

**SOCIOLOGY**  
**@ UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX**  
**WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO**  
**(NO. 2/2020-2021)**





Prof Pam Cox  
Head of Department

Pam Cox's co-authored **report** on the constitutional powers of the **Victims' Commissioner for England and Wales** was published in early December and was covered in the Telegraph, The Conversation (tbc) and social media. The report asks 'if victims rights are important, why is that they cannot be enforced' and suggests ways in which they might be enforced in future. The report is part of the evidence base being gathered by Dame Vera Baird, the current Commissioner, to inform her case for the introduction of a Victims' Law.

Pam's co-edited **special issue of Societies** on innovations in family justice services is also now out, and the Public Health England-funded 'community of practice' that she is co-leading with colleagues from Research in Practice and Lancaster University is now working with 84 organisations across England and Wales that work with parents whose babies and children have been taken into care or who are deemed to be on 'the edge of care'.

Dr Maitrayee Deka

I have an article out with the International Journal of Cultural Studies, 'Bazaar Aesthetics: On Excess and Economic Rationality,' November 2020. I have two forthcoming pieces, one in the edited volume, Handbook of Peer Production, 'Postcolonial Peer Production' and a co-authored article, 'Names Doing Arounds: On Bazaar Brands' with the Journal of Consumer Culture. I have also spent a large part of the year writing my monograph, **Traders and Tinkers: The Popular Economy of the Bazaar** I will be presenting at the upcoming BSA Annual Conference in Spring 2021 under the stream Science, Technology & Digital Studies on 'Bazaars and E-commerce Platforms: A Case for India's Question Concerning Technology.'



The SIENNA project (Stakeholder-Informed Ethics for New technologies with high socio-economic and human rights impact) invited me to participate as an expert in a workshop on Ethical Guidelines and Actions for Human Enhancement. The workshop, held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2020, explored options for the development and implementation of ethical guidelines and policy options for human enhancement.

**Dr Tara Mahfoud**

I presented a paper “Between Open Science and Security: Mitigating Dual-Use in European Digital Neuroscience Infrastructure” with Inga Ulnicane (De Montfort) and Arleen Salles (Uppsala) at the ‘Making Europe through infrastructures of (in)security’ workshop, organised by the Department of Science and Technology Studies at the University of Vienna on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November 2020.

**Latest Publication:** Burton, S. D., Mahfoud, T., Aicardi, C., Rose, N. (2020) “Clinical translation of computational brain models: understanding the salience of trust in clinician–researcher relationships”. *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* 45 (4): <https://doi.org/10.1080/03080188.2020.1840223>



**Dr Anna Di Ronco**

I have been invited to give a master class by the SIB-Groningen, an international student association in Groningen (NL), at its Dies Natalis on November 26<sup>th</sup>. My presentation was on the changing remit and reach of crime prevention and their implication for people's rights.

I have also been invited to speak at the online Onati Workshop on environmental restorative justice, where we will discuss our contributions to The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Restorative Justice (it will take place online on 3-4 June 2021), and at a conference on urban peripheries organised by the University of Pisa (to be held online in March 2021).

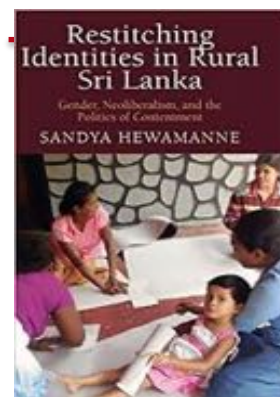
### New article forthcoming (finally!!)

Stevens, A. & Allen-Robertson, J. (Forthcoming 2021)  
Encrypting Human Rights: The intertwining of resistant voices in the UK state surveillance debate, *Big Data & Society*

### Quick Summary

Drawing on the consultation responses to the UK Investigatory Powers Bill, we utilized topic modelling to identify key discourses of concern that arose from the proposal of new government surveillance powers as well as identify key types of stakeholder in the debate. One unexpected finding was the convergence of Civil Liberties groups and the tech industry around the topics of human rights and encryption, revealing the ways in which often opposing groups may intersect, knowingly or unknowingly, in the pursuit of their own separate interests.

The paper began long ago at the **Southend Graduate Conference 2018**, and has provided Amy with a true baptism of fire when it comes to the ins and outs of the peer review process.



**Dr Sandya Hewamanne**

Re-purposing her British Academy-GCRF research funds Sandya organized four workshops in Sri Lanka for global garment factory workers on occupational health, research methods, and on self-employment after factory work in November 2020. These four workshops built on three other workshops held in July 2020.

Published "Emergency Contraceptives are our Saviors: Sri Lanka's Global Factory workers Negotiating Reproductive Health." *Journal of International Women's Studies* 22: 1 (2020).

UK launch of her book 'Restitching Identities in Rural Sri Lanka: Gender, Neoliberalism and the Politics of Contentment' (UPenn Press 2020) was held online on 19th of November and was sponsored by CRESI.



### Prof Nigel South



Continuing to do work on 'water' – e.g. Brisman, McClanahan, South and Walters, 'The politics of water: scarcity, sovereignty and security' in K. Eman and G. Mesko (eds) *Water Crimes*, London: Springer; and on ecocide at sea, García Ruiz, South and Brisman 'Eco-crimes and ecocide at sea: toward a blue criminology', *International Journal of Comparative Criminology and Offender Therapy*. Also trying to reaching a wider audience e.g. a chapter for an Open University course: South and Walters 'Power, environmental harm and the threat of global ecocide' pp. 139-178 in L. Copson et al (eds), *Crime, Harm and the State*; and doing a video talk on 'Green Criminology' for the *British Sociological Association* series of resources for A-level teachers.

### Publications

- Sergi, A. (2020) 'Ndrangheta dynasties: a conceptual and operational framework for the cross-border policing of the Calabrian mafia, *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, Online first, <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/paaa089>
- Amerio, S. and A. Sergi (2020) Le nuove forme di intimidazione ambientale, *Il Diritto Vivente. Rivista Quadrimestrale di Magistratura Indipendente*- Online First <https://www.rivistaildirittovivente.it/le-nuove-forme-di-intimidazione-ambientale.htm>

### Media

### Dr Anna Sergi

- On the [Daily Mail](#)
- On the [La Presse](#)
- On the [Bergens Tidende](#)
- On [Le Soir](#)
- On [Deutsche Welle](#)
- On [Tagesschau](#)

### Impact

- Consultant to EUCPN (European Crime Prevention Network) for the Toolkit on Family-Based Crime - <https://eucpn.org/toolbox-familybasedcrime>
- Court Expert Witness in December 2020 for R v Perre, Adelaide, South Australia -

### Conferences

- Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime 11-12 November
- 2 panels on Ports & Crime and Mafia & Mobility (Online)
- Festival of Science (Online) Genova 24 October Ports & Crime



James-Hawkins, Laurie, Ghada Al-Attar, and Kathryn Yount. "Young Adult Women's Aspirations for Education and Career in Qatar: Active Resistance to Gendered Power" *Sex Roles*, Forthcoming

Lamarche, Veronica, and Laurie James-Hawkins. "It happened to a friend of mine": The influence of perspective-taking on the acknowledgement of sexual assault following ambiguous sexual encounters." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, Forthcoming

Kathryn M. Yount, Laurie James-Hawkins, Katherine A. Roof, Hanan F. Abdul Rahim. "The Women's Agency in Pregnancy Scale (WAPS): Development and validation in pregnant Qatari and Non-Qatari women." *BMC Women's Health*, Forthcoming

Roof, Katherine A., Laurie James-Hawkins, Hanan F. Abdul Rahim, and Kathryn Yount. "Validation of mental health scales in a middle eastern population of pregnant women." 2020. *Reproductive Health*, Forthcoming

Dr Laurie  
James-Hawkins



Prof Lydia Morris



I was awarded a CUP/Social Policy Association annual award (2019) for Excellence in Policy analysis for an article in the *Journal of Social Policy*...obviously (virtual) ceremony!

L.D. Morris (2019) 'Reconfiguring rights in austerity Britain: boundaries, behaviours and contestable margins' *Journal of Social Policy*, 48 (2), 271-291

### Dr Kat Hadjimatheou

This term my application for a **SeNSS collaborative studentship** (with Islington Council Violence Against Women and Girls Service) was funded and we started advertising for the post in December. The student will be examining new approaches to dealing with perpetrators of Domestic Abuse.

My **HRBDT research about the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme** (the first article from which was published in the journal Policing and Society late summer) is continuing and I was invited to give 4 presentations on the latest findings to the National Police Chief's Council, Safelives, the Drive Partnership, and NIA (domestic abuse NGO) in September. A short article on the research will also be included in the NPCC's Domestic Abuse Newsletter in the new year.



In November I attended my first meeting as a member of the Met Police's new Research Ethics Committee METRec, which was fascinating and challenging. I was also excited to hear that I had been appointed for **3 years to HMRC's first Professional Standards committee, as an expert on ethics and technologies in law enforcement**. In December the Ministry of Justice invited me to give the inaugural seminar in a new series on ethics in criminal justice research for their social researchers.

A chapter I wrote on the ethics of police body cameras was published in an edited collection: Hadjimatheou, K. 'Protecting the Rights of Citizens on Camera' in Newell, Bryce (Ed.), Policing on Camera, Routledge Studies in Surveillance.

### Dr Isabel Crowhurst



Dewey, Susan and Crowhurst, Isabel and Tiantian, Zheng and Blanchette, Thad (2020) 'Control creep and the multiple exclusions faced by women in low-autonomy sex industry sectors.' Vibrant : Virtual Brazilian Anthropology, 17. <http://repository.essex.ac.uk/29208/1/ArtigoBlanchetteEtAl.pdf>

Rhiannon Firth has been working as Senior Research Officer on the EPSRC 'Chatty Factories Project' with Prof. John Preston. She recently published the article "Robotopias: Mapping utopian perspectives on New Industrial Technology" co-written with Dr Andrew Robinson (Independent Researcher) and published in the International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy. She also undertook a pedagogical intervention based on this article with a group of Robotics and Machine Learning specialists who are EPSRC project partners at the University of Nottingham. This was published on the Chatty Factories project website:

<https://www.chattyfactories.org/a-pedagogical-intervention-in-production/>

She has also co-authored a book with John Preston in print which came out in November 2020:- 'Coronavirus, Class and Mutual Aid in the United Kingdom' (Palgrave).

She is also part of the organizing committee for a virtual conference to be hosted by Cappadocia University in Turkey which will take place on 13th - 15th January 2020, at which she will also present a paper. More information on the conference and registration to attend can be found here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-in-the-end-times-utopian-and-dystopian-representations-of-pandemics-tickets-117170820077>

**Dr Rhiannon Firth**



**Prof John Preston**



I have been working as Co-I on the EPSRC 'Chatty Factories Project' with Dr. Rhiannon Firth (Senior Research Officer on the project). I have a chapter based on this project 'Where did the learning go? Artificial Intelligence, 'use sovereignty' and 'Pixarfication' in factories of the future' accepted for publication in the 'SAGE Handbook of Learning and Work' (2021). I am currently working on other outputs associated with the project on the implications of AI.

Rhiannon Firth and I have a joint book in print which came out in November 2020:- 'Coronavirus, Class and Mutual Aid in the United Kingdom' (Palgrave).



### Prof Pete Fussey

#### Conference Presentations

Spoke at the Policing and Technology Conference, Northumbria 8<sup>th</sup> December.

EUROPOL Annual Digital Policing Conference: "Law Enforcement in the Age of Big Data, AI & Democracy under Threat"

#### Impact

Worked with the Surveillance Camera Commissioner on (now published) national guidance to regulate police surveillance technologies as part of my leadership of the human rights strand of the national strategy.

#### Media etc.

Nature. Interviewed and research featured in two Nature articles:

Is facial recognition too biased to be let loose?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03186-4>

Resisting the rise of facial recognition

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03188-2>

Interviewed for the MIT Tech Review Podcast:

'In Machines We Trust': <https://megaphone.link/MIT3243296280>



### Dr Alexandra Cox

Alexandra has accepted an invitation to join the Howard League, one of the UK's leading penal reform organisations, to join their Research Advisory Group

(<http://howardleague.org/research/research-advisory-group/>)

### Jessamy Carlson

Jess took part to a unique two day seminar in partnership with the Dartington Centre for Social Policy and The Mulberry Bush, bringing together practitioners from across the last six decades, to reflect on the current state of youth justice services in the UK and to explore the lessons learnt from the past. Day 1 Focused on the history of Approved Schools and Community Homes with Education for both girls and boys, and the young person's journey, with talks by Jim Hyland, Jessamy Carlson, Darren Coyne and David Lane..



### Dr Neli Demireva

On the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, Neli gave the annual YUFE lecture on the topic: **“Immigration, Brexit and COVID-19: the future of multicultural Britain”**. More than 63 participants from the various YUFE institutions have registered for this event. The talk discussed the contribution that migrants have to the UK society, and the future of free movement but also of the multiculturalism project in light of the British government’s response to Covid19 and the recent BLM protests. Immigration stands high on the public agenda throughout Europe. It played a central role in the 2016 Referendum and continues to dominate Brexit debates. Leave campaigners and several British politicians have blamed migration for undercutting pay and conditions of white British workers in the UK. This perception of migrants undercutting working conditions or taking up resources, such as health care or subsidized housing, in communities already facing adversity has been linked to anti-immigrant feelings and a sense of alienation among majority populations in Europe (Becker and Fetzer, 2017; Halla et al. 2017). It has been assumed that in the face of an aging population in many western societies, immigration can only contribute to the labour force. Yet, perceptions in local communities challenge this narrative of success and question the integration rate of different communities.

Migrants are much more likely to work in low pay jobs with low autonomy than majority members and the second generation (Zwysen and Demireva, 2018). These are indeed jobs in which workers are less likely to work from home, and which are more vulnerable to job cuts. Occupational health risks have been explored in individual countries (Paton et al., 2020; Platt and Warwick, 2020) and recent research using EULFS data has underscored the over-representation of migrant low-skilled workers in a number of key occupations essential for the fight against COVID-19 across European countries (Fasani and Mazza, 2020)

Are **you** ready for  
**Brexit?**



### Dr Giuliana Borea

**Publication:** G.Borea & R.Yahuarcani (2020), 'Amazonian Waterway, Amazonian Water-worlds: *Rivers in Government Projects and Indigenous Art*', in L. Blackmore and L. Gómez-Popescu, *Liquid Ecologies in the Arts: Fluidities and Counterflows in Latin America and the Caribbean*, London: Routledge, 2020.

**Website:** Giuliana has launched the Amazonart Marie Curie Project website. You can check it out here: [www.amazonart-project.com](http://www.amazonart-project.com)

**Curatorship:** Giuliana Borea and Rember Yahuarcani have curated the exhibition 'Ite! Neno! Here! Responses to Covid-19' at the Crisis Gallery in Lima (from November 14 to December 14). More information in the project website and here: [¡ITE!/ ¡NENO!/ AQUÍ!: RESPUESTAS AL COVID-19 | CRISIS](#)

#### Coming soon!

Giuliana's New Book is coming out in January: *Configuring the New Lima Art Scene: An Anthropological Analysis of Contemporary Art in Latin America*. London: Routledge, 2021. She is curating the exhibition 'Place-making/World-making: The work of three Amazonian Indigenous artist' that will open on January 19 at Art Exchange – Colchester Campus. Everyone is invited to the exhibition and the public events!



### Olivia Arigho-Stiles



Olivia has had several articles published in popular press on current politics in Bolivia, including in [Jacobin](#) on the death of the Bolivian miners union leader Orlando Gutiérrez and on the legacy of ex-President [Evo Morales](#) for Tribune. She also presented a paper on Bolivian campesino history at 'The Spatial Americas', Kent Americanist Symposium 2020, organised by the University of Kent. A blog post of the excellent conference can be read on US Studies Online [here](#).

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### Jana Kujundžić

I have an upcoming publication of a book review in the Croatian Sociological Review- Kujundzic, J. (upcoming December 2020) Prikaz knjige [Review of the book Sablasti tranzicije: socijalna historija kapitalizama [Spectres of capitalism: social history of capitalism], by Čakardić, A.] Revija za sociologiju, Vol 50, No.3

I gave an interview for the Croatian feminist portal [Voxfeminae.net](https://voxfeminae.net) about my doctoral research: <https://voxfeminae.net/pravednost/jana-kujundzic-silovanje-u-braku-jos-uvijek-je-tabu-tema/> ("Marital rape is still a taboo subject") -the article is in Croatian

I have attended and presented a part of my doctoral research "Accessing justice for the victims of marital rape in Croatia" at the online conference Sexual Violence and Health Research Day on 5th of November 2020 organized by the University of Wolverhampton (Panel presentations are available on YouTube and my presentation is (2:30:14) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTdfR62n7Eo&list=PLF48AF1554C71E5A1&index=26&t=9219s>)

I have attended and presented a part of my doctoral research "Marital rape as political economy of violence" at the Croatian scientific literary conference Days of Marija Jurić Zagorka: "Risks and resources: gender and distribution policy" on 20th and 21st of November 2020 (held on Zoom), and this was the first time I have presented my research in my native language (<http://zagorka.net/pocinju-dani-marije-juric-zagorke-2020/>).

