

SOCIOLOGY

ESSEX SOCIOLOGY NEWSLETTER

Winter 2021–2022



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

OUR RESEARCH STUDENTS

Ej-Francis Caris-Hamer

As a result of interviews that took place in September 2021, I discovered a gap in safeguarding and awareness training for educators on Conversion Therapy. As a result, I have created awareness information and safeguarding tips for educators that can be used as part of safeguarding training and support any discussions with students. In addition, I have also created lesson resources for schools to use as part of their PSHE training. These two documents were presented on the 27th November to the NEU LGBT+ conference 2021. I intend to also share these documents to PSHE Association and wider education community.

Conversion Therapies, forced migration and disclosure without consent: Navigating safeguarding with LGBT+ children and young people.

Facilitated by EJ Caris-Hamer (they/them) Camille Kumar (she/her)



This interactive workshop focuses on the overlooked area of safeguarding LGBT+ children and young people. Although LGBT+ identity is not in and of itself a safeguarding issue, there are unique risks faced by LGBT+ children and young people that educators must be aware of including conversion therapies, forced marriage, forced migration and 'honour' based violence as a result of disclosure without consent. This workshop will be a unique opportunity to learn more about the intersecting risks faced by LGBT+ children and young people, to share and reflect on your own experiences with these sensitive issues, to consider best practice responses and to develop skills to better support children and young people facing these issues.

Knowledge and Power: Epistemic Conflicts in Democracy

(29th – 30th of July 2021)

Knowledge and Power:

Fabienne Peter (University of Warwick) Zoom Links will be sent out after registrati Contact: epistemicconflict2021@gmail.co

29-30th July 2021

Keynotes:

CIDA Cresi

Under the title of "Knowledge and Power: Epistemic Conflicts in Democracy", the PhD students Lukas Griessl (Department of Sociology), Reid Kleinberg (Department of Government) and Niclas Rautenberg (School of Philosophy and Art History) organised and held a postgraduate conference discussing questions concerning the authority of knowledge and expertise in democracies and the legitimacy of knowledge claims when expert opinions



conference, 26 students and early career researchers from Essex and across the world gave paper

presentations in seven panels.

The conference theme was thus discussed from the angles of Ignorance in Politics, Expertise and Civil Society, Philosophy of Conflict, Liberal Democracy and Rationality, Covid-19 and Expertise, Discourse and Hegemony, as well as Colonialism and Epistemic Injustice.

The conference featured a keynote by Linsey McGoey on "The Power of Emancipative Ignorance", and by Fabienne Peter from the University of Warwick on "Political Deference". The conference also included a Feature Presentation on Academia and Public Policy by Olivia O'Sullivan and Danny Shipsides from the Open Innovation Team and the University of Essex. The conference was supported by CRESI and cIDA.

The event aroused great interest and was visited by around 70 participants. We hope to be able to organise a follow-up event in the future.







Sanhita Chatterjee

My abstract titled "Women's empowerment and men's rights: Impact of conflicting ideals on urban middle class men in contemporary India" has been selected through blind review for presentation at the BSA Annual Conference 2022: Building Equality and Justice Now under the panel Social Divisions / Social Identities to be held in 20-22 April 2022.





Rasha Hamid

SeNSS Collaborative Project: Reducing domestic abuse harms; a multi-agency approach to working with perpetrators. *Main supervisor*: Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou. Second supervisor: Dr Katrin Hohl (City, University of London)

Domestic abuse causes serious harm to individuals and families and remains a significant challenge for public services. In 2019, the Home Office estimated the social and economic costs of domestic abuse to be £66 billion annually in England and Wales alone. In the UK, 6.5 million adults are estimated to have directly experienced domestic abuse every year. Most services still place the onus on victims and families to try to keep themselves safe, often by taking measures with a high personal cost

such as leaving their home. Few engage with perpetrators to stop the abuse in the first place. A failure to deal effectively with perpetrators leaves violent and abusive behaviours and attitudes unchallenged and it risks displacing rather than reducing domestic abuse.

My research focuses on addressing this gap by establishing what interventions work best with domestic abuse perpetrators and examining when specific interventions are more likely to be successful (what we call teachable moments). The research aims to contribute towards building a better understanding of the dynamics of desistance theory and behaviour change in perpetrators of domestic abuse and how key moments in their life course may provide opportunities or barriers to effective engagement. This a collaborative project in partnership with the Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Service in Islington Council who will provide quantitative and qualitative data for this research.

Outside of my research, I work as a trainer and mentor for the Safe & Together Institute; a US based organisation whose work focuses on improving individual, organisational and strategic responses to domestic abuse globally. This role focuses on delivering training to various organisations and local authorities across the UK as well as mentoring newly qualified trainers.



Kerry Preston

I just completed a walking challenge to raise money for the Charity Redthread <u>www.justgiving.com/kerrypreston-redthread</u>. Redthread is a UK based organisation who do an amazing job of helping young people escape youth violence through integrating trauma-informed youth work into hospitals. The choice of this charity is particularly relevant to my PhD research which is a comparative study of the lived experiences and desistance processes of London and Los Angeles gang members. My challenge was to walk 150 miles in 30 days and raise £150 and I walked 151.1 miles (many of which were around campus!) and raised £352 which I am absolutely over the moon about.

Robin Brooker

I gave my perspectives on peer review in series of videos as part of Peer Review Week 2021 for Sense about Science. The videos can be found here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yT8uREkg4QY&list=</u>

<u>PLzuMrd6p6DFR6gVLbMvreuJwS0Z-xDdSF&ab_channel=SenseaboutScience</u>. I contributed my ideas about a resource for ECRs to improve their research integrity – currently being developed by Sense about Science and Elsevier. Finally, I attended the John Maddox Prize event at the Wellcome Collection the other week, where I met the winners of the prize and others (incl. ECRs) championing research integrity. Happy to elaborate if you need further detail.



Taylor Skevington

The title of my research is "Stalking and Cyberstalking in England and Wales: An exploratory investigation of the implementation of stalking protection orders (SPOs)" and, as implied in the title, I aim to investigate stalking and cyberstalking in the context of the recent introduction of SPOs by the Stalking Protection Act 2019. I was recently appointed as a research officer/assistant on a research project for the Home Office, "Understanding domestic abuse perpetrators: Using quantitative analysis to develop perpetrator profiles and exploring their implications for targeted intervention and risk assessment", with my supervisors Katerina Hadjimatheou and Ruth Weir and co-investigator Dr Alejandro Quiroz Flores.

OUR ACADEMIC STAFF

Dr James Allen-Robertson

I am apparently on Netflix in the documentary 'Not a Game'. <u>https://www.netflix.com/gb/title/81405383</u>. I was interviewed about video game violence, media influence and children a year or two ago and it just cropped up. To quote Darren Thiel (who first informed me this even existed), 'terrible documentary – but your bits were good'.



Professor Colin Samson

I have been involved in a few things over the last few months:

As a panellist for the Cambridge Whitehall lecture given by Philippe Sands on the Chagos Islands and British Colonialism: https://www.culandsoc.com/events/10th-whitehall-lecture/

As a keynote speaker for the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG) Online Academy on Human Rights which was held from 2- 10 December 2021: https://www.cpg-online.de/academy-on-human-rights-2021/ My presentation was called 'Ongoing Colonialism and Racial Exceptions to Human Rights'.



Dr Alexandra Cox

I have recently published two pieces of work:

<u>'The Legitimation Strategies of 'Progressive' Prosecutors</u>,' in *Social and Legal Studies*, co-authored with Camila Gripp from Yale Law School, based on a study we did about front line workers in the justice system.

I have also published a <u>short piece</u> in *Probation Quarterly* with Aisha Ofori of the Centre for Justice Innovation on the racialized implications of young people's experiences of diversion measures.





Professor John Preston

John has taken part in a seminar and media activity related to his new book "Artificial Intelligence in the Capitalist University: Academic Labour, Commodification, and Value" (<u>https://www.taylorfrancis.com/books/oa-mono/</u> <u>10.4324/9781003081654/artificial-intelligence-capitalist-university-john-preston</u>). He gave a seminar in the Philosophy of Higher Education Seminar series at the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland. <u>https://www.youtube.com/</u> <u>watch?v=mkPuZZtMqkE</u>. He was interviewed about the "Metaverse", drawing on insights from this book. on NPR radio in the US <u>https://www.wfyi.org/programs/</u>

<u>all-in/radio/the-metaverse</u> and published an article on this topic in The Conversation. <u>https://theconversation.com/facebook-the-metaverse-and-the-monetisation-of-higher-education-17103</u> <u>6</u>.

The EPSRC project, of which this book was a part, came to an end in November 2021. At the present time, John is writing up research on case studies of Industry 4.0 environments, arising from this project, with Rhiannon Firth.



Professor Sean Nixon

I am in conversation with James Canton and Jules Pretty on the University of Essex podcast 'Louder than Words' released December 2021. The episode is called The Web of Life <u>https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/the-web-of-life/</u>

id1564697059?i=1000543706181 and there is also an accompanying blog 'Bird watching and Climate Change: the challenge of low carbon ornithology'

https://www.essex.ac.uk/blog/posts/2021/12/02/bird-watching-and-climate-change.

Dr Katerina Hadjimatheou

In Dec. Alex Flores Quiros, Ruth Weir and I received £54k from the Home Office-funded for our project Understanding Domestic Abuse Perpetrators. Over the next 5 months we will be analysing police data to develop profiles of perpetrators in Essex and then undertaking qualitative research to explore how these can help better tailor and target preventive interventions.

Chris Greer and I have received £25k from Islington Council to examine gaps in their provision of domestic abuse services to children and adolescents who use abuse in their relationships and/or are victims of it.



In Oct I took up a role on the College of Policing's Code of Ethics Committee, which will spend the next 6 months reviewing and drafting the new national Code of Police Ethics.

In Dec. I presented on 'Ethics in Data Science' to HMRC's Annual Data Science Conference. I also gave a talk on digital policing at a workshop on 'Getting citizens involved in policing: Digital opportunities and societal challenges' organised by the Vrije Universiteit Brussel's Crime and Society Research Group.

Professor Anna Sergi

Talks

2 October: I was a guest for an episode of the podcast <u>"The</u> <u>Criminologist"</u>

20 October 2021: I gave a presentation on Italian mafias in Ontario for purposes of training to agents of law enforcement and police in Canada, during the annual ONGIA (Ontario Gang Investigators Association) Conference - see <u>https://www.ongia.org/confagenda</u>



27 October 2021: I gave a presentation for purposes of training to

agents of the FBI in New York City, as part of their training to new agents and specialist agents in Italian Organised Crime.

25 November 2021: Essex (with my British Academy grant SecurPort) funded the <u>launch</u> for the book I co-authored <u>Ports, Crime and Security</u> organised by RUSI and FIRM UK in London. The authors were present with a moderator.

1 December 2021: I presented our book <u>Ports Crime and Security</u> at an event organised by the UN Library Services for relevant UN staff.

1-2 December 2021: I presented three papers in the Global 24h Organised Crime conference, one <u>on ports</u> and <u>complex criminality</u> within my SecurPorts project, one <u>on mafia-type groups in Hamilton, Ontario</u> and one on the <u>CRIME project, on Italian mafias in Europe</u>, this last one with former Essex PhD student, Dr Alice Rizzuti.

Papers

I had a paper **rejected** in Global Crime. I was furious about the rejection because one of the reviewers had expectations from quantitative research methodologies and specifically social network analysis projected onto my qualitative data analysis. The result was a highly offensive (for me!) review that dared to say "Overall, the article is vague and wholly speculative. Data are at best only suggestive. It appears that the author of this paper has conducted minimal research if any and used vague terms to disguise the superficiality of the research methodology." This is, I believe, the perfect example of what a review should NOT be about. Of course, after a few changes to the paper (the other review was somewhat more helpful), I did submit the paper to another journal. But I did write to the editors of Global Crime to complain about the process.

News appearances

I commented some news about organised crime, mafias etc. See for example the following: <u>Irish Mirror Gangs</u> <u>'now using Ireland as main route to smuggle millions of euro worth of cocaine into United Kingdom'; The</u> <u>Times Family ties pulled son of the 'Ndrangheta mafia back into life of crime; VICE 'A Very Resilient Structure':</u> <u>70 Convictions in Landmark Mafia Trial Just the Beginning;</u>

Research Plans

I am currently planning to submit a Research Project Grant to the Leverhulme Trust called GLOCAL (GLobal Organised Crime Affecting the Local) to work on criminal mobility and illicit trades effects on local communities and spaces.

I will be on Research Leave next term and hopefully will be able to go to Athens to conduct fieldwork on the Port of Piraeus, organised crime and illicit trade. After Greece, I will go to Italy for my Fellowship at the University of Pisa, where I will be working on a book project on Mafia, Deviant Masonic Lodges, Corruption and Political Power in Italy, with Prof. Alberto Vannucci, and for Routledge.

Dr Katy Wheeler

I have published a new text-book with my colleague and friend Bethany Morgan Brett. '<u>How to do Qualitative Interviewing</u>' was published by Sage on 6th December 2021 and is aimed at students who are starting out on an interview project. The book was developed as a result of our successful <u>Essex Summer School Course 'Qualitative Interviewing'</u>, which we have





co-taught since 2013. I will be talking about the book at the department methods seminar series in the Spring term.

I have also published a more personal essay with the title 'Education as if <u>People and Planet matter'</u>. I originally entered it into a competition but I was not successful so <u>Sustainability and Environmental Education</u> featured it within their blog. I was awarded an Education Strategic Fund grant to explore how to embed sustainability education within the Sociology curriculum and department. As a result the Sociology Sustainability Working Group was formed and has had two meetings this term. Look out for more from us next year and if you're interested to join get in touch!

Professor Sandya Hewamanne

Round table on my book *Restitching Identities in Rural Sri Lanka: Gender, Neoliberalism and the Politics of Contentment* was held at the 49th Annual Conference on South Asia at Madison, USA (October 24, 2021). Round table panellists: Ann Kingsolver, Caitrin Lynch, Dennis McGilray, Lamia Karim and Michel Gamburd.

Delivered a keynote titled 'Rethinking Feminist Political Economy: Village Subcontractors and Grassroots Economic Justice' at the ISRF Congress on November 19, 2021.



Co-organized the panel title 'Zones of Accountability: Corporate, State, and Consumer Responsibility to Foreign Trade Zone Workers' at the 120th American Anthropological Association Meetings at Baltimore, USA on November 18th 2021.

Presented a paper titled "Occupational Health, Rights Education, and COVID-19: Sri Lanka's Global Factory Workers," at the 120th American Anthropological Association Meetings at Baltimore, USA on November 18th 2021.

Delivered the keynote address titled 'COVID-19 Pandemic and Global Production Networks: (Gains) and Losses,' at the 7th World Conference of the International Women's Studies Association, May 20, 2021.

My book Restitching Identities was the first book to be showcased at the 'New Books in Anthropology' Series of the American Institute for Sri Lanka Studies. My keynote address was titled 'Why it is not Politics of 'Discontent': Restitching Identities in Rural Sri Lanka.' March 21, 2021.



Professor Eamonn Carrabine

I gave a talk (on zoom sadly) to the University of Oslo on publishing in the *British Journal of Criminology* on Tuesday 7 December. I also have had a chapter just published in an edited collection. The reference is Carrabine, E. (2021) 'What is Sociological about Crime?', in Murji, K., Neal, S. and Solomos, J. (eds.) *An Introduction to Sociology*. London: Sage.

Dr Neli Demireva

Ethnic Enclaves

This year, I have had two papers published focusing on ethnic enclaves in the context of Europe. Politicians can be quite negative about the effect of ethnic enclaves and see them as breeding ground for extremist ideas, and as the marker of social isolation from the mainstream for migrants and minorities. Yet, I find that



increased migrant and minority presence in the local area does not seem to be a viable economic threat for majority members. Importantly, managing diversity and enclaves, the research suggests, would entail commitment and resources to ensure these are not spaces blighted by deprivation, for residents with few economic prospects. When jobs and opportunities are scarce, tensions may arise between ethnic groups that present a challenge to pro-social behaviour. What is more, the enclave may not shield migrant and minority individuals from discrimination especially if contact with negatively predisposed mainstream is maintained through workplaces and news consumption, and there is greater competition among minority groups in the enclave.

Demireva, N. and Zwysen, W. (2021). "Ethnic Enclaves, Economic and Political Threat: An Investigation With the European Social Survey." *Frontiers in Sociology* 6(110). https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fsoc.2021.660378/full

Demireva, N. and Zwysen, W. forthcoming. Wellbeing in local areas: how trust, happiness, social distance and experience of discrimination differ in the perceived ethnic enclave, *European Societies*

CoFarming Communities

Early in 2022, the report from the research based on my IAA ESRC grant on "The Case of Co-Farm: volunteering on a community farm" will be published. 26 interviews have been so far completed with volunteers in the project as well community organizations such as Abbey People, and Cambridge Sustainable Food, with more interviews with food hub beneficiaries scheduled in December.



Working on this project has been fascinating! The 7-acre pilot site of the Foundation is located in Abbey, the most deprived ward of Cambridge city, where life expectancy is 10 years lower than in more affluent wards, and where pre-pandemic food insecurity was already high. Co-farming puts local volunteers at the core of the farming process, making them responsible for the co-creation of the farm and its produce; thus, aiming to optimise social, environmental and economic

outcomes for the local community. During the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic, CoFarm Cambridge has worked with the local authority, the Cambridge Sustainable Food Partnership and local community-based organisations (Abbey People) to co-create a new system of food distribution through food hubs which ensures that the most vulnerable have access to fresh and nutritious produce. In 2020, CoFarm donated its entire harvest (over 4.5 tonnes of organically produced fruit and vegetables) to 8 community food hubs in Cambridgeshire, and in 2021 it donated 5.6 tonnes to 9 good hubs.

My research shows that CoFarm relies on a core body of Supervolunteers – individuals that are very worried about climate change and sustainability and devote considerable time and effort to the farm.

Forced by the covid 19 pandemic to operate on a strict slot availability basis (which are distributed online on a first come, first serve basis) however has discouraged homophily in the volunteer pool and instead has provided an opportunity for involvement to a diverse pool of volunteers. Donating the food to food hubs has also increased access to fresh produce to the community and those most in need of support, and has challenged the stigma associated with food banks.



Pioneering Social Research

Professor Mike Savage has reviewed Pioneering Social Research for the *Oral History Journal*: https://www.ohs.org.uk/reviews/pioneering-social-research-life-stories-of-a-generation/

He says: "This lovely book offers an elegant and accessible introduction to the fifty-eight life interviews of pioneering UK social scientists initiated by Paul Thompson in 1997 and completed in 2019. The book features long extracts from the interviews, with roughly half of the total words being extended quotation from the archive. Although this approach is not normally recommended, here it successfully provides telling vignettes of the personal and professional testimonies of famous social scientists, indeed revealing the strengths of the qualitative interview method that many of the pioneers themselves championed."

Watch out for **Network**, the newsletter of the British Sociological Association coming out later this month! **Network** devotes six pages to our book, Pioneering Social Research, and the accompanying website. Excerpts from the life stories of 58 pioneers in the field of social science, including sociological luminaries such as Janet Finch, Stuart Hall, Mildred Blaxter and Colin Bell are provided. Many of the anecdotes feature in a new article that I am currently working on titled **"Moments of conversion vs moments of discovery – the story of the Women Pioneers of Social Research".**

Knowledge Exchange

I designed an ESRC Research Centre for Micro-Social Change workshop for charities and community groups that run in June 2021 and was attended by several wide ranging organizations: *Age UK; Help Musicians; NUH charity; University of Leeds; Caritas Sofia Migration and Integration Department; Volunteer Centre Sutton; Healthwatch Essex; O'Keeffe Social Research; Abbey People, IIT Kharagpur; University of Nottingham; Halstead 21st Century Group; Consumer Council for Water (CCW); Hungarian Irish Theatre. Its main objective was to introduce good practices in terms of survey design and discuss a variety of different survey questions aimed at capturing community cohesion and community well-being as well as a variety of community characteristics. These have now been put on the MISOC website as open access resources will allow charity organization to survey their users in the most effective way to find out both a level of need and the impact of the charity or community group's work. The workshop has allowed me to engage with a variety of different organizations and here their problems on the ground, and challenges of measuring impact and social cohesion. The feedback has been excellent and I am planning more activities this year!*

These free resources are available to anyone involved in a charity or community group. The resources aim to build skills within charities and community groups so that they can effectively assess need and impact. In particular, the guide provides examples, and frequent checklists remind workshop participants of the essential elements of survey design.

https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/2021/12/02/helping-charities-and-community-groups-assess-how-they-can -make-a-difference

Professor Ayse Guveli

I have been awarded to be officially an expert for the Unit of the European Commission that takes care of gender equality policies in my field of expertise on gender and migration https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality_en

I have also an accepted publication in the European Sociological Review, based on my 2000 Families dataset:

Guveli, A & Spierings, N (2022) Migrant women's employment: International Turkish migrants in Europe, their descendants, and their non-migrant counterparts in Turkey, *European Sociological Review*.



Abstract: When compared to native-born women, migrant women have lower employment likelihoods. However, to reveal the relationship between migration and employment, migrant women need to be compared to those remaining in the origin regions and across generations. This study is the first to fill this gap by integrating migration, integration and employment theories

into a dissimilation-from-origins and across-generations perspective. We test the hypothesis that migration to more welfare-state based and liberal contexts increase women's employment likelihood among migrants and the second generation. The large-scale 2000 Families data enable a unique comparison of Turkish international migrants, including Turkish-origin women born in Europe, and their non-migrant counterparts from the same regions in Turkey and even the same families. Furthermore, we theorize and test whether differences in employment are explained by differences in family composition, education, religiosity, and cultural attitudes. We find migrant women, in that order. Education and religiosity are the main explanatory factors for differences between non-migrants and the international migrants, including the second generation. Parenthood, while explaining differences between migrant and destination 'native' women, hardly explains differences between migrant women and their non-migrant counterparts. Overall, we find strong support for the hypothesis that migration increases women's employment.

Dr Valentin Danchev

I organised and participated in a workshop panel titled 'Building Responsible Data Science Workflows: Transparency, Reproducibility, and Ethics by Design' at the *PyData Global 2021* conference, 28–30 October 2021. I gave a lightning talk titled 'Networked Marketplaces for Responsible Sharing of Research Data' at the *Association for Interdisciplinary Metaresearch and Open Science* conference (aimos2021), 30 November – 3 December 2021.

In the passing year, a research proposal and a conference submission of mine were unsuccessful—in both cases, the reviews helped me rethink and revise.



Professor Nigel South

I presented a paper on 'Oyster gatherers and cockle pickers: organised crime and illegal harvesting of seafood' as part of the panel on 'Blue Crime and Criminology' at the IASOC 24-hour Global Conference on Organized Crime (1-2 December 2021). A co-edited special issue came out - D. Goyes, N. South, R. Sollund and S. de Carvalho (eds) 'Southern Criminologies: methods, theories and Indigenous issues' *Critical Criminology*, 29: 1, and David Goyes and I also published 'Indigenous worlds and criminological exclusion: a call to reorientate the criminological compass', *International Journal of Crime, Justice and Social Democracy*, 10, 3. Finally it was nice to collaborate with my son on D. South and N. South 'Bunkerization: elite preparedness and retreat



in the Anthropocene' pp. 234-243 in J. Carillo and C. Garner (eds) *City Preparedness for the Climate Crisis,* Cheltenham: Elgar.

Professor Pamela Cox

Pam Cox is working on the final stages of collection of essays co-edited with Sandra Walklate. The collection includes contributors from around the world and is entitled 'Victims' Access to Justice: Historical and Comparative Perspectives'. It will be published in 2022 within a Routledge series. Pam is also finishing her co-authored book, 'Victims: A Critical History' for Oxford University Press/Clarendon Criminology with crime historians Heather Shore and Bob Shoemaker.



OUR ALUMNI

Dr Alice Rizzuti and Dr Daniel Marciniak

Our former PhD Students Dr Alice Rizzuti (supervised by Professor Anna Sergi and Professor Nigel South) and Dr Daniel Marciniak (supervised by Professor Pete Fussey and Dr Daragh Murray, Human Rights Centre & School of Law) have both been offered a Lectureship each at the University of Hull.