"

PAA: "Time for Change: The Cultural Schemas and Temporal (Un)Knowns of Fatherhood"

#### **Grants:**

UKRI Impact Acceleration Grant: "Building with Nature for Ecosystem-Based Coastal Defence & Economic Resiliency in Colchester"

#### Fellowship:

Stanford University Center for Advanced Study in Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) Summer Visiting Fellow (2022 - 2024)





#### Dr Laurie James-Hawkins

Here are some publications that I have had:

Sennott, Christie, and **Laurie James-Hawkins**. 2022. "Norms, Trust, and Backup Plans: College Women's Use of Withdrawal with Casual and Committed Partners." Journal of Sex Research, online before print. doi: 10.1080/00224499.2022.2039893

Alexopoulos, Cassandra, Elisabeth Timmermans, Liesel L. Sharabi, David J. Roaché, Alyssa Croft, Elizabeth Dorrance Hall, **Laurie James-Hawkins**, Veronica Lamarche, and Maximiliane Uhlich. 2021. "Perceived changes in partner preferences in response to

COVID-19 concern." Journal of Social and Personal Relationships, 38(6):1901-1919. doi: 10.1177/02654075211011527

James-Hawkins, Laurie, Ghada Al-Attar, and Kathryn Yount. 2021. "Young Adult Women's Aspirations for Education and Career in Qatar: Active Resistance to Gendered Power" Sex Roles, online before print. doi: 10.1007/s11199-020-01220-3

And I am presenting at a couple of conferences:

Sennott, Christie, and Laurie James-Hawkins. "Norms, Trust, and Backup Plans: College women's use of Withdrawal with casual and committed romantic partners." British Sociological Association, April 2022. Sennott, Christie, and Laurie James-Hawkins. "Norms, Trust, and Backup Plans: College women's use of Withdrawal with casual and committed romantic partners." European Society of Contracpetion and Reproductive Health, May 2022.

And I received a small grant with EJ Caris-Hamer and Helen Rand:

Dr Laurie James-Hawkins, Principle Investigator, "Running At Walls: Consent through Creativity" [£1000], Diversity and Inclusion Grant, Young Universities for the Future of Europe, with Mx EJ Caris-Hamer, Dr. Helen Rand, Dr. Veronica Lamarche (Psychology), and Ms Natasha Richards (LIFTS)

#### Professor Sean Nixon

I'm giving the following talks:

'Mothering Birds: Elite Men and Practices of Care in Human/Avian Relations', British Animal Studies Network Conference, Glasgow, May.

'Watching Birds: New and Old Passions', at The First Light Festival, Lowestoft, June.



#### Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou

This term I've mainly been gathering qualitative data on domestic abuse perpetration for research projects for the Home Office and Islington Council. In March I was appointed as Chair of the British Society of Criminology's Policing Network. It's a 3-year position and I've promised to use my time there to revamp the social media presence and to organise new annual events on teaching policing and on research. In Feb I published an entry on The Ethics of Predictive Policing in the Oxford Handbook of Digital Ethics



(https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780198857815.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780198857815-e-22). And I've just had a paper published in the journal Criminal Law and Philosophy, looking at some of the ethical issues around undercover policing of child sexual abuse on the dark web, which is open access here:

https://trebuchet.public.springernature.app/get\_content/7c243e85-d66d-46db-866d-ab827957a193



#### Dr Anna Di Ronco

This term I have enjoyed my research leave and mostly took time to write about a research project on eco-justice movements which I conducted last year. In addition to writing, I gave lectures for two universities: the School of International Studies at the University of Trento, and the University of the Basque Country. I am currently in Oñati (Basque Country) as a visiting fellow at the International Institute for the

Sociology of Law. I totally recommend this place for a writing retreat: Oñati is a

cute little town surrounded by hills and mountains, and the Institute has a very good and quiet library where to work! Towards the end of the week I'll travel to Madrid where I'll give a talk for the Complutense University next week. In the next three weeks I'll give two more talks: one for the Grupo de Estudios sobre la Historia de la Prisión y las Instituciones Punitivas and one for the University of Bologna.

I attach a picture of the current visiting fellows and Master students at the library's patio.

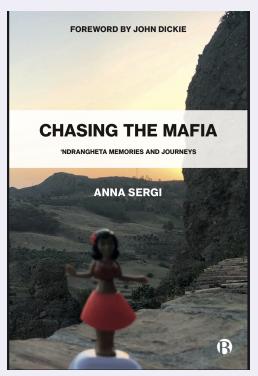


### Professor Anna Sergi

I have been in research leave for the Spring term, mainly as Visiting Professor at the Department of Social and Political Sciences at the University of Pisa, in Tuscany, Italy. In my time here I have given 4 hours of lecture to a specialist master program here on organised crime and corruption, I have attended events and focused on my research. I have given a guest lecture at the University di Bari and also been invited to speak to an NGO in Rome, Associazione Da Sud, about my upcoming book.



In particular, my leave is about co-writing a new book (with Prof Alberto Vannucci, University of Pisa), which is provisionally titled "Mafia, Masons and Power: Corruption and Shifty Obedience in Italy" and is due to Routledge in September 2022.



My <u>upcoming non-fiction/academic book</u> (latest cover pic attached!) is at proof stage so everything is on track for the June publication with BUP, which makes me quite proud!

In January 2022 I went to Athens for two weeks, for a research project on illicit trade in South-East Europe led by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized crime (GI-TOC) for which I acted as consultant. I conducted fieldwork at the port of Piraeus and written a report. I enjoyed my time in Greece immensely, notwithstanding the Covid-19 Omicron wave at that time.

I have also used this time to work on three other papers, one of which co-authored with our former Essex PhD student, now Dr Alice Rizzuti. All three papers are currently at different stages of the review process. Fingers crossed for a fruitful peer review!

I have also had Covid so for a week or so I was a bit under the weather...

I have written for Italian outlets on the constitution of 'new' mafia clans in the Calabrian 'ndrangheta (see article <a href="here">here</a>) and I was invited to curate a <a href="column">column</a> on ICalabresi.it, an online news outlet about Calabria and Calabrians everywhere, in my case mafia and mafiosi. I have contributed to news about

<u>organised crime policy in the Netherlands</u>, and about investigations related to a leak on Credit Suisse on 'ndrangheta and business in <u>Italy and the UK</u>, and in <u>Latin America</u>.

Lastly, I have used this leave to finalise a grant application to the Leverhulme Trust, so wish me luck for that too!

Looking ahead, I am thrilled to join the Universidad del Rosario in Bogotà and the Colombian Navy, in Cartagena, Colombia at the end of April for a workshop/seminar on ports and cocaine trade. A visit to the port of Cartagena is included so be ready for my port pictures!

I am also looking forward to start attending conferences in person again, such as the Anthropology of Crime and Security conference in Bologna in May and the ECPR Standing Group on Organised Crime conference in Pisa in July.



# **Professor Peter Fussey**

- Have been awarded Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences. AcSS press release here: https://acss.org.uk/news/academy-of-social-sciences-welcomes-47-

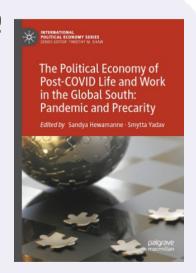
leading-social-scientists-to-its-fellowship-this-spring/

- Through to interview stage for UKRI Network+ proposal on urban resilience.
- Presented research findings to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner, Sir Brian Leverson (of "Leverson enquiry") as part of ongoing work on human rights standards in communications data surveillance.
- Set up work with the French Senate on the regulation of Al-driven biometric surveillance.
- Working with Indian digital rights organisations on the development of a model law on the regulation of biometric surveillance.
- Featured in a <u>Washington Post story</u> on human recognition in policing (this happened last term but I totally forgot about it and only found out last week!).
- Participated in an online panel with colleagues from the Essex Human Rights Centre representatives from the UN High Commission for Refugees discussing interdisciplinary approaches to researching technology and human rights.



#### Professor Sandya Hewamanne

My new book, a co-edited volume, 'The Political Economy of Post-Covid Life and Work in the Global South: Pandemic and Precarity' was published early this month. The link is below. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-93228-2



#### Dr Helen M Rand

I have published an online case study on sage methods entitled 'Accessing Hard-to-Reach Groups: Recruiting Customers of Sex Workers for In-Depth Qualitative Interviews as Part of an Online Ethnography'.

I'm also presenting at the law and society conference in Lisbon. The paper is entitled 'Evidencing 'sexual gentrification' in sex work platform governance in the United Kingdom'.





#### Professor Michael Halewood

I am giving a talk on "From Resonance to Music: A reordering of nature?" at a conference on Harmonie und Gesellschaft at the University of Leipzig between May 20 and 22<sup>nd</sup>.



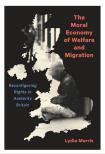
## Professor Lydia Morris

Last week (16.3.22) I gave a keynote lecture at the IMISCOE spring conference in Duisburg The conference was on 'Shifting rationalities in Migration Policy' and my talk was on 'The Moral Economy of Welfare and Migration'. This is the title of my latest book (flyer attached) and the work was funded by the Leverhulme Trust.

The Moral Economy of Welfare and Migration

"Lydia Morris's complex and cogent analysis of boundary construction, and of the immanent logic surrounding social welfare and immigration policy, is insightful and powerful." -Bridget Anderson, University of Bristol

"Lydia Morris has made considerable contributions to our understanding of legal civic stratification of migrants and provides a clear presentation of this vitally important topic in her latest book." -Emma Carmel, University of Bath



#### Dr Neli Demireva

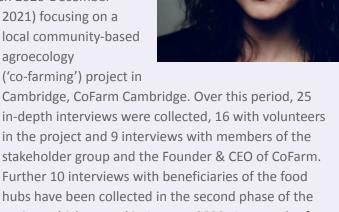
#### **CoFarming Communities Project**

I have just published a report from this project focusing on cofarming volunteers and stakeholders in CoFarm:

https://www.essex.ac.uk/research-projects/the-case-of-cofarm. The report presents findings from the first phase of work (March 2020-December



2021) focusing on a local community-based agroecology ('co-farming') project in



Thus, alongside other research on this topic, this study suggests that this form of engagement in an alternative food network can have important community benefits which can be further strengthened through communication and the active involvement of various community actors including volunteers themselves who can bring a lot of energy and knowledge to the project.

I have received further funding from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), Co-I (£54, 745), and will focus on the health and cohesion benefits of alternative food networks. I have managed to recruit several RAs from our postgraduate students: Victor Porto Almeida, Samanmali Alujjage Don, Sanjay Aryal, Dan Roberts, Rachel Bosler, Nicolae Radulescu, and I am looking forward to working with them on this project.

#### Sustainability and Environment Week Events: 18th of March, 2022

We are joined by with award winning artist Woo Jin Joo of WooJin Studio for clothes mending session. Throughout the day, there is a Cupcake for a Cause sale, all proceeds will go to the Colchester Food Bank. Food insecurity is on the rise in the UK with the proliferation of food banks. In addition, access to fresh and healthy produce is limited. Community gardens, allotments and cofarming sites can help. The afternoon session focuses on evidence from one such community. We will discuss how to use our

Friday, 18th of March Throughout the day: Cupcake for Cause Sustainability Events 10 to 15, vegan treats on offer Sociology Common Room: 5a.325 Sociology Common Room: 5a.325 Venue: 6.101 \*13 to 14 Cofarming Communities, \*11 to 11.30 Clothes mending Sustainability and Social Cohesion (Neli demonstration with award Demireva, Sociology); Biodiversity (Alex winning textiles artist Woo Jin Dumbrell Biological Sciences) Joo of WooJin Studio \*14 to 15 A Conversation with Gavin Shelton, the CEO of CoFarm, Introducing the CoFarm model; Allotments and Establishing \*12 to 13 Activities for Kids Green Food Hubs on Campus (&parents) to Learn about the \*15h, meet Square 3 by Zest Visiting the Climate Emergency/ allotments with Blair Imrie (grounds staff) Sustainability Woo Jin Joo and Neli Demireva

#### Women Pioneers of Social Research

allotments and create green food hubs on campus.

My work on women Pioneers of Social Research was featured in a podcast by the UK Data Service for IWD2022. 18 interviews with women Pioneers were recorded as part of the Pioneers of Social Research Project. The women Pioneers carried out much major work in terms of gender, communities, health and ethnicity and the Pioneering Social Research book with Policy Press captures something of the social and cultural contexts in which they worked and the dilemmas they faced. You can hear the full interview here: https://ukdataservice.ac.uk/2022/03/08/femalepioneers/

## Dr Tara Mahfoud

I am co-organising a panel titled "Cerebral Frictions" with Dr Denielle Elliott (York University) and Dr Megh Marathe (University of Michigan) at the joint meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) and the Latin American Society for the Social Study of Science and Technology (ECOCITE) which takes place in Mexico on 7-10 December 2022.



The panel invites contributions that attend to the following questions: How are the boundaries between neurology and psychiatry delineated and contested? How are the whole-body experiences associated with neurological conditions experienced? How are they medically interpreted and measured in laboratory settings? What is changed, left out or gained in the move towards computational approaches to studying mind and brain?

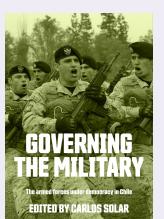
I have also submitted a proposal on the same topic, and under the same title of "Cerebral Frictions", for an AHRC Networking Grant. The aim of the network is to bring together scholars from Europe, North America, South America, Africa and the Middle East in the humanities, arts and social sciences with neuroscientists, clinicians and patients to explore the boundaries and tensions that arise with neurological conceptions of personhood and disease, and to advance interdisciplinary scholarship at the interface between neuroscience and society. The network will organise international and interdisciplinary workshops and collaborative reading sessions to explore how we can rethink neurology as an art and humanities based practice, and to rethink neurological conditions beyond the brain. We are still awaiting the outcome!

An article I have been working on with Dr Inga Ulnicane (De Montfort University) and Dr Arleen Salles (Uppsala University) was recently accepted by the Journal of Responsible Innovation (subject to minor revisions). The title is "Experimentation, Learning and Dialogue: An RRI-inspired approach to dual-use of concern" - it argues for fluidity and flexibility when practicing Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and against the current tendency towards developing standardised toolkits to operationalise RRI within large-scale science and technology projects.

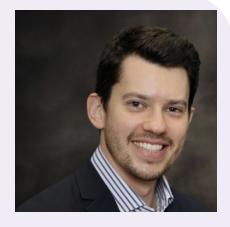
As co-convenor of the Science and Technology Studies Study Group at the British Sociological Association, I am chairing the Science, Technology and Digital Studies Stream Plenary. This will be given by Professor Noortje Marres (University of Warwick) and is titled "How AI pilots put society to the test: trials of implicitness." It will take place on Friday 22 April 2022 at 16:00 - 17:00.

#### Dr Carlos Solar

Carlos recently published an article in the *Police Journal* titled "Exploring the multilevel nature of police confidence in Brazil" and has a forthcoming paper



entitled "Quantile regression modelling and military expenditure" that will appear in the *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology*. He was also featured on a report titled <u>The state of cybersecurity in Latin America</u>, published by the Cyber Statecraft Initiative at the Atlantic Council, a think tank based in Washington. Carlos and his colleagues in CIDE-Mexico and Oxford put out what turned out to be a promising call for papers



on <u>Militarism and militarization</u> scheduled to appear further down the road in *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political*. Most of all, he's very pleased that his forthcoming books with SUNY Press and Manchester UP (see photo) have entered production stage. More details soon!



## **Professor Nigel South**

Retirement is (as everyone tells you) a busy time ... so I've been doing some teaching in Oslo, contributed to a NERC 'Workshop on Decarbonisation' at Northumbria Uni and chaired an 'Impact' event for REO here on campus ... A co-author and I had a desk-rejection for a paper on 'Covid, health injustice and Indigenous communities' from Sociology of Health and Illness, judged as "not suitable for publication" in the journal -- which was odd as we thought the title seemed a pretty good fit ... but I did get an invitation to give a plenary talk at the

British Society of Criminology in June – an in-person conference! (we hope).

#### Dr Valentin Danchev

I have been awarded a Software Sustainability Institute Fellowship for 2022.

I gave an invited talk at the 2022 Toronto Workshop on Reproducibility, 23–25 February, 2022.

My book-in-progress on <u>Reproducible Data Science</u> was accepted for publication by the Chapman & Hall/CRC Data Science Series.

