

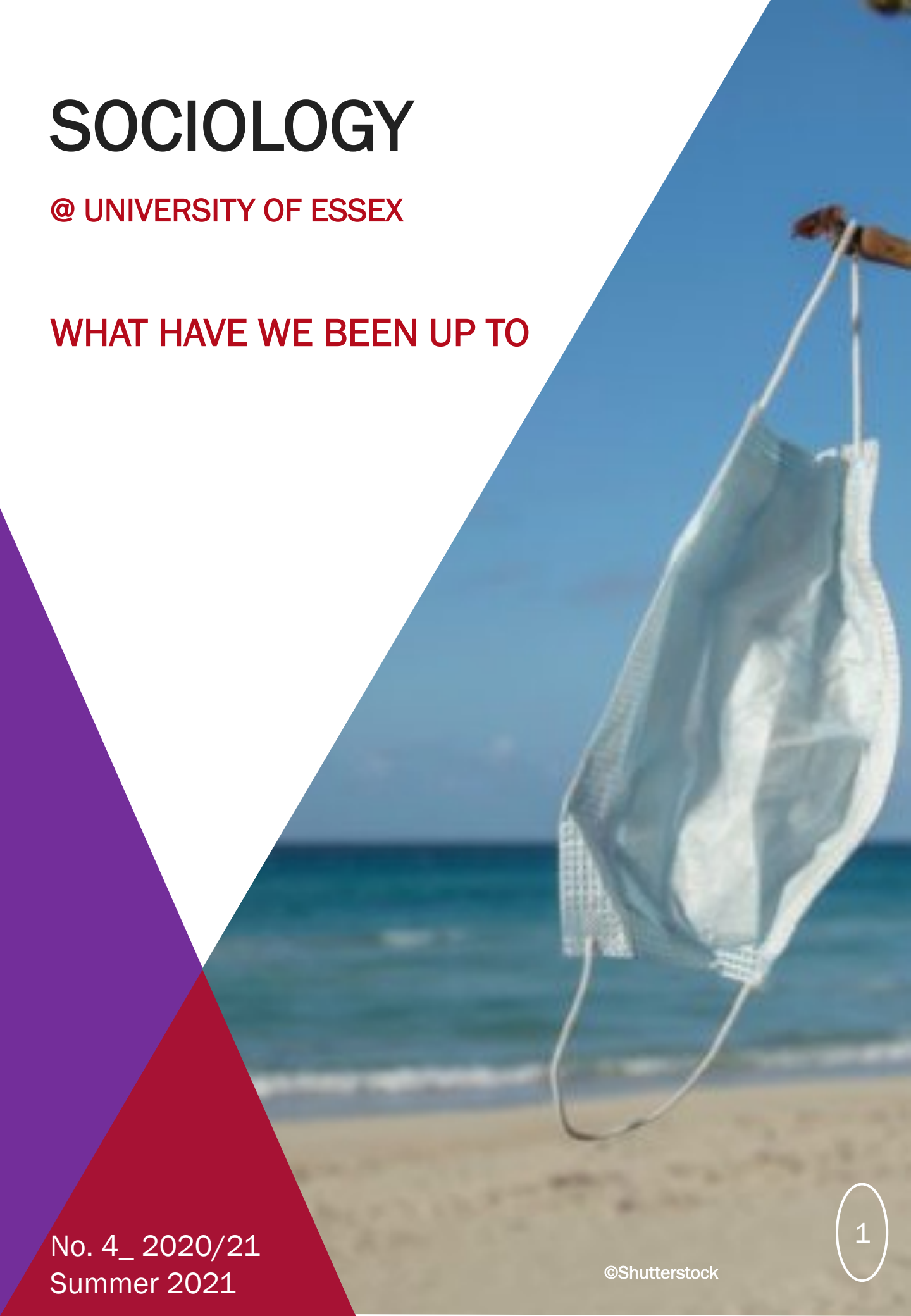
SOCIOLOGY

@ UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO

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Summer 2021

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Dr Anna Di Ronco

I am the **WINNER** of the

‘Outstanding Early Career Researcher Award’

Faculty of Social Sciences

University of Essex - Celebrating Excellence in
Research and Impact Awards 2021.

From September this year and for the next three years, I will be the new **Director of the Centre for Criminology**, taking over from **Prof Nigel South** who is retiring and who will immensely be missed. I will try my best to fill Nigel’s shoes and will do so with the help of **Dr Kat Hadjimatheou**, deputy director

In the past few months, I **had two journal articles accepted for publication**. One reflects on how criminological research can develop new approaches to uncovering environmental and social harms, (Criminological Encounters, in press). The second article considers sex workers’ presence and spatial practices in red-light districts as elements that shape the imaginaries of these (Tracce Urbane, in press).

I presented a paper at a super interesting **2-day virtual workshop** on 'Environmental restorative justice, organised by the Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law. The paper (co-written) is titled **‘Harm to knowledge: criminalising environmental movements speaking up against megaprojects’**.

I wrote an article for The Conversation [What Happened When Italy Criminalised Environmental Protest](#). I have also taken part in the activities of a local environmental movement protesting against the building of a high-speed railway tunnel and observed police control and repression against activists. In April and May, I delivered **guest lectures** for the University of Sassari and Pisa (Italy) and Ghent University (Belgium).



University of Essex

OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARD – FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Dr Anna Di Ronco, Sociology

Dr Anna Sergi

I am the **WINNER** of the

Excellence in Education – Individual Educator Award

University of Essex – Ceremony in September 2021



Publications & Writings & Other News

- A special issue of *Trends in Organized Crime* I have co-edited with Luca Storti has been published [“Spaces of Organised Crime”](#). Read our article-Introduction open access [here](#)
- I have reviewed (in English) *Lo Stato illegale. Mafia e politica da Portella della Ginestra a oggi*, by Gian Carlo Caselli and Guido Lo Forte for [Modern Italy](#)
- My book (co-authored with Alexandria Reid, Luca Storti and Marleen Easton) [Ports, Crime and Security Governing and Policing Seaports in a Changing World](#) is out with BUP In July.
- A report I co-authored with Dr Alice Rizzuti and within the IAA grant CRIME (Countering Regional Italian Mafia Expansion) has been published with the title [Mafiaround-Europe](#)
- My Italian book [“La Santa ‘Ndrangheta. Da Violenta a Contesa”](#) is out – A reprint of my father’s book in 1991 which I have updated with a 100 pages book section
- I published an article on Policing Insight [Mafia in Europe](#)
- I published for Jane’s Intelligence Review on [Covid and Organised Crime in Italy](#)



I was interviewed on cocaine trafficking for [BalkanInsight](#)
I was a guest in an [Italian TV Show](#) on Italian ‘Ndrangheta Maxi-Trial Rinascita Scott

I did a [podcast for SkyNews](#) on the Maxi-trial Rinascita Scott

I was interviewed by [The Times](#) on mafia arrests in Tuscany, Italy

I did an interview in Italian for [Giovani Senza Frontiere](#) (Youth Without Borders)

I run a training on mafia, ports and organised crime for the Canadian Border Service Agency in May 2021

I joined the Editorial Board of the [Journal of Illicit Economies and Development](#) – Open Access LSE & GI-TOC

Dr Laurie James-Hawkins

I am the **WINNER** of the
Supervisor of the Year Award 2021

University of Essex

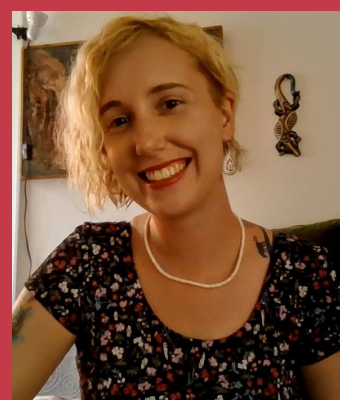


Prof Pamela Cox Head of Department

Pam will be presenting a paper on victims' access to justice at the British Society for Criminology conference on 7 July with Sandra Walklate, Elisa Impara and Ruth Lamont. She will be co-presenting the keynote address at the British Crime Historians conference in September on the historical dimensions of the same ESRC-funded project. This summer she will be completing a co-authored book, 'Victims: A Critical History', for OUP Clarendon Criminology series, and co-editing a further book with Sandra Walklate for Routledge entitled 'Victims' Access to Justice: Historical and Comparative Perspectives'. She'll be taking some time off to walk the Welsh coast path in August.

Jana Kujundžić, PhD Candidate

I have presented my PhD research at 'Sexual Violence in Modern Southern European History' Workshop organized by project SHaME, University of Birkbeck and the Research Centre for the Humanities (Athens) on 25th of June 2021. The title of my presentation was 'Accessing justice for the victim of marital rape in post-socialist, post-conflict Croatia.' I am participating in the panel 'Was Socialism Good for Women' at the 53rd Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European and Euroasian Studies, in-person, in New Orleans, in November 18-21, 2021.



Prof Linsey McGoe

Article on the **New York Times** on Bill and Melinda Gates and, among other things, the Gates foundation role in ensuring the Oxford COVID vaccine was not distributed on a non exclusive basis – [Why Billionaires Like Bill Gates Can't Fix the Problems They Helped Create](#)

Available also in Spanish - [Por qué los multimillonarios como Bill Gates no pueden resolver los problemas que ayudaron a crear](#)



Dr Alexandra Cox

I have a book that I've co-edited (with Laura S. Abrams) on youth imprisonment that has just come out titled [The Palgrave International Handbook of Youth Imprisonment](#)

Students working within the **Death Penalty Sentencing Mitigation Unit**, which I established, based at the Human Rights Centre Clinic, are gaining valuable skills, supporting the defence of prisoners facing capital punishment around the world. Read more about it [here](#)



Dr James Allen Robertson

James after a wet run!



In June James was interviewed for the ['10,000 Posts' podcast](#), discussing Dominic Cummings and his connections to an obscure but problematically influential digital culture known as the Rationalist movement. James thinks focusing all his publicity efforts towards overly online podcast audiences is very much on brand. James has been asked to will be speak to the faculty at Anglia Ruskin University about computational social science and emergent digital methods as part of their professional development day in July.

This term I have been mainly focusing on my work on domestic abuse. I've been working with colleagues in Law and Pathways to set up a Violence Against Women and Girls Research Group at Essex. We've had loads of interest from across the university and are having our first meeting on 6th July. The idea is for the group to be a forum for dissemination and a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration in research and education. I'm hoping that the group will be up and running with a programme of events in the Autumn term when I will welcome three new PhD students to Essex to start work in this field. I'm looking forward to conference season and am preparing presentations on my work on the Domestic Violence Disclosure Scheme (or Clare's Law) for both the British and the European Society of Criminology events. I've just submitted the proofs of my second paper on the DVDS to the British Journal of Criminology, which should be published over the summer. I'm hoping to turn that research into real improvements in practice and have been invited to join a working group at the Home Office to shape their new guidance for police on how to implement the DVDS to make it work better for victims.

Dr Kat Hadjimatheou



Prof Nigel South

End of March, led a session on 'Covid and Environment' for an online mini-conference organised by the journal Crime, Media, Culture with some 'recycling' of the presentation for the Plenary Panel on 'Environment' at the British Sociological Association conference in April. Recent papers out or in press include D. Van Uhm, N. South and T. Wyatt 'Connections between trades and trafficking in wildlife and drugs', Trends in Organized Crime Online 18th May, and a second paper with our PhD student Sarkar Faroque, 'Water pollution and environmental injustices in Bangladesh', accepted for the International Journal of Crime, Justice and Social Democracy. Surprise of the month in April was to hear two articles had been translated into Serbian in a book and a journal....



Dr Neli Demireva

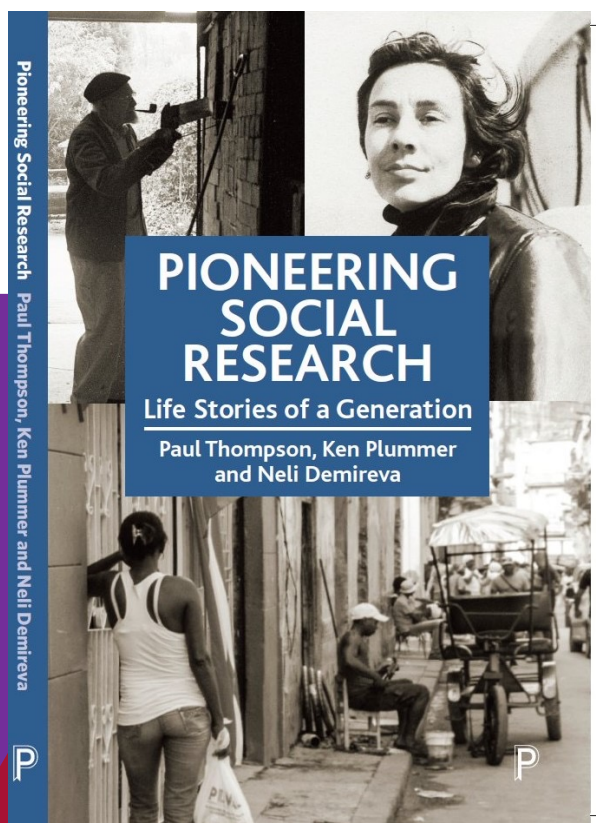
During the summer, I will be doing fieldwork at the **CoFarm** site in Cambridgeshire supported by an IAA ESRC grant on “The Case of Co-Farm: volunteering on a community farm”. The project tries to understand: **1) the social value of co-farming for community well-being and social cohesion, and in particular who volunteers and who does not;** and **2) understand how local communities tackle food insecurity** and green produce uptake among those at high risk of food insecurity. I have applied also to the Transforming UK Food Systems Programme of the BBSRC and if successful I will lead the project “CoFarming Communities” (value £1 340 485) that uses a **multi-site multi-method** approach which will allow the team (spanning the biological, social sciences and social policy) to inform policy in relation to major challenges such as Covid-19, Brexit, and the combined climate, biodiversity and health inequality emergencies. We aim to understand whether **co-farming initiatives** can **maximise ecosystem services, nutritional quality**, and overall **crop yield**, whilst **bringing the local community together** and **benefiting** those who are most **vulnerable to food poverty and reframe the stigma associated with food banks**.



More from Dr Neli Demireva

My new book [Pioneering Social Research: Life Stories of a Generation](#) with Paul Thompson and Ken Plummer is out now with Polity Press. The Pioneering Social Research project highlights the experiences and practices of the generations who were active from the 1950s to the 1980s, the crucial founding generations for today's social research scene in Britain. These were the decades which saw the final phase of colonial anthropology, the explosive growth of sociology in universities, and then the founding of theme-based women's, ethnic and cultural studies and the development of ethical practices and systematic methodologies. The book focuses on **58 Pioneer interviews**. To be recorded among our pioneers implies in itself some kind of success story in research: primarily in terms of intellectual discovery and influence, sometimes later linked to taking a key position in the academic world and achieving, in *Colin Bell*'s words, 'a degree of celebrity'.

I am now working on an article on the interviews recorded with the 17 women Pioneers in the project, among whom Ann Oakley, Judith Okely, Mary McIntosh, Mildred Blaxter, together with Paul Thompson that will focus on their specific journey to academic success and recognition in many cases very different to these of the men Pioneers in the project.



There will be a Zoom Discussion on the book, [Pioneering Social Research: Life Stories of a Generation](#), co-organized with Polity Press on the **3rd of September 2021**. For more information and to sign up, please, follow this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pioneering-social-research-life-stories-of-a-generation-zoom-discussion-tickets-159964101935>

Dr Carlos Solar

Over the Spring and Summer terms, I published a post on Essex Blogs explaining why [police mistrust keeps hitting unequal societies](#) with examples from Brazil, South Africa, and Nigeria. I also published an article entitled [Forced disappearances and the inequalities of a global crime](#) for *Alternatives: Global, Local, Political* discussing crime victimization data in Mexico collected by the AmericasBarometer.



I established a new research collaboration with academics from uOttawa in Canada and Aoyama Gakuin and Kyoei universities in Japan to set a study group on police and military troops contributions to UN peace operations. We presented a roundtable at the [Academic Council of the United Nations](#) (ACUNS) annual conference and will be holding a research workshop in August hopefully leading to an edited publication. I also presented my research on cybersecurity at the International Studies Association (ISA) and chaired a panel on militarization and COVID-19 at the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) annual conference.

Finally, I was commissioned to write a report on the militarization of public security in Latin America for the Florida International University (FIU) and the US Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM) academic partnership. I will brief my results to academics and policy analysts later in the Summer once the report is published online. I am also very keen to announce that I will be writing an article on *Militarism* for the [Oxford Bibliographies Online](#).



Prof Chris Greer

The Final Report for *Journey and Turning Points on the Andover Estate* has been submitted to UKRI. The Report includes a series of co-produced recommendations to enhance the multi-agency response to serious youth violence on the estate and more widely. A series of impact-focussed follow-up events – variously involving UKRI, practitioners, young people – are being organised.

Having secured funding from DfE to continue our work with Islington partners (Safeguarding and Family support, Youth Offending Services) through the Reunification Project – engaging with CYPs in care, care leavers, practitioners, carers and parents to produce better outcomes for at risk CYPs – we applied successfully to the Essex-ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (IAA2) for funding specifically to support impact activities.

Dr Tara Mahfoud

Earlier this year, I was invited to take on the role of Managing Editor of *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews* (ISR), which I have accepted. ISR is an interdisciplinary journal that “publishes research on the social, philosophical and historical interrelations of natural sciences with the social sciences, humanities and arts.” The Editorial Board includes Dame Gillian Beer (Clare Hall, Cambridge University, UK), Peter Galison (Harvard University, USA), Evelyn Fox Keller (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA), Dame Marilyn Strathern (University of Cambridge, UK) and other scholars interested in the anthropology, sociology, history and philosophy of science.



Latest Publication:

Aicardi, Christine; Bitsch, Lise; Datta Burton, Saheli; Evers, Kathinka; Farisco, Michele; Mahfoud, Tara; Rose, Nikolas; Rosemann, Achim; Salles, Arleen; Stahl, Bernd; Ulnicane, Inga (2021). “Opinion on Trust and Transparency in Artificial Intelligence.” Ethics and Society, Human Brain Project. Available [here](#)

Updates from the Science Technology & Society Research Group

The STS research group has launched a reading group on 'Cybernetics, Artificial Intelligence and Posthumanism', convened by Dr Rhiannon Firth, Dr Tara Mahfoud, and Professor John Preston. Our first meeting took place on June 15th to discuss 'Cybernetics and the Human Sciences' and read selections from Gregory Bateson and Ronald Kline. Our second meeting is on July 15th when we will be discussing 'Cybernetics as Politics' and reading selections from Andrew Pickering's 'The Cybernetic Brain: Sketches of Another Future.' If you are interested in joining the conversation, please contact tara.mahfoud@essex.ac.uk.

Prof Eamonn Carrabine



I have had a paper published. It's called 'Low Life: William Hogarth, Visual Culture, and Sociologies of Art' in the *British Journal of Sociology*. It's available open access at [Low life: William Hogarth, visual culture and sociologies of art \(wiley.com\)](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/bjs.12444).

Colin Samson and I published an article in an online journal called *on_education*. The journal serves as an international forum for scholars, journalists, bloggers, politicians, and practitioners to come together for public and academic debate on issues about education. Our article *Neoliberal Meritocracy: how 'widening participation' to universities in England reinforces class divisions* featured in the journal's special edition 'Frontiers of Solidarity'.

The paper, through an analysis of major shifts in higher education policy, argues that categorisations of the 'disadvantaged' student are manufactured to assist universities to fund and legitimate themselves as vehicles of social mobility. In this context, we argue that a precarious legitimacy exists because social mobility operates within a wider culture of embedded class privilege, and this is constantly managed by state regulatory frameworks which reshape and repurpose universities to fit a neoliberal meritocratic image of the larger society and the role of universities within it. [Here](#) is the article.

I could also include my involvement with the **Pluralistic Curriculum Day**, where I was invited to speak about Class and the Curriculum. Besides parenting, working jobs around campus, and researching my PhD, I have also been working as an independent researcher. I am currently exploring ideas around the educational experiences of people from travelling backgrounds.



Christopher Cunningham
PhD Candidate



Prof Colin Samson



I have been invited to be a panellist on the 10th Cambridge Whitehall Lecture on 27th October 2021 chaired by Gideon Rachman of the FT with the lecture given by Professor Philippe Sands, QC on Human Rights - "Chagos: The Last British Colony in Africa - A Short History of Colonialism, a Modern Crime Against Humanity?". I was chosen because by latest book *Colonialism of Human Rights* centrally addresses the perpetuation of colonialism in the 21st century of which Britain's illegal occupation of the Chagos Islands is one instance. All the details haven't been finalised yet, so there is no link.

Also my book was the subject of the lead review

in *Sociology*: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0038038520986079>



Prof John Preston

“John Preston has a new book coming out in November **“Artificial Intelligence in the Capitalist University: Academic Labour, Commodification, and Value”** which applies his research as Co-I on the EPSRC project on digital manufacturing (‘Chatty Factories’) to the HE (services) sector.

“Using Marxist critique, this book explores manifestations of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in higher education and demonstrates how it contributes to the functioning and existence of the capitalist university. Challenging the idea that AI is a break from previous capitalist technologies, the book offers nuanced examination of the impacts of AI on the control and regulation of academic work and labour, on digital learning and remote teaching, and on the value of learning and knowledge. Applying a Marxist perspective, Preston argues that commodity fetishism, surveillance, and increasing productivity ushered in by the growth of AI, further alienates and exploits academic labour and commodifies learning and research. The text puts forward a solid theoretical framework and methodology for thinking about AI to inform critical and revolutionary pedagogies. Offering an impactful and timely analysis, this book provides a critical engagement and application of key Marxist concepts in the study of AI’s role in higher education. It will be of interest to those working or researching in higher education.”

Dr Shaul Bar-Haim

Two books are coming out in August and then September:

1. My monograph: *The Maternalists: Psychoanalysis, Motherhood, and the British Welfare State* (University of Pennsylvania Press). <https://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/16251.html>
2. Co-edited volume (with Helen Tyson and Elizabeth Coles): *Wild Analysis From the Couch to Cultural and Political Life* (Routledge):
3. <https://www.routledge.com/Wild-Analysis-From-the-Couch-to-Cultural-and-Political-Life/Bar-Haim-Coles-Tyson/p/book/9781032061146>





Dr Giuliana Borea
Marie Curie PostDoc Fellow

Drawing that
shows one of
the project's
outreach
activities



Exhibition in Madrid: 'Place-making/World-making: The work of three Amazonian Indigenous artist' will be featured at La Parceria Cultural Space in Madrid this summer!

Talks and events:

Participation at the roundtable 'Curatorship of Indigenous Arts in Brasil, Mexico, Peru and the United Kingdom'. Mexico, Colegio San Ildefonso, June 9, 2021.

Speaker in the 'Decolonising Museums' panel. Invitation of Peru's Ministry of Culture, May 17, 2021.

G. Borea and G. Germaná, panel conveners: 'Analizando el giro global hacia el arte indígena: respuestas institucionales, mercado del arte y agencia indígena', LASA, Vancouver. May 26-28, 2021.

G. Borea and R. Yahuarcani, 'Curaduría del Arte Amazónico en el Perú: Buscando la Voz Propia', LASA, May 26, 2021.

More about the outreach activities: The Year 3 children at Gillespie Primary School and I went to an imaginary trip to the Amazon exploring through art the ways of living of Amazonian peoples. Inspired by the indigenous artists, the children produced amazing works that you can check at [the Amazonart website](#).

Thanks and news: It has been a challenging two-years to undertake a Marie Curie research project. However, these challenges have led to new ways of doing research and reinforce collaborations. I will bring together this work and experience in the book *Belonging: Art, Activism and Spatial Politics of Peru's Amazonian Indigenous*. My thanks to the Department of Sociology for hosting the Amazonart project, and particularly to Prof Andrew Canessa for his support and working together. My gratitude to Jessica Twyman in Art Exchange for accepting and fostering the Place-making exhibition. This project has enriched by interdisciplinary conversation, particularly with Dr Lisa Blackmore of the Department of Art History. My next step takes me to Newcastle University in a permanent position as a Lecturer in Latin American Studies.

Prof Sean Nixon

I have a review of Michael John Law's '*Not Like Home: American Visitors to Britain in the 1950s*' published in the June 2021 issue of the journal [American Historical Review](#).



Dr Catherine Duxbury

I have taken up a position as teaching fellow at the London School of Economics



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GET IN TOUCH

DR ANNA SERGI

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**SENIOR LECTURER &
PUBLICITY OFFICER @SOCIOLOGY**