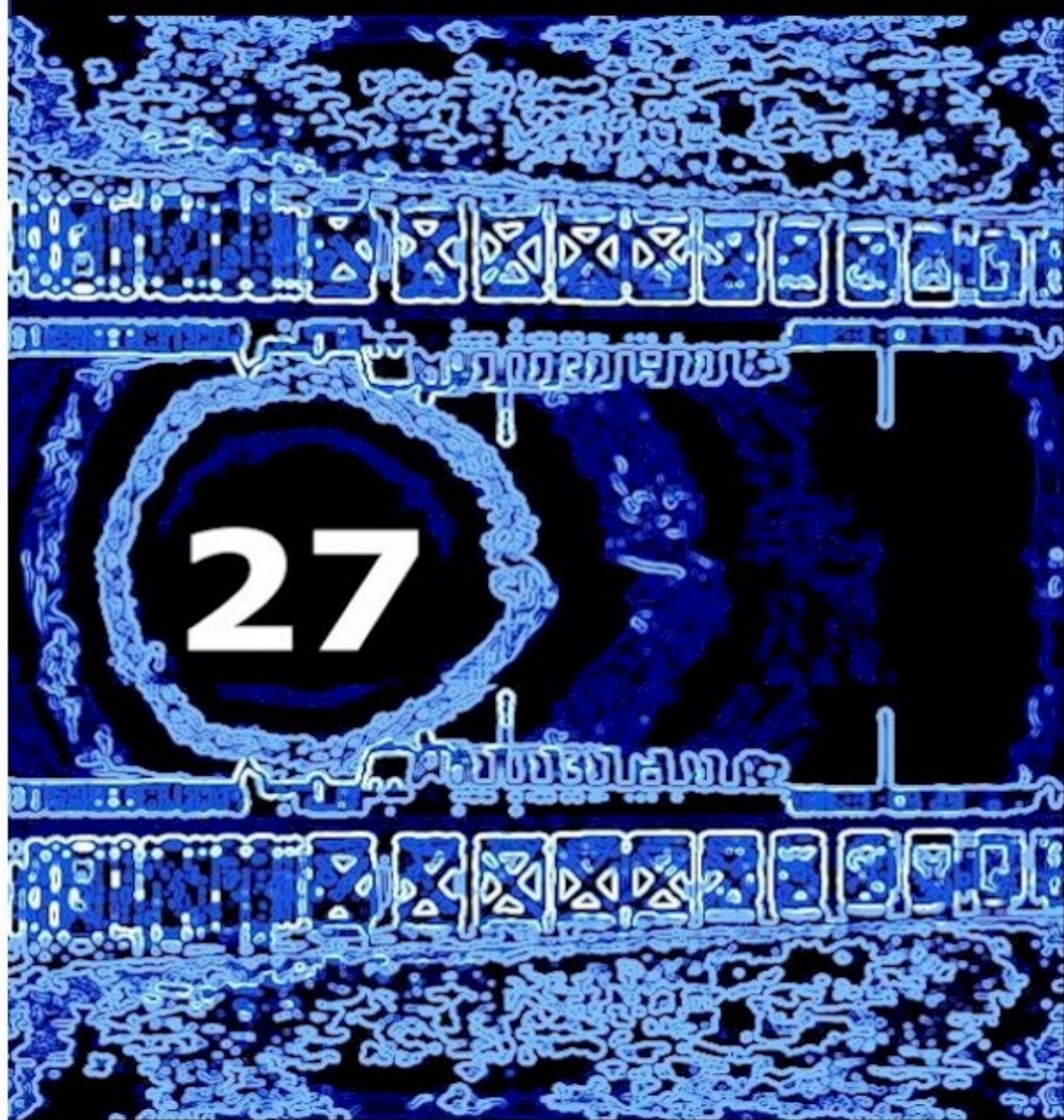


Sociology at Essex Graduate Conference



The Westcliff Hotel Southend-on-Sea

20-21 February 2014

Conference Schedule 2014

THURSDAY 20th

10.15 – 11.00 ARRIVAL, CHECK-IN & TEA/COFFEE at The Westcliff

11.00 – 11.15 WELCOME – Joan Busfield, on behalf of the Head of Department

11.15– 1.00 1st SESSION (Chair: Linsey McGoey)

PANEL: Making research: the many challenges of designing and implementing a sociological study

An exploration of how research techniques have to be constantly redesigned in a dialogical relation with the challenges and opportunities encountered in the field, and the investigative strategies adopted.

Sait Bayrakdar - New approaches new problems: Lessons from 2000 Families Project

Giacomo Orsini – Fieldwork practices from the middle of the sea: exploring fishermen's lives at Europe's edge.

Ewa Morawska - Ground-level Multiculturalism in a Historical-Comparative perspective; A report on the Research in Progress

Emma Milne – Document analysis: understanding how women who kill their children are understood.

1.00 - 2.15 LUNCH

2.15 – 3.15 2nd SESSION

READING GROUPS (*Student-only session*).

Four parallel groups based upon advance choices (please bring readings with you)

Group 1 (Reviewer: Burak Sonmez): Book review led by Burak, of *Analytical Sociology and Social Mechanisms*, Demeulenaere, P. (ed.) (2011) Cambridge University Press:Cambridge.

Group 2 (facilitator: Roxana Baltaru): Schofer, Evan, and Elizabeth H. McEneaney. 2003. 'Methodological strategies and tools for the study of globalization.' Pp. 43–74 in G.S. Drori, J.W. Meyer, F.O. Ramirez, and E. Schofer, *science in the modern world polity: Institutionalization and globalization*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press.

Group 3 (facilitator: Eduardo Goncalves): 'Choose Your Own Ethnography', the methodology chapter of danah boyd's PhD dissertation (2008), pp.42-91.

Group 4 (facilitator: Seb Randall): Becker, H. (2002) *Visual evidence: A Seventh Man, the specified generalization, and the work of the reader*, *Visual Studies*, 17:1, 3-11.

3.15 – 4.45 3rd SESSION (Chair: James Allen-Robertson)

Visual Methodologies

Michael Bailey – Mining the Meaning: Cultural representations of the Miners' Strike.
Eamonn Carrabine – Seeing Things: Violence, Voyeurism and the Camera.
Eduardo Goncalves - How a documentary on hacktivism informed my Masters and PhD.

Note: on Weds March 5th at 5.30pm, in the department, we will be showing the film 'We are Legion', Director Brian Knappenberger (the subject of the final paper), with discussion afterwards facilitated by Eduardo. Please put this date in your diary! More about the film here: <http://wearelegionthedocumentary.com/>

4.45 – 5.00 TEA /COFFEE

5.00-6.00 - 4th SESSION (Chair: Joan Busfield)

Visual representations of work in the department: 1-SLIDE-1-MINUTE

This session invites ALL conference participants – staff and students - who haven't presented elsewhere, to submit a single SLIDE on their research (or research interests) and speak to it briefly for 60 seconds in turn.

6.00 - 7.30 pm FREE TIME

7.30 - 12.00 pm DINNER and ENTERTAINMENT!

FRIDAY 21st

7.30 - 10.00 BREAKFAST

10.00 - 11.00 FREE TIME – Walk/browse Southend (Top tip? Take a train to the end of the longest leisure pier in the world, and then stroll back...)

10.45 - 11.00 COFFEE

11.00 – 1.00 5th SESSION (Chair: Nick Allum)

PANEL: Bridging Theory and Methods

(Discussants: Ewa Morawska and Roxana Baltaru)

Ruth Weir - Using Geographical Information Systems in Sociology

Neli Demireva - Is Co-ethnic Concentration a Barrier to the Successful Integration of Migrants and Minorities in Britain?

Vasiliy Anikin - Up-skilling in rapidly developing countries: propensity of occupations or individuals?

1.00 - 2.15 LUNCH

2.15 - 4.00 6th SESSION (Chair: Jackie Turton)

PANEL: Life beyond a PhD

Former PhD students from the department talk about life 'post-Viva': early careers (within and without academia); employment and unemployment; post-docs and trying to get published; having families; dealing with disappointment (and success!)

Oonagh Corrigan, Tabitha Freeman, Robin West and Bethany Morgan Brett

3.45 – 4.00 Concluding thoughts with Yasemin Soysal, Graduate Director

Abstracts



1st Session: Making Research; The many challenges of designing and implementing a sociological study (Chair: Linsey McGoey)

Sait Bayrakdar - New approaches new problems: Lessons from 2000 Families Project

The “2000 Families” dataset is collected with the aim of establishing a new approach in the migration studies. The dataset brings a rarely used control group of non-migrant coethnics left behind in the sending country into the picture. Not surprisingly the new approach brings the new methodological challenges.

In the first part of this presentation, I will talk about the methodological challenges of establishing a new theoretical framework in quantitative studies. In the second part, I will talk about the practical issues of collecting data outside of practices previously adopted, along with other issues that arised in the field.

Giacomo Orsini – Fieldwork practices from the middle of the sea: exploring fishermen’s lives at Europe’s edge.

I will present and discuss some of the most interesting challenges I faced during my almost-one-year-long fieldwork, working with artisanal fishermen in the islands of Lampedusa and Fuerteventura. Differently from what I expected, once with my feet in the two islands – especially in Lampedusa – I immediately had to deal with several difficulties I could not predict. This was an articulated set of complications that I tried to overcome, turning them into investigative opportunities.

Ewa Morawska - Ground-level Multiculturalism in a Historical-Comparative Perspective; A Report on the Research in Progress.

Ewa will report on some frustrating dead-ends and intriguing surprises she has encountered in the first phase (examination of secondary sources) of her current historical sociological research comparing ground-level multiculturalism or everyday inter-group relations in the 11th C. Cairo under the Fatimid rule, 15th C. Renaissance Venice, 18th C. St. Petersburg under the 'enlightened' rule of Catherine the Great, and turn of the 20th century *Weltstadt* Berlin.

Emma Milne - Document analysis: understanding how women who kill their children are understood.

Researching violent women with a focus on women who kill their infants. The sensitivity of this topic for both the families and professionals involved, limits the nature of the research which can be conducted. As such, the analysis of this thesis will focus on three types of official documents. Firstly, serious case reviews (SCR), 2007-2012: an SCR is conducted by professionals in the local area if a child's death is unexpected or mistreatment is suspected. Secondly, reviews of the Infanticide Act, 1938 – government and independent – as well as Parliamentary debates which these reviews generated, via Hansard. Finally, reviews of the All England Law Reports (ER) and the Family Courts of England and Wales, to analyse cases which involve the death or serious physical assault of an infant by the mother and/or father. I will be discussing my reasons for selecting these sources and the advantages and limitations of each; as well as the problems which I believe I will encounter as my research progresses.

3rd Session: Visual Methodologies (Chair: James Allen-Robertson)

Michael Bailey – Mining the Meaning: Cultural representations of the Miners' Strike.

2014 marks the 30th anniversary of the 1984/5 miners' strike. Shortly after the strike had come to an end, Raphael Samuel noted that the meaning of the strike would be determined 'by the way in which it is assimilated in popular memory, by retrospective understanding both in the pit villages themselves and in the country at large'. Drawing on Samuel's notion of 'people's history', this paper will critically examine examples of cultural forms that have sought to democratise the history of the strike by attempting to recover the lived experiences of those directly affected by the strike action.

Eamonn Carrabine – Seeing Things: Violence, Voyeurism and the Camera.

Ever since the birth of the camera it has been accused of upsetting the divide between public worlds and private selves, transforming the very act of looking and giving rise to a whole series of characterizations of this condition: the society of spectacle, the politics of representation, the gendered gaze, and so forth, are amongst the more well known. Indeed, photography was a vital element in the construction of the modern criminal subject and this paper will examine how the dynamics of celebrity, criminality, desire, fame, trauma and voyeurism continue to shape social practices in significant and often disruptive ways. In particular, it will concentrate on the distinctive problems posed whenever images of horrific events are re-presented in artistic contexts in an effort to build a more critically engaged visual criminology.

Eduardo Goncalves - How a documentary on hacktivism informed my Masters

Considerations draw from excerpts of the movie *We Are Legion: The Story of the Hacktivists* which informed and inspired two different branches of sociological approaches considering internet, sociology of laws and politics. The portrait of a unveiled political movement, by a biased filmmaker, can relate to less politically engaged profiles and not so evident social changes.

5th Session: Bridging Theory and Methods (Chair: Nick Allum)

Ruth Weir - The use of Geographical Information Systems in Sociology

Keywords: Geographical Information Systems, mapping, domestic abuse

80 percent of data are said to have a spatial component and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) are a powerful way of collecting and analysing both qualitative and quantitative data. This paper gives an introduction to GIS and provides examples of how GIS has been or could be used in Sociology. The paper will also explain how GIS will be used to try and understand the nature and prevalence of unreported domestic abuse in Essex.

Neli Demireva - Is Co-ethnic Concentration a Barrier to the Successful Integration of Migrants and Minorities in Britain?

Keywords: migrants, minorities, civic integration, Britain

Integration is a complex process that can rarely be captured by looking into one or two adaptation outcomes. This paper explores the barriers to the civic integration of migrants and minorities in Britain and in particular examines the question of whether growing presence of co-ethnics in the neighbourhood area has a detrimental effect upon the integration process. The results are mixed. Some important integration outcomes such as employment prospects, identity with Britain rather than own ethnicity are not being influenced by co-ethnic concentration while others, among them fluency in English, customs adoption and British rather than religious identity, fare worse in strong co-ethnic scenarios. Lack of contact with outgroupers explains entirely or a large proportion of this negative relationship which leads us to conclude that with greater promotion of contact, the civic integration process in Britain will be strengthened. The paper also highlights the great integration leap that has happened in the 1.5 and 2nd generation compared to the first.

Vasiliy Anikin - Up-skilling in rapidly developing countries: propensity of occupations or individuals?

This paper aims to explore the underlying factors that drive qualification improvement in BRIC countries (Brazil, Russia, India, and Russia). Drawing on occupational and individual level data, I explore whether up-skilling propensity of occupation is reflected by payoff gaps within and across occupations. The model is developed on the assumption that wage differentiation is derived from skills diversity within occupations, which appears to be a result of economic modernization sawing these countries together. Empirical verification of the model will allow us not only to make assertions about the future development of the BRICs in structural terms but also obtain new knowledge about occupations in the developing countries.

